



SUN RISES ON Ikhwezi Solar plant



From left to right - Willy Gauss, Kali Mabentsela, Hon Min Dipuo Peters, MEC Mcebisi Jonas & Pieter Bosch

Ikhwezi Solar's R10m East London manufacturing plant, which was officially opened by Energy Minister Dipuo Peters last month, is fully operational and on track to produce upwards of 20 000 solar collectors annually on a single shift basis.

And it will do so in the most energy-efficient way possible.

The new 1000m² facility, which produces the iSun collector, was designed to utilise only green building principles. As such, it boasts natural lighting systems and fills water requirements from a 20 000-litre rainwater harvesting system. Water heating is completely independent of electrical backup, with Ikhwezi Solar's iSun own collectors providing the required heating.

"The opening of the plant could not have come at a better time considering the power challenges faced by the country, as well as the focus on green energy for future demands," says Ikhwezi Solar executive director Pieter Bosch.

"Ikhwezi Solar has capitalised on the abundance of sunlight in our country by offering consumers an opportunity to become less reliant on fossil fuels and to save up to 40% of their total electricity bill."

The iSun collector is based on an international design with a proven track record, allowing Ikhwezi Solar to offer a 10-year manufacturer's warranty. Key to the collector's durability and performance is the quality of components that are used in its manufacture, making the iSun rebate programme.

The iSun collector is also designed for use in large-scale commercial applications. To date, 54 iSun collectors have been installed on the roof of the Life Healthcare St Dominic's Hospital, East London. The collector array heats approximately 7 500 litres of water, which is drawn into the hospital's demand hot water tanks and circulation system. This system is a pilot for Eskom's Standard Offer Programme in the Eastern Cape. A further 100 such systems will be installed in the Kennerley Park Estate.

Ikhwezi Solar's target market includes installers, distributors, wholesalers, industry and commercial clients, the OEM and export market.

The group has also formed a joint venture with German company, Gehrlicher KG, which specialises in the establishment of Solar Photovoltaic Parks and grid-tied and off-grid photovoltaic systems. Gehrlicher-Ikhwezi will be submitting a proposal for a Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariff (REFIT) tender to establish a 3.6 Megawatt PV Park in the East London IDZ. The company also works in association with the Master Artisans Academy in East London where interested installers are accredited and exposed to various accredited renewable energy courses. In addition, the European SOLARTEUR® qualification will soon be offered in conjunction with the East London IDZ.



Tel +27 (43) 701 8000 | Fax +27 (86) 547 6527

info@solarec.co.za | www.solarec.co.za

De Wet Street, West Bank, East London, 5201