

# New Energy. Algeria Focus

Q1 2021

Prepared exclusively for the ABBC  
By Itri Insights

With the support of **Neptune Energy & Petrofac**





# ALGERIA BRITISH BUSINESS COUNCIL



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**President Algeria: Arslan Chikhaoui**


**Deputy Chairman: Riad Fechkeur**

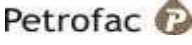

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## Introduction

ABBC Chairman Lady Olga Maitland announces the launch of a quarterly renewable energy review, entitled, New Energy, Algeria Focus. 'The drive for renewable energy solutions is an imperative in a modern world. This has been reflected by not only government initiatives but also by the private sector. The ABBC is conscious of the efforts to address the changes by the Algerian and UK governments, but also pay tribute to the exciting, innovative and ambitious research being undertaken by the private sector. Without them, we would not have the brave new world and options they are presenting to us. In the ABBC reports we are grateful to Neptune Energy and Petrofac for sharing with us their own research, and giving support to our programme to inform a wider public. As the reader will note, we will cover a range of private sector research programmes both from the UK and Algeria, and trust that he will share our enthusiasm for their creativity which will be the benefit to us all.'

### A statement by the UK Ambassador to Algeria, H.E. Sharon Wardle

I welcome this report by the ABBC and the initiative to create new linkages and partnerships between UK and Algerian companies with the shared ambition to support energy transition and promote green solutions.

COP26 presents a significant milestone for the transition to a sustainable future. It is clear that the challenge we face can only be solved by cooperation and collaboration between governments and the private sector.

Both the UK and Algeria have clear strategies for energy transition – with concrete actions to deliver Paris Agreement commitments. Working together, we can make greater progress on clean energy innovation. We can develop solutions faster, increase economies of scale, and bring down costs quicker.

Sharon Wardle, HM Ambassador  
British Embassy, Algiers

### A statement by the Ambassador of Algeria to the UK, H.E. Abderrahmane Benguerah

This is a timely report as it is published as Algeria is redoubling its efforts to promote the development of renewable energies and clean and efficient technologies in order to achieve a successful energy transition, which is a major priority and an essential condition to ensure its energy security and preserve its environment. For these purposes, it has created a ministry in charge of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies

In this framework, Algeria welcomes partnerships with countries, such as the UK, which has firms with great experience and expertise in renewable and clean energies.

At the international level, Algeria sees its efforts for Green Energy as a contribution to the global strategy to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement on the Climate.

This Agreement has the ability to protect the interests of all States Parties since it recognizes the leadership and responsibility of the developing countries for reaching the targets it set, in view of their technological and financial capacities, but also in view of their historical responsibility.

We are optimistic that COP26, under British leadership, will be a great success and a big step towards the consolidation of international solidarity to face up the challenge of global warming.

Abderrahmane BENGUERRAH  
Ambassador of Algeria to the UK



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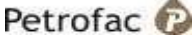
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## A statement by the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Algeria, Lord Risby

I warmly congratulate the ABBC on this excellent comprehensive green energy report which makes for essential reading

For more than 50 years Algeria has been a totally reliable supplier of LNG to the United Kingdom

UK companies have over many years made substantial investments in the energy sector in Algeria

Both countries are now transitioning to a greener future, thus our important energy partnership is evolving. The UK has pledged to be the world leader in carbon reduction with a diversity of actions and incentives.

The City of London is promoting green technology instruments and green investment to encourage businesses to invest and innovate. Our hosting Cop-26 this year with the highest level of international attendance will reinforce the necessity to fight climate change, and call for world co-ordination to effect this.

UK businesses, encouraged by Algeria's firm commitments and a more attractive investment framework in the sector, with the full support of Her Majesty's Government, are encouraged to seize the opportunity that is being presented in Algeria today.

Lord Risby

UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Algeria

## Algeria's abundant solar resources

Adel Baba Aissa, Chairman, Renewable Energy Partner

The first national program dedicated to the development and promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency ("PNEREE") in Algeria, was adopted by the government on February 3, 2011. It aimed for a production capacity rate of 40% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. The objective was to ensure a renewable electricity production capacity of 22,000 MW, of which 10,000 MW would be dedicated to export. At the time, the PNEREE was one of the largest and most ambitious renewable energy programmes in Africa.

However, the planned implementation schedule of the PNEREE has never been followed. Indeed, only three pilot projects have seen the light of day with an overall power of 36.3 MW, i.e. :

- a. The hybrid power plant (gas-solar thermal) of Hassi-Rmel, with 25 MWp of solar thermal with CSP concentration (commissioned in 2011);
- b. The 1.1 MWp photovoltaic (PV) plant in Ghardaïa, encompassing the four PV technologies, with and without sun tracking (commissioned in 2014); and
- c. The 10.2 MWp Kabertène wind farm (Adrar), comprising 12 wind turbines with a nominal power of 850 KW each (commissioned in 2014).

