



Commercial grid connect MAS Intimates Thurulie Thulhiriya, Sri Lanka

The largest commercial solar power plant in Sri Lanka, located on the sprawling 150-acre MAS Intimates Thurulie complex in Thulhiriya near Warakapola in Sri Lanka, was launched in April 2008.

The MAS Intimates Thurulie plant manufactures lingerie for UK-based Marks & Spencer department store chain, for which MAS is a chief vendor. The site is the first of a number of 'green model factories' planned by Marks and Spencer which will utilise sustainable building materials, renewable energy generation and conserve energy and water.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the newly solar powered MAS Intimates Thurulie complex, Sir Stuart Rose, Chairman, Marks and Spencer Group, described the plant as "a truly exciting development in clothing production." He continued: "It really has been a partnership of two like-minded companies, and will trial a completely new approach to manufacturing and set standards for others to follow".

On the green front, the plant looks the part with its clay walls, cement stairways and verdant greenery which all contribute to minimising energy consumption and greater comfort for workers. The entire project has been funded by the Marks and Spencer Group. The turnkey project, delivered by BP Solar's Australian projects team, included the design, supply and installation.

Commercial grid connect MAS Intimates Thurulie – Sri Lanka

Location

Thulhiriya, Sri Lanka

Project participants:

Customer: MAS Intimates Thurulie

Implementation: – BP Solar (design, supply and solar panel manufacture)
– Access Solar Pvt Ltd (installation)

Project completion:

March 2008

Project value:

Approximately A\$250,000

Size:

25.6kWp

Electricity generated:

Approximately 41MWh per annum

CO₂ reduction:

A saving of approximately 41 tonnes per year

System components:

160 x BP 3160 solar panels.

4 x SMA Sunnyboy SMC6000 inverters – roof mounted

Special challenges:

Given this project was the first of its kind for Sri Lanka, detailed design was required to ensure a seamless integration within the factory environment and with the electricity grid.

The orientation and location of the panels have been located to provide maximum output whilst the display located in the reception area provides instantaneous data on power production, CO₂ emission reduction, temperature and system performance to inform visitors and employees.



The solar is integrated with the building yet clear to be seen by workers and visitors to the site.



Sir Stuart Rose cuts the ribbon to officially declare the green factory open.



This is the first of a number of green factories supplying Marks & Spencer.