

PRESS RELEASE

## SA URGED TO REDUCE INVESTMENT IN POWER STATIONS AND MOVE TOWARDS LONG-TERM ENERGY SOLUTIONS

***28 August 2013: South Africa needs to invest as much as R90 billion in new coal mines to supply power plants that are at risk of running short of the fuel as soon as 2015, a recent study has revealed. The country's limited coal supplies are proving to be one of the most significant energy challenges it has ever experienced. In order to sustain the current power supply the only way forward for South Africa is renewable energy sources, especially as the country has optimal conditions for the generation of electricity through the use of photovoltaic solar technology.***

This is according to Arthur Chien, CEO of Talesun Energy, a leading supplier of solar energy, who says that in order to protect its energy security, South Africa needs to reduce its substantial capital investment into the development of new power stations, and move away from fossil fuels and nuclear energy to more viable, economical and long-term, renewable energy sources.

He says that decisions by global organisations, such as the World Bank's current plans to limit its financing of coal-fired power plants to "rare circumstances" - in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, are pivotal in educating the country, as well as the rest of the globe, about the need for the adoption of alternative energy sources.

He also points to a recent report by Greenpeace titled: *Powering the Future - Renewable Energy (RE) Roll-out in South Africa*, which states that Government's commitment to energy decisions must show a clear move away from fossil fuels and nuclear-based electricity as they amount to regression rather than modernisation, and have tremendous social and economic impacts. The report further states that it is not technology, a lack of resources, nor even economics that prevents a transition to renewable energy from being accepted in the country, but rather misconceptions of the capability to move to a clean energy future.

"With enough buy-in from both the public and the private sector, South Africa has the ability and the potential to move towards a green energy revolution."

Chien says that despite the misconceptions, South Africa has started to develop an appetite for renewable energy. He refers to the Pew Charitable Trust that suggests that South Africa has made

strides in renewable energy provision. “In recent years the financing volumes for sustainable energy projects has risen from 20 million to the current five billion US Dollars per year.

South Africa is now in ninth place on the Pew Eco-Rankings, underlining its significance as an important lead market for photovoltaic installations in Africa.

“South Africa has optimal opportunity to capitalise on its renewable energy sources for electricity generation. For example, the conditions for solar energy are brilliant, with the irradiation levels of 2,500 hours of sunshine each year being amongst the highest worldwide. In particular, the Northwestern provinces of Northern Cape and North West record values of between 2,361 and 2,639 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per year. “These regions are also generally sparsely populated and are thereby particularly well suited to the deployment of large installations. Centrally located provinces such as Free State, Limpopo, Gauteng or Mpumalanga post values of between 1,944 and 2,361 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>.”

He says that the coastal regions, such as KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape or Eastern Cape, which post value between 1,667 to 1,944 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, have irradiation levels suitable for the utilisation of photovoltaic energy production. “Germany, for example, has irradiation levels averaging between 900 and 1,200 in kWh/m<sup>2</sup>.”

In comparison with the industrialised nations, Chien forecasts that an alternative energy revolution on the African continent, and particularly in South Africa, will proceed at an even faster pace.

He uses the mobile communications industry as an example of a sector that grew at a rapid rate, and comments on how infrastructure was put in place with impressive speed. “Similarly, a decentralised solar-power sector will help the supply of clean energy at a low cost. It is expected that by 2015, photovoltaic energy will already have achieved grid-parity in South Africa,” he concludes.

**-ends-**

### **About Talesun Energy**

Talesun Energy, a subsidiary of global solar solutions company Zhongli Talesun Solar, consistently produces industry-leading quality, crystalline photovoltaic modules manufactured in the world's largest, fully automated production facility (210 000 square meters). This systematic production process provides Talesun customers with front-runner price-performance ratios. Supporting its partners in the solar value chain, Talesun Energy also offers project development services, engineering support and financing. As an advancing solar leader, Talesun is dedicated to delivering exceptional sales support and customer service in Europe, the United States, Africa, South America, Japan, Australia and China. Zhongli Talesun Solar is a subsidiary of Zhongli Sci-Tech Group Co., Ltd., an international market leader in special cables, optical fiber cables and photovoltaic product manufacturing. For more information please visit [www.talesunenergy.com](http://www.talesunenergy.com)

### **Contact:**

Simone Lintermann  
Talesun Solar Germany GmbH  
Head of Project Sales & Marketing EMEA

Central Tower München  
Landsberger Straße 110  
80339 Munich Germany  
Tel: +49 (0)89-189177-0  
E-Mail: Simone.Lintermann@talesunenergy.com

Lucia Trz  
*Account Manager*  
**Epic Communications (Pty) Ltd**  
**Cape Town:** Suite 602, The Regent, 19-33 Regent Road  
Sea Point, Cape Town  
Office: +27 21 439 8008  
Mobile: +27 78 318 9187  
[www.epiccommunications.co.za](http://www.epiccommunications.co.za)