

Kuwait signs \$385 mn solar energy project

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Kuwait has signed a \$385 mn deal with Spain's TSK Group for a 50 megawatt solar energy project

Kuwait signed a contract worth 116 million dinars (\$385 million) with Spain's TSK Group on Thursday for a 50 megawatt solar energy project as part of its renewable energy drive.

The oil-rich Gulf state has a multi-billion-dollar plan to meet 15 percent of power demand from renewables by 2030.

Electricity and Water Minister Ahmad al-Jassar told reporters the target is to produce 4,500 megawatts from solar and [wind energy](#) by 2030 when demand is expected to rise to 30,000 megawatts from the current 12,000 megawatts.

The latest [project](#) is due to start production in December 2017, said Salem al-Hajraf, head of energy research at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

Two smaller projects of 10 megawatts each, which were signed earlier, are expected to come onstream in May and July next year, Hajraf said.

The first three projects have been funded by the government but future ones will be awarded to the private sector as Build-Operate-Transfer schemes, he said.

Production is expected to reach at least 2,000 [megawatts](#) by 2025, Hajraf said, adding that more projects will be offered rapidly afterwards to meet the target.

The pioneer project will be built on a 100-square-kilometre (39-square-mile) area in Shagaya, a desert zone 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of Kuwait City, near the borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

When complete, the project will meet the [electricity demand](#) of 100,000 homes and save about 12.5 million barrels of oil equivalent per year, Hajraf said.

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