

Media Release

Voith Hydro

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Voith equips 2 GW hydropower plant in Angola

- Voith to supply all electrical and mechanical equipment for the Caculo Cabaça hydropower plant in Angola.
- Milestone for African country on the west coast of the continent en route to a more stable energy supply.
- Tailored financing scheme part of the successful concept.

HEIDENHEIM, GERMANY. Technology group Voith is set to supply equipment for the large-scale hydropower plant Caculo Cabaça in Angola, West Africa. The order comprises all electrical and mechanical equipment, including the installation of four Francis turbines with an output of 530 MW each, an additional Francis turbine with an output of 52 MW, generators, control and auxiliary systems and a customized training concept.

The hydropower plant on the Kwanza River is around 250 km southeast of the capital Luanda in the province of Kwanza Norte. Caculo Cabaça is set to be connected to the grid there with a total capacity of 2,172 MW before the decade is out. The pilot tests were recently completed. Following commissioning of the power plant, around two-thirds of Angolan energy will come from hydropower.

“We are absolutely delighted to be contributing to this milestone project on the African continent,” says Dr. Toralf Haag, Voith Group CEO. This important project will be coordinated from Heidenheim, where most of the value creation will be generated at the company’s headquarters. This makes the project execution challenging from both a technological and logistical perspective. Our experienced team of experts has therefore been preparing the work meticulously for several years now.

Lasting commitment

For more than 90 years, Voith has been involved in the development of hydropower projects across Africa and has thus helped to support the economic growth.

In Angola, the company is already a familiar name due to its supply of equipment for the Cambambe I and Cambambe II hydropower facilities. In this context, the training of local skilled workers has always played a vital role. For Caculo Cabaça, a six-stage training concept has been developed for regional workers, which also provides for the operation of a training center in Angola. The company will continue to support the project beyond the commissioning stage, to ensure smooth operation in the long term. "We see ourselves as a partner for sustainable project implementation and provide support to plant operators and governments, from joint project development to the training of personnel," says Dr. Tobias Keitel, President and CEO of Voith Hydro.

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Page 2 of 4

Unique financing concept

Voith arranged a long-term, tailored financing package with attractive terms and conditions for the Republic of Angola. This was implemented with the support of the German government and the specialists at Euler Hermes, through export credit guarantees, and a German banking consortium headed by Commerzbank and UniCredit. Especially in times of constrained budgets, the programs offered by the German Foreign Trade and Investment Promotion Scheme are particularly important for government clients in Africa. This allows long-term and sustainable financing of the investment sums for infrastructure projects of this kind. The order volume for Voith amounts to more than USD 1 billion.

Milestone for society and industry

The project is a milestone for Angola on its journey to a broader and more stable energy supply for society and industry. Currently, the existing electricity supply reaches around half the population, meaning that many people, mainly outside the large cities, still do not have access to electricity. This is despite the fact that Africa has a huge hydropower potential that has not yet been tapped.

Caculo Cabaça is an excellent example of how a regional power supply can be expanded sustainably, efficiently, and with low emissions. The additional electricity generated in future will among other things help to replace ecologically unsound and unsustainable energy sources and supply energy to regions that have not been covered to date. Above all, however, the availability of power will improve important infrastructure facilities like hospitals. In addition, the surplus energy that is expected to be produced is set to be offered to neighboring countries, which will in turn boost Angola's economic development. Moreover, during the main construction period, around 7,000 jobs will be created for workers in the region.

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a global technology company. With its broad portfolio of systems, products, services, and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, the company today has around 22,000 employees, sales of €5.5 billion and locations in more than 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the larger family-owned companies in Europe.

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Page 3 of 4

Voith Hydro Division is part of the Voith Group and a leading full-line supplier and reliable partner for hydropower plant equipment. Voith develops customized long-term solutions and services for large and small hydropower plants all over the world. Its range of products and services covers the entire life cycle and all the main components for large and small hydropower plants, from generators, turbines, pumps, and automation systems to spare parts, maintenance and training services and digital solutions for intelligent hydropower.

Caculo Cabaça Hydropower in Angola

Angolan Energy Market Status quo



Currently around
of the population have
access to electricity.

48%

40 GW

Of the 40 GW of technically feasible
hydropower potential, about 3.5 GW
of installed capacity are harnessed.

90

years of experience
as local partner on
the African continent.

Project Data



Installed capacity:
2,172 MW



Impact of Caculo Cabaça



Start of construction: 2021



After completion of the project,
approximately 2/3 of the installed
Angolan energy capacity will
come from hydropower.



>7,000

jobs are expected to
be created for locals during the
peak construction period.

Energy in Angola



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Page 4 of 4

Kwanza river in the Kwanza Norte province

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