

MEDIA STATEMENT

Renewable energy projects for Sedibelo - Pilanesberg Platinum Mines

11 March 2022

Pilanesberg Platinum Mines, a subsidiary of Sedibelo Platinum, has appointed the juwi/Sturdee Energy consortium as preferred bidder to supply renewable energy to the mining operation. The parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and will now commence negotiations towards a Power Purchase Agreement.

The renewable energy programme will take the form of two projects:

- A Power Purchase Agreement for a combination of solar PV and wind systems to power the 40MW mine load via a wheeling arrangement from two separate sites, one in Limpopo and one in the Western Cape. This project will supply 55-60% of the mine's energy needs, and is planned to commence operation in 2024.
- The development and construction of a 35MW solar plant at or adjacent to the mine for the direct provision of power to meet the mine's growing energy needs, and is planned to commence operation in 2026.

Pilanesberg Platinum Mine is situated about 60km north west of Rustenburg on the western limb of the Bushveld complex. The mine currently produces about 120 000 ounces of PGMs in concentrate and has recently opened a second surface mine. Plans are under consideration to transition to underground mining in order to take advantage of higher-grade ores.

Sedibelo expects the renewable energy projects to:

- reduce the mine's carbon emissions by about 45%;
- result in significant cost savings;
- take pressure off the Eskom grid.

Sturdee Energy will act as a joint developer and Independent Power Producer in these projects. Sturdee Energy is an independent power producer that develops, finances, owns, and operates renewable energy projects to supply electricity to mining clients, large corporates, and government utilities in sub-Saharan Africa. Sturdee has a track record of delivering over 600MW of operating solar projects and has active operations in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. The Company's vision is to deliver economic growth and socio-economic development to Africa through the supply of reliable renewable energy.

juwi will act as joint developer, EPC contractor and O&M contractor in these projects. The juwi group is one of the leading specialists for renewable energies. The renewable energy pioneer has been offering complete project development as well as other services relating to the planning, construction and operation of renewable energy systems for 25 years. The juwi group's business areas include projects with wind and solar energy as well as hybrid systems with storage facilities for industrial applications.

juwi was founded in 1996 in Germany. The company is now based in Wörrstadt near Mainz and is part of Mannheim-based MVV Energie AG, one of the largest municipal energy providers in Germany, since the end of 2014. The juwi group employs more than 1,000 people worldwide and has projects on every continent. There are subsidiaries in: Germany, Italy, Greece, South Africa, the USA, Japan, Australia, India as well as the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

To date, juwi has implemented more than 1,000 wind energy systems with an output of more than 2,400 megawatts at around 180 locations worldwide; in the solar segment there are around 1,800 PV systems with a total output of more than 3,000 megawatts. Together, these energy systems generate around nine billion kilowatt hours of electricity each year; in purely mathematical terms, this corresponds to the annual requirements of around three million households in Germany. For the implementation of the energy projects, juwi has initiated an investment volume of almost ten billion euros over the past 25 years.

Sedibelo's Chairman, Arne Frandsen commented:

“Our decision to procure renewable energy for our mining operations is an important part of our ESG journey as a mining company. This is but one of a number of initiatives designed to cut our carbon emissions, increase our efficiencies and grow our contribution to the South African economy.

All companies have a role to play in reducing carbon emissions. Mining companies can be a big part of the solution and Sedibelo is serious about making a significant contribution to this effort. We will make additional announcements in this regard in due course.”

Sedibelo's CEO, Erich Clarke said:

“Sedibelo Platinum is pleased to be able to partner with two experienced and capable suppliers, and we are looking forward to the environmental and financial benefits that these projects will create. South Africa is indeed fortunate to have a good solar and wind resource, as well as companies that can deliver renewable projects in a fairly short timeframe.”

Sedibelo's Chief ESG officer Lael Bethlehem said:

“When President Ramaphosa announced that companies would be able to generate their own renewable power up to 100MW, he unleashed tremendous opportunities which are impacting positively on the environment, on business and on the economy, while also taking pressure off the grid. Sedibelo looks forward to working with Sturdee and Juwi to bring these projects to fruition.”

juwi's Director Global Hybrids, Dave Manning said:

“The electricity supply landscape in South Africa is rapidly changing, and with that comes opportunity for mining companies to decarbonise their operations while reducing operating costs. Sedibelo Platinum is leading the way in the South Africa mining industry in this regard, and juwi is excited to be supporting them as a long-term partner for the development and deployment of a renewable energy solution for their mining operation at Pilanesberg. By deploying a combination of solar PV and wind generation, they can cost effectively reduce total emissions of the site by 45%, which is a significant achievement.”

Sturdee Energy's Executive Directors, James White and Andrew Johnson, said:

“We thank Sedibelo for the trust they have placed in our consortium. This Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates the commitment of Sedibelo, Sturdee Energy and juwi to use world class technical solutions to secure the mining industry's position within a sustainable future. In addition to this global directive, the integration of wind and solar into Sedibelo's mining operations will deliver certainty to long term electricity supply at significant cost reductions.

These projects add to Sturdee Energy's growing portfolio of renewable energy projects that supply flexible energy solutions to South Africa's mining industry.”

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