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Construction cost of energy storage power station in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Overview

What is the main priority for the Democratic Republic of Congo's power sector?

The main priority for the Democratic Republic of Congo’s power sector is to increase access to electricity. The Democratic Republic of Congo is a large country with 10 million households of which 1.6 million have access to electricity. This makes it the third largest population in the world without access to electricity.

How much would it cost to get grid electricity in DRC?

Providing all households of the 26 provincial capitals of DRC access to grid electricity through a mix of mid-sized hydro and solar power plants would cost approximately USD 10.5 billion in CAPEX. This would raise the access rate to about a third of the population, at a cost equivalent to 30% of GDP.

What is the government's vision for power generation in Congo?

The government’s vision is to increase the service level to 32 percent by 2030. Lack of access to modern electricity services impairs the health, education, and income-generating potential of millions of Congolese people. Most power generation development is directed and funded by mining companies seeking to power their facilities.

What solar projects are being built in the DRC?

The main existing solar project in the DRC is a 1MW solar mini-grid with 3MWh of battery storage capacity built by Enerdeal and Congo Energy in the city of Manono, to supply the local population and SMEs. Enerkac has also developed a 1MW hybrid plant powering SNEL’s Kananga mini-grid in Kasaï Central (non operational in 2019).

What is the energy potential of the DRC?

The DRC has immense and varied energy potential, consisting of non-

renewable resources, including oil, natural gas, and uranium, as well as renewable energy sources, including hydroelectric, biomass, solar, and geothermal power.

How much does solar energy cost in DRC?

Equipping the remaining two third of the population with Tier 2 access to electricity through solar home systems comes with a much lower price tag, estimated at about USD 3.3 billion. Only a few private operators both local and international - have started to get into the DRC market.

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