

CSP to play a key role stabilizing the grid in South Africa

The South African economy has been affected by recent power interruptions, highlighting the urgent need for concentrated solar power to improve energy efficiency.

Eskom announced a power emergency last week, asking industrial users to reduce consumption by 10% and residential consumers to switch off air conditioners, lights, and non-essential appliances during peak times.

Experts highlighted that with the introduction of a large number of renewable energy independent power producers to be connected to the national grid in the next few years, renewables energies will play a key role in South Africa's energy production. Amongst all, concentrated solar power (CSP) can play a leading role improving energy efficiency by meeting current demand during peak times and stabilizing the grid, a major concern in the country.

The state-owned utility had to implement measures from the declaration of emergency protocol that came into effect in 2008. "We make every effort to avoid load shedding, we are hopeful that by applying these measures, coupled with support from all electricity consumers, we will achieve the required load reduction necessary to protect the national grid" said Eskom in a statement. However, analysts mentioned that more work and investment is required to avoid future problems.

Eskom will be addressing this key issue and their strategies for strengthening the grid connectivity at CSP Today South Africa (8-9 April, Cape Town). They will also be speaking about the key opportunities and challenges of integrating CSP into South Africa's energy mix.

For more information about CSP Today South Africa 2014 visit the website: <http://goo.gl/bBwFnX>

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