



Press Release

03 December 2020

Immediate Release

SANEDI and stakeholders discuss energy sector opportunities with Czechia

It is widely reported that South Africa is a country well-suited to renewable energy development, as seen from the successful Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REI4P). The greatest potential exists in solar energy development thanks to the country's sunny geography, however, clean energy possibilities exist across many energy technologies. The South African National Energy Development Institute, along with stakeholders, recently hosted an energy sector meeting between Czechia and South Africa to discuss industry collaboration and opportunities in the energy sector.

The well-attended virtual meeting was opened by the Ambassador of the Czech republic to South Africa, His excellency Dr. Pavel Řezáč, and SANEDI Interim CEO, Lethabo Manamela. It provided the opportunity for participants to gain insight into the energy sector in both the Czech Republic and the Republic of South Africa, as well as to network with prospective partners. Annelize Van der Merwe, Director: Green Economy Industries for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition was one of the guest speakers, discussing the energy business in South Africa. She mentioned that energy development plans form a strong part of the country's Economic Reconstruction & Recovery Plan announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa earlier this year. Van der Merwe highlighted the opportunities for utility scale renewable energy, supported by increasingly advanced battery storage technology. Small scale embedded generation was also highlighted as an opportunity, in order to mitigate the delayed REI4P roll-out and inevitable load-shedding. Vital in the achievement of an energy-secure country is the creation of a steady infrastructure project pipeline to support energy development.

Stephen Koopman, Director: Business Operations ENERTRAG South Africa followed Van der Merwe's address. He explained that South Africa's heavy reliance on coal makes the country one of the largest CO₂ emitters, which is a strong driver for transformation in the energy sector. "Thankfully, our renewable energy generation has played an increasing part in our

energy mix,” he said. However, he highlighted that there is even more “low hanging fruit” to be harvested in terms of the country’s strong solar and wind energy potential, and the vast land we have available for development in this regard. With the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ) identified by government, Koopman said that businesses wishing to enter the energy market are saved the time and money involved in identifying appropriate locations for energy build. Regarding resources necessary for energy infrastructure development, Koopman said, “While we have had the technology for some years, we now also have the experience and expertise to successfully roll out.” He also cited the growing trend of municipalities and industry or mining procuring green power solutions from the private sector, offering myriad business opportunities.

Presenting the Czech Republic perspective and opportunities, Adam Podhola from CzechInvest followed Koopman’s presentation. He highlighted South Africa as attractive for energy development initiatives due to favourable labour costs, reliable infrastructure costs and proven research and development capabilities. “Our current reliance on coal sits at 43%. We aim to reduce this to 18% by 2040 with greater use of nuclear and renewable energy sources.” However, he said that renewable energy development has stagnated somewhat since 2013. For companies looking to enter the Czech energy market, Podhola said that CzechInvest offers free services as part of the government’s business support measures, assisting with market entry, aiding acquisitions and finding suitable partnerships.

The meeting concluded with a presentation from Jan Harnych, from the Confederation of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic, who explained the energy overview of the Czech Republic. He explained that the country, as an EU member, must contribute to the EU target for greenhouse gas reductions by 40% by 2030. In addition, with Czech Republic aiming to join the European Plan for Climate Neutrality by 2050, Harnych said this would require large investment and present many opportunities for the renewable energy sector.

Ends 633 words

Follow SANEDI on social media

Facebook: @sanedi.gov

Twitter: @sanedi.org

LinkedIn: @sanedi.org

About SANEDI

The South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), established by the Government, directs, monitors and conducts applied energy research to develop innovative, integrated solutions to catalyse growth and prosperity in the green economy. It drives scientific evidence-driven ventures that contribute to youth empowerment, gender equity, environmental sustainability and the 4th Industrial Revolution, within the National

Development Plan (NDP), through consultative, sustainable energy projects. For more information, go to www.sanedi.org.za.