



18 October 2019

SAREC RELEASE: 2019 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

The South African Renewable Energy Council (SAREC) welcomes the release of the 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) by the Minerals Resource and Energy Minister, the Honourable Minister Mantashe. The IRP was released on Friday, 18th October 2019 at 10h00.

In considering the generation mix presented in the 2019 IRP, Government considered amongst other criteria, the balance between supply & demand, the environment, the current state of the economy, together with the national grid challenges, reducing tariffs for the end user, challenges experienced by Eskom and the national resources in South Africa.

The IRP makes an allocation of an additional 6000 MW for PV; 14 400 MW for wind; 4000 MW for Distributed Generation, Cogen and Biomass landfill; and 2088 MW towards storage. It is however disappointing that there is no allocation for CSP up until 2030. Renewable Energy (RE) through a combination of technology options (Wind, PV, CSP, biomass or a combination of technologies) can provide stable non intermittent power to the grid. Storage options (Battery and CSP) can also be used to provide dispatchable power in South Africa. SAREC therefore further welcomes and supports the inclusion of energy storage technologies into the energy mix. Storage can be used to compliment these technologies, as well as provide ancillary service benefits to the grid. It is viewed as a positive contributor and game changer in this emerging market.

The increased allocation to Small Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) presents opportunities to unlock new investment and adds value to the SA economy. SAREC supports Governments view that RE can play a significant role in the energy mix of South Africa. SAREC will continue to engage in dialogue with the ministry and work towards driving down the cost of electricity in SA. We support the Just Transition commitment and will assist Government in meeting those targets. As the RE sector, we will also help contribute to the Governments targets of reducing the Carbon emissions in the energy sector.

The IRP is welcomed at a time when SA is once again experiencing load shedding. RE technologies can provide the solutions to Eskom in avoiding such great challenges facing our economy. We request that the DMRE considers an urgent procurement call for projects in a round 5 to alleviate the current power shortages and help build the economy.

Working together to build a bright future for South Africa.

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