



R20 Regions of Climate Action, a non-profit network founded by Arnold Schwarzenegger, selected French developer Akuo Energy SAS as the exclusive partner to develop solar and small hydroelectric projects in Mali. They signed a deal Monday to develop more than 160 megawatts of clean energy plants in the West African nation, the partners said in a joint statement. The first two projects will be solar parks totaling 41 megawatts in the towns of Kita and Kangaba.

“Africa appears to us to be particularly promising for renewable energy development,” with abundant resources, Eric Scotto, president of Paris-based Akuo, said in the note.

Clean-energy projects with almost 15,000 megawatts have been announced in sub-Saharan Africa and about 2,040 megawatts are operating, according to data compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance. No large-scale projects now operate in Mali.

The government deemed the two solar plants a priority after positive results in pre-feasibility studies. Akuo will complete further studies before negotiating subsidized tariffs for the power produced and issuing tenders for contractors and equipment suppliers, its spokeswoman Axelle Vuillermet said by phone.

The company will ensure financing and construction in the coming months. No details were available for other projects. R20, based in Geneva, is a regional government-led group that promotes clean energy and low-carbon economic development projects. It was founded in 2010 by former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in cooperation with the United Nations.