

Egypt's first solar plant to open by year's end

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Solar panels. Egypt will open its first solar energy plant by the end of this year, electricity and energy minister Hassan Yunis has said in a report published on the ministry's website.

Egypt will open its first solar energy plant by the end of this year, electricity and energy minister Hassan Yunis said in a report published on Monday on the ministry's website.

The plant will be among four in the world with a 140-megawatt capacity, the report said.

Yunis had earlier said the government-run plant south of Cairo would be linked to the national grid as Egypt tries to meet a target of producing 20 percent of its energy needs from renewable sources by the end of 2020.

The country's oil and gas reserves are projected to last for three more

decades.

Last week another Middle Eastern country, the [United Arab Emirates](#), said it was building "the world's largest" concentrated [solar power plant](#).

State-owned Masdar in the UAE said that French oil firm Total and Spain's Abengoa Solar were partners in a project to build the 100-megawatt facility.

Concentrated solar plants use mirrors to heat liquid which then heats water to power a steam generator that produces electricity.

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