

China Energy proposes 1,000MW floating solar plant in Zimbabwe

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China Energy Engineering Corp (China Energy) has proposed the construction of a 1,000 megawatt (MW) floating solar plant on Zimbabwe's Kariba dam at a cost of nearly \$1bn, documents showed on Monday, 27 March.



Floating solar system in Napa Valley, California. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 3.0

The southern African country is currently generating less than half of its 1,700MW power demand, due to the underperformance of its ageing coal-fired plants and low water levels which impact generation from its 1,050MW hydropower plant at Kariba.

Floating solar power stations are becoming an increasingly attractive option as developers seek to avoid using up large spaces and competing land-use interests.

China Energy's proposal, made to the state-owned Zimbabwe Power Company and a private consortium of the country's industrial power consumers, would see about 1.8 million solar panels installed at a cost of \$987m, the documents seen by Reuters show.



Zimbabwe's new 300MW coal-fired plant starts feeding into grid

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Project work scope

"The work scope of the project includes the design, procurement, construction and commissioning of a 1,000MW AC floating solar farm and 330kV/33kV booster station," the document says. It would also include a transmission line from the

booster station to a substation in Kariba.

China Energy has recently completed two floating solar projects in China's Shandong Province and Thailand, according to the documents.

Zimbabwe last week started generating power from the first of its two new China-funded 300MW coal-fired plants in Hwange but plans to shift to renewable energy sources for its long-term electricity supply.

Last December, the government unveiled incentives meant to help bring 1,100MW solar projects on stream by 2025.

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