For the rest, only a program totalling 343 MWp of solar photovoltaic plants was launched in early 2014, in the form of EPC projects, by SKTM a subsidiary of Sonlegaz.

In 2015, the first version of PNEREE was updated. It was motivated by notable changes in the world in terms of investment costs and production of electricity based on various renewable resources. However, like the first version of the program, the updated plan has not been implemented.

More recently, in 2020 a National Energy Transition Program was launched with a capacity of 16,000 MW by 2035 and this exclusively based on photovoltaic solar energy (PV). It has been submitted as one of the key pieces of energy transition in Algeria. Thus, 15,000 MWp are intended to be produced exclusively by solar power plants connected to the national electricity grid, of which a first tranche of

4,000 MWp is to be achieved by 2024 while the remaining 1,000 MWp are to be deployed in off grid regions.

In conclusion, despite the setbacks, Algeria possesses one of the best solar resources on the planet and as Africa's largest country has abundant available land. Therefore, there should really be no obstacles as to what Algeria can achieve in this field.



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## UK policy updates

### UK government throwing everything at COP26, says PM Johnson

Britain's hosting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, is a priority for the government which is throwing everything at it, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Wednesday 24th March. "The COP26 summit is one of the single biggest priorities that any government could have domestically and internationally and it's a massive job and we're throwing everything at it," Johnson told a parliamentary committee. The conference is scheduled to run from 1st to 12th November 2021 in the Scottish city of Glasgow. [Read more](#)

## Algeria policy updates

### New Electricity Law to be ready by end of 2021

The former Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar has said that a new Electricity Law will be developed and finalised by the end of the current year. Attar stated his belief that the law should be reviewed in order to introduce competition, as was the case for the oil and gas sector'. He nonetheless confirmed that the State would retain its role as the sector's regulator would continue to provide arbitration and oversight. According to Attar, the aim of the new law is to successfully achieve energy transition, accelerate the use of renewable energies, encourage investment and diversify the use of resources. [Read more](#)

### New renewable energy company created

The Minister of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies, Chems Eddine Chitour, and the former Minister of Energy, Abdelmadjid Attar, have announced the launch of the process to create a new company dedicated to the development of renewable energies. The name and organisation of the new joint stock company 'will be disclosed at a later date'. According to Chitour, the new company will be 'Sonelgaz's little sister'. Once the company's creation is entirely complete, it will launch an invitation to tender before the end of the first half of the year, with the objective of creating 1,000 MW of renewable capacity before the end of 2021. The new company's main mission is to implement the national program for renewable energy development, which aims to reach 15,000 MW of capacity by 2035, i.e. an average of 1,000 MW new capacity per year. Among other things, the new company will be tasked with acquiring and preparing land for renewable energy projects, conducting feasibility studies, studying the best financing mechanisms and coordinating between the various stakeholders involved in the projects. It will also be responsible for drawing up technical specifications and launching invitations to tender for investors, as well as processing bids and awarding contracts. [Read more](#)



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## 1 million LED light bulbs to be sold in post offices

The Minister of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies, Chems-Eddine Chitour has announced that one million energy-saving LED light bulbs for interior use will be distributed to post offices for sale to the public in the near future. The light bulbs will be available for sale at post offices 'for a symbolic price of 250 DZD' (1.88 USD) per unit instead of their usual 400 DZD (3.01) retail price. The light bulbs are expected to be delivered to post offices 'in 3 or 4 months'. [Read more](#)

## Hybrid diesel-LPG buses and trucks inaugurated

The first public bus and truck running on dual diesel-LPG energy have been officially received and inaugurated in Algiers in an effort to reduce energy consumption. The first public bus running on diesel-LPG belongs to the Algiers city bus company ETUSA, while the first truck running on diesel-LPG is a fuel truck belonging to the state-owned transportation and logistics group Logitrans. During the inauguration ceremony, the Minister of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies, Chems Eddine Chitour, indicated that the diesel-LPG conversion kits had been imported from Poland, adding that Algeria plans to import 50,000 kits in total. [Read more](#)

## Solar energy call to tender to be launched in June 2021

The Minister of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies, Chems Eddine Chitour, has announced that an invitation to tender to produce 1,000 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic energy will be launched in June 2021. [Read more](#)

