

TNB Renewables and TNB Research have signed a Letter of Intent with SolarDuck and Hydro

This signing marks the beginning of a partnership to advance solar energy solutions in Malaysia and Southeast Asia

- SolarDuck will install a 780kW offshore floating solar (OFS) plant off the coast of Tioman island in Malaysia as a research project to assess technical and economic feasibility of OFS in Malaysia.
- Installation targeted to be completed by 2025.
- New distributed energy generation methods like OFS will provide additional pathway for TNB to diversify its RE portfolio and achieve its net zero aspiration.
- Hydro contributes with engineering and production of the aluminium profiles which the solar plant is constructed from.
- Tioman island is the starting point of a renewable future for Malaysia, opening a large potential for OFS in the entire region as OFS is set to become the most affordable marine energy technology by 2030.

Rotterdam, Oslo, Kuala Lumpur 15.06.2023

As part of the global roll out of Offshore Floating Solar, SolarDuck AS together with its project partners, TNB Renewables Sdn Bhd (TRe) and TNB Research Sdn Bhd (TNBR), wholly owned subsidiaries of Tenaga Nasional Berhad, the largest electricity utility in Malaysia, and Hydro Extrusion Norway AS, a leading aluminium and energy company committed to a sustainable future, is pleased to announce an exciting new project in Malaysia. “We are extremely pleased to start our work together with TRe, TNBR and Hydro. For SolarDuck this means that we are building a footprint in Malaysia, a country in a region with the world’s largest potential for OFS”, says Koen Burgers, CEO SolarDuck.

SolarDuck will install a 780kW offshore floating solar (OFS) plant off the coast of Tioman island in Malaysia, to assess technical and economic feasibility of OFS in Malaysia. The installation is targeted to be completed by 2025. The Tioman island project will accelerate technology development for stand-alone use in the tropical areas, and support to drive the cost competitiveness of OFS as the most affordable marine energy technology by 2030.

The signing of the LOI illustrates the commitment of all four companies to the OFS technology. To this cause, their expertise is leveraged, and synergies created that will enable the acceleration of the development and adoption of offshore floating solar energy in Malaysia and the wider region.

This collaboration represents a significant step towards a net zero future for Malaysia, as the country seeks to diversify its energy mix and create a renewable energy system. “The main goal of TNB is to get to net zero while providing a reliable and cost competitive energy supply without jeopardizing the environment. Offshore floating solar provides an exciting opportunity for achieving this”, says Zarihi Hashim, Chief New Energy Officer, TNB.

Southeast Asia is wind scarce and therefore lacks opportunities for wind energy. Furthermore, large scale solar developments on land in Southeast Asia are increasingly hampered by land scarcity issues and increasing public resistance. Taking solar out to sea, allows for new and unprecedented opportunities for TNB, Malaysia and the region.

The focus on renewable energy and circularity is also shared by Hydro which will supply the aluminium profiles for the project. Hydro is on an ambitious path to net zero. As aluminium is a highly circular material, recycling is at the core of this circularity approach, and Hydro actively participates in innovative projects and new industry initiatives. The project with TNB will include deliveries from Hydro plants in Lichtervelde, Belgium, and Magnor, Norway.

“We are excited to be part of building a new industry for offshore floating solar. Solar energy is an important part of the necessary shift to renewable energy, and aluminium profiles is the perfect fit for such installations being light-weight and requiring no maintenance for several decades”, says Bruno D'hondt, senior vice president in Hydro Extrusions.

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About SolarDuck

SolarDuck is a Dutch-Norwegian cleantech company bringing to market a world-class Offshore Floating Solar solution. The company aims to electrify the world with OFS using its unique and patented technology by deploying 1GW of renewable energy from 2030.

About TNB Renewables

Tenaga Nasional Berhad (“TNB”) is the largest electricity utility in Malaysia and a leading utility company in Asia with an international presence in United Kingdom, Kuwait, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India.

About TNB Renewables

A Wholly owned TNB subsidiary focusing on Renewable Energy project Development and Asset Management in Malaysia and South East Asia.

About TNB Research

Wholly owned by TNB, focusing on Research & Development that provides a centralized, one-stop centre for sustainable energy solutions and innovation in Malaysia and globally.

About Hydro Extrusion Norway AS

Hydro Extrusion is part of Norsk Hydro ASA, a leading industrial company with headquarters in Norway that builds businesses and partnerships for a more sustainable future. Through its businesses, Hydro is present in a broad range of market segments for aluminium, energy, aluminium recycling, renewables and batteries.

