

Successful implementation of the first crowdfunding project for SOVENTIX in South Africa

- Successful funding of a pilot project in Rustenburg, South Africa
- Funding target of 80,000 Euro was reached within a few weeks
- Second crowdfunding project already identified and in process
- Attractive perspectives of crowdfunding in South Africa

11 April 2017, Somerset West/Wesel – SOVENTIX GmbH, an international project developer of solar power plants, has successfully utilized crowdfunding for a commercial rooftop solar PV pilot project through its local subsidiary in South Africa. The funds raised via a platform operated by theSunExchange, will be used to deploy the 45 kWp PV plant in Rustenburg. This is the first commercial crowdfunding project of its kind in South Africa. In the subscription period of the pilot project 80,000 Euros have been collected for the implementation of the solar power plant. Diversified investors used the online platform theSunExchange.com to invest in the project. The funds raised were used for the acquisition of approximately 10,000 solar cells. The rooftop solar plant is currently being installed and will be finished this week.

“The ability to use crowdfunding for our projects is a great step forward for corporations and institutions desiring the use of solar power without making the investment themselves. It also creates an innovative and interesting opportunity for investors to participate in the prosperity of the South African solar market,” states Claas Fierlings, CFO of SOVENTIX GmbH.

Expected return of approximately ten per cent

Via theSunExchange.com, private and institutional investors can invest jointly in selected solar projects in South Africa. The solar plant in Rustenburg will provide investors with an expected annual return of approximately ten percent, over an investment period of twenty years. This solar rooftop project is currently being installed on the roof of the Tyre Corporation building, a leading independent service provider of tires for the mining industry in South Africa. In the project, SOVENTIX carries out the engineering, procurement and construction of the solar power plant, and provides the service and maintenance during the investment period. “The financing of small scale solar power plants in South Africa remains difficult. Hence, we experience an increasing demand for independent financing solutions. Crowdfunding can play a significant role in this. We plan to further engage in innovative financing providers like theSunExchange to create the best solution and value for our customers,” says Claas Fierlings.

Further projects already in development

SOVENTIX is currently awaiting the conclusion of the crowdfunding for the next project by the online platform theSunExchange.com. Here, investors can finance a 17 kWp solar plant for CROW (Centre for Rehabilitation of Wildlife) in Durban, Kwazulu Natal. The annual return is again expected to be around ten per cent. The funds will be used for the purchase of the solar plant including the 3,780 solar cells on offer. Other investment opportunities are expected to be announced soon. SOVENTIX has a strong track record in the South African



solar market. The company has already implemented solar systems for various customers in South Africa, including Peninsula Beverages (the largest bottler for Coca-Cola in Western Cape) and Mr Price (a leading retail group).

Attractive perspectives for solar-crowdfunding in South Africa

In South Africa crowdfunding is still at an early stage but this type of investment is already becoming more and more popular. Crowdfunding can play a key role in solving the energy problems in the country. In both, energy production and distribution, the country struggles with considerable difficulties. Ironically, the most difficult barrier is the financing of solar plants in South Africa. Local banks in many cases still have reservations about solar system financing since these are usually not recognized as a security for financing.

“There is a great need for alternative financing structures, is a common message we hear frequently from our customers. We are convinced that crowdfunding will play an important role in the future development of the South African solar market,” says Jean Paul de Villiers, Managing Director of Soventix South Africa.

About SOVENTIX GmbH

SOVENTIX has offices in South Africa, Canada, Chile, United Kingdom, United States and the Dominican Republic. The company develops, builds and operates solar parks worldwide. With its professional expertise and many years of experience, SOVENTIX implements high-yield solar farms and also provides specialized services. These include the planning, development, financing, implementation and project management, as well as the Service & Maintenance for their own solar systems. SOVENTIX has access to a project pipeline of more than one gigawatt in various stages of development. Learn more about SOVENTIX on www.SOVENTIX.com.

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