## Renewable Energy Partner completes a 30 KW solar carport in the Wilaya of Ain Témouchent

The UK-based solar energy developer Renewable Energy Partner has completed a 30 KW carport project for the Beni Saf Water Company (BWC). The project is the first stage in the construction of a solar power plant that will include carports and solar panels that aim to provide 10% of the electricity consumed by the Chatt El Hillel seawater desalination plant in the Wilaya of Ain Témouchent. The plant has a daily capacity of 200,000 m<sup>3</sup> and an average annual production of 68 million m<sup>3</sup>. BWC is a joint venture 51%-owned by Geida Beni Saf, a subsidiary of Spain's Grupo Cobra and 49%-owned by the Algerian state-owned Algerian Energy Company (AEC). According to Renewable Energy Partner, the BWC solar power plant will be the largest commercial and industrial (C&I) facility in North Africa once it is completed. [Read more](#)

## Sonatrach and Eni deepen ties to accelerate decarbonisation

Italy's Eni and Algerian state company Sonatrach have signed various agreements in the upstream, research and development and decarbonisation sectors. Eni and Sonatrach will re-launch exploration and development activities in the Berkine basin region. The programme will also enable the creation of a gas and crude oil development hub through a synergy with existing Menzel Ledjmet East (MLE) Central Area Fields Complex (CAFC) installations. The two parties also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop technologies with focus on renewable energy, biofuels and hydrogen sectors. Additionally, Eni signed an agreement with Sonatrach to work on sectors such as staff



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training. As part of the deal, Eni Corporate University will cooperate with the Institut Algerien du Petrole to implement training programmes in the upstream sector and new technologies related to the energy transition fields. [Read more](#)

## Sonatrach and Eni to cooperate on energy transition training

Algeria's Sonatrach group and the Italian company Eni have signed an agreement to cooperate on staff training by creating a partnership between Eni Corporate University and the Institut Algerien du Petrole to implement training programmes in the upstream sector and new technologies related to the energy transition fields. [Read more](#)

## Sonatrach and Royal Dutch Shell to look at trading cooperation and carbon management

The state-owned oil and gas company Sonatrach and Shell International Trading and Shipping Company Limited, a subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch group Royal Dutch Shell, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that provides 'a framework to allow the two companies to explore ways to cooperate on oil and gas trading'. The MoU will also allow the two companies to discuss ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon management practices. [Read more](#)

## Thought leadership

### Petrofac

*Petrofac is a leading international service provider to the energy industry. We design, build, manage and maintain infrastructure for the energy industries.*

- **The impact of the energy transition on oil and gas development planning - emerging field development focus areas**

By Andy Brown - Concept Development Consultant / Study Manager at Petrofac

It is almost five years since the Paris Agreement was signed. Since then, emissions reduction targets set by governments and the measures demanded by investors are adding a further level of complexity to field development planning and concept selection. Here I look more closely at the field development considerations and the focus areas that are emerging in development planning.

Field Development Considerations

The new operational landscape for oil and gas adds complexity to the already long list of considerations during concept selection and field development planning. Some areas under increased focus during our field development planning and conceptual studies are summarised below. While addressed under separate headings the elements are inherently linked. [Read more](#)



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## Capterio

*Capterio provides gas flaring solutions for energy companies to capture flared gas, create value, reduce pollution, and improve reputation.*

- **Why gas flaring should be in the spotlight at COP26**

By John-Henry Charles and Mark Davis, Capterio

Why flaring matters

Gas flaring is a major source of economic and environmental waste. Globally, 150 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) of gas is flared per year, according to the World Bank. That's large enough such that, if it were a country, "flaring" would be the 5th largest gas-consuming country globally (after US, Russia, China and Iran).

Flaring also leads to an annual revenue loss of \$20 billion and direct emissions of 280 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. And when the "methane slip" (associated with incomplete combustion of flares) is included, the emissions from flaring rise to at least 1.2 billion CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent tonnes<sup>1</sup>. Now, that's material, at 2% of the world's 51 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions. And on top of gas flaring is also venting and leaking/fugitive emissions (see "New data accelerates global call to action").

With emissions, therefore, equivalent to 1 to 1.5x that of airlines, it is perhaps surprising that flaring doesn't get more global attention. Especially so since existing technologies can solve a chunk of the flaring challenge within a decade. (For aviation, despite outstanding progress, battery and H<sub>2</sub> technology are still a way off). [Read more](#)

## UK company initiatives

### Neptune Energy

*Neptune is one of the largest independent exploration and production companies in Europe. We're strategically positioned in OECD countries and have substantial production assets in North Africa and the Asia Pacific region.*

