

PRESS RELEASE

## GROUND-BREAKING FOR THE LARGEST HYBRID SOLAR PV-DIESEL PLANT IN THE WORLD TO POWER IAMGOLD ESSAKANE'S GOLD MINE

Essakane Gold Mine, Burkina Faso, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 – The ground-breaking ceremony of the new 15 MWp PV power plant, owned by EREN Renewable Energy (EREN RE) and Africa Energy Management Platform (AEMP) to serve IAMGOLD Essakane SA, was held on May 26<sup>th</sup> at Essakane site.



It was notably attended by the Minister of Energy of Burkina Faso (Pr. Alfa Ouma Dissa), the Special Counsel in charge of Energy and Mines of the President of Burkina Faso (Mr. Issa Dominique Konate), the Ambassador of France (Mr. Xavier Lepeyre de Cabanes), the Ambassador of Canada (Mr. Vincent le Pape), the CEO Of IAMGOLD Corporation (Mr. Steve Letwin), the Chairman of IAMGOLD Coporation (Mr. Donald Charter), the CEO of IAMGOLD Essakane S.A. (Mr. Bruno Lemelin), the Vice President of Business Development Africa of EREN Renewable Energy (Mr. Christophe Fleurence) as well as representatives of local communities.

Made of close to 130,000 photovoltaic panels, the 15MWp solar power plant will be added to the existing 55 MW heavy fuel power plant, creating the largest hybrid PV-diesel plant in the world and one of the largest solar facilities in sub-saharan Africa. Initiated mid-May, the construction of the 15 MWp PV power plant is set to last eight months.

The IAMGOLD Essakane S.A. gold mine is the largest privately-held business in the country, with 377,000 ounces of gold produced in 2016. Due to its isolated location, the mine is currently off-grid and relies solely on costly and carbon-intensive diesel power. In this context, IAMGOLD Essakane S.A. has put forward a progressive sustainability agenda and engaged in discussions with the project sponsor, EREN RE, a global renewable energy independent power producer (IPP), and AEMP, a developer and independent power producer, to add solar capacity to its existing power system. The 15 MWp solar project will help decrease the mine's fuel consumption by approximately 6 million litres per year and reduce by nearly 18,500 tons its annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Pr. Alfa Ouma Dissa, Minister of Energy of Burkina Faso, commented:** "This solar-diesel hybrid power plant of 15 MW<sub>DC</sub> that is about to start construction, is a salutary project, not only for the mine which will benefit from reduced energy costs over the years, but also for the populations, given the jobs generated by the project."

**Christophe Fleurence, Vice-President Business Development – Africa of EREN RE, commented:** "Essakane Solar will contribute to the creation of a strong solar PV industry and will strengthen Burkina Faso as a preferred mining destination. This project truly highlights our expertise in delivering large scale sustainable and competitive energy solutions that are adapted to the needs of the extractive industry. Beyond this first investment in Burkina faso, we trust that EREN can contribute to power the country's national grid, its industries and its off-grid rural communities".

**Bruno Lemelin, General Manager, Essakane SA, commented:** "The solar power plant project engages our Essakane mine in energy transition, sparks real local sustainable development and is an honour for Burkina Faso. It's worth noting that this hybrid diesel-solar power plant will be the first of its kind in this country."

**Richard Duffy, Director, AEMP, commented:** "Along with all of the stakeholders, we are delighted that the project has now commenced construction, evidenced by this symbolic ground breaking ceremony. The project is firmly on track to generate clean, renewable solar energy to supplement the current thermal supply, reducing emissions and operating costs for the Essakane Mine, and confirming the opportunity this presents for the mining industry in Africa."

As highlighted during the ceremony, the positive local impact will be of premium importance to the project sponsors. Permanent jobs will be created on site for the operation and maintenance of the PV plant and a portion of the project's revenues will be invested in local development initiatives to maximize its impact.



### **About EREN RE**

Founded in 2012 by Pâris Mouratoglou and David Corchia and based in Paris, EREN Renewable Energy (“EREN RE”) benefits from renowned expertise and a unique know-how in the renewable energy sector. Along with local and exclusive partners, EREN RE targets geographical zones with high-quality wind and solar resources, and emerging markets with strong economic potential and growing energy needs. In only 4 years, EREN RE has accumulated a solid and diversified asset portfolio (wind, solar and hydroelectric) with more than 555 MW in operation and under construction, located in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. EREN RE also has more than 1,500 MW of renewable energy projects in development.

For more information, go to [www.eren-re.com](http://www.eren-re.com)

### **About AEMP**

AEMP has continued the development work previously carried out by AREN Energy, a South African based joint venture between EREN RE, and developer INCA Energy, a wind and solar energy project developer based in South Africa. In addition to continuing this origination and development work, AEMP will also finance, build and operate renewable and hybrid energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa, primarily for mining and industrial companies. Its founders have a solid development track record in wind, solar and hybrid energy projects, and a deep understanding and experience of mining in Africa, allowing it to provide customized technical and financial solutions that best fit the clients’ requirements and to address their constraints and challenges.

More information at: [www.aemp.co](http://www.aemp.co)

### **About IAMGOLD**

IAMGOLD is a mid-tier mining company with four operating gold mines on three continents. A solid base of strategic assets in North and South America and West Africa is complemented by development and exploration projects and continued assessment of accretive acquisition opportunities. IAMGOLD is in a strong financial position with extensive management and operational expertise.

More information at: [www.iamgold.com](http://www.iamgold.com)

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