- **Neptune Energy announces ESG and credit rating upgrades:** On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Neptune Energy announced it has received upgrades to its environment, social and governance (ESG) and credit ratings. In its latest ESG rating review from Sustainalytics, Neptune received a score of 26.1, putting it in the top 3% of all exploration and production companies rated by the organisation, with a global ranking of 5<sup>th</sup> out of 169. [Read more](#)
- **Neptune Energy, EDF to pilot novel method to measure offshore methane emissions:** On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Neptune Energy and Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) announced a scientific collaboration to test a first-of-its-kind approach for measuring oil and gas methane emissions from offshore oil and gas facilities. [Read more](#)
- **Neptune announces feasibility study into CCS plan for Netherlands:** On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Neptune Energy announced a feasibility study into plans for a large-scale offshore Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project in the Dutch North Sea, with the potential to safely store 120-150 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Neptune will conduct the study in cooperation with its licence partners and CO<sub>2</sub> emitters. [Read more](#)





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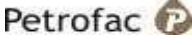

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## Equinor

*Equinor is a broad energy company with more than 21,000 employees, present in more than 30 countries worldwide. We develop oil, gas, wind, solar energy and low carbon solutions. Our headquarters are in Stavanger, Norway. We are listed on the New York and Oslo stock exchanges.*

- **Equinor completes farm down of Dogger Bank A and B:** On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Equinor closed the agreement to sell a 10% interest in Dogger Bank A (1,200 MW) and Dogger Bank B (1,200 MW) assets to Eni. As part of this transaction Eni has also completed the agreement to purchase a 10% interest in the Dogger Bank A and Dogger Bank B assets from project partner SSE on the same terms. [Read more](#)
- **ENGIE and Equinor join forces in the development of low-carbon hydrogen:** On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, ENGIE and Equinor announced their partnership to develop joint low-carbon hydrogen activities. The partners will investigate the production and market potential for hydrogen from natural gas whereby the CO<sub>2</sub> will be captured and stored permanently offshore. [Read more](#)
- **Equinor and BP complete US offshore wind transactions and formation of strategic partnership:** on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Equinor and BP completed their previously announced transaction, whereby Equinor has sold a 50% interest in both the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind assets on the US east coast for a total cash consideration of around USD 1.1 bn excluding customary purchase price adjustments. [Read more](#)
- **Hywind Scotland remains the UK's best performing offshore wind farm:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, Hywind Scotland – the world's first floating offshore wind farm – reached the highest average capacity factor for any wind farm in the UK for its third consecutive year. With an average capacity factor of 57.1% in the twelve month period to March 2020, the floating offshore wind farm set a new record in the UK. [Read more](#)

## BP

*BP is an integrated energy business with operations in Europe, North and South America, Australasia, Asia and Africa.*

- **Equinor and BP complete US offshore wind transactions and formation of strategic partnership:** on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Equinor and BP completed their previously announced transaction, whereby Equinor has sold a 50% interest in both the Empire Wind and Beacon Wind assets on the US east coast for a total cash consideration of around USD 1.1 bn excluding customary purchase price adjustments. [Read more](#)
- **Rosneft and bp agree to cooperate on carbon management and sustainability:** On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Rosneft Oil Company and BP signed a Strategic Collaboration Agreement focused on supporting carbon management and sustainability activities of both companies. The agreement builds on years of partnership between the two companies and formalises key elements of their collaboration on sustainability and work to identify carbon reduction activities and low carbon opportunities. [Read more](#)
- **BP advances offshore wind growth strategy; enters world-class UK sector with 3GW of advantaged leases in Irish Sea:** On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, BP and Energie BadenWuerttemberg AG (EnBW) of Germany have together been selected as the preferred bidder



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for two major leases in the UK Offshore Wind Round 4, the first such UK leasing round since 2010. [Read more](#)

- **Lightsource BP solar farm powers BP service stations with 100% renewable energy in Australia:** On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Lightsource BP announced that through a PPA with Snowy Hydro, its West Wyalong solar farm will supply renewable energy to 88 of BP's service stations across New South Wales, Australia. [Read more](#)
- **BP plans UK's largest hydrogen project:** On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, BP announced that it is developing plans for the UK's largest blue hydrogen production facility, targeting 1GW of hydrogen production by 2030. The project would capture and send for storage up to two million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year, equivalent to capturing the emissions from the heating of one million UK households. [Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

### NAPEC

Oil & Gas, Energy

Oran, 27 Sep. to 30 Sep. 2021 [www.napec-dz.com](http://www.napec-dz.com)

### ERA renewables, clean energy and sustainable development fair

Renewables, Energy Oran, 24

May to 26 May 2021

[www.era.dz/salon/](http://www.era.dz/salon/)

## Going further

**Would you like to promote your organisation to the ABBC membership?** [Read more](#)

**Interested in ABBC membership?** ABBC membership offers you unique benefits including insights, advice and networking in and around Algeria - find out why leading British organisations choose ABBC membership. [Read more](#)

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