Swims

Solar energy for tropical islands



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About Swimsol

- Solar energy for tropical regions
 - Heavy-duty systems for islands & coastal areas
 - Floating solar platforms
 - Planning, implementation and financing
- 20 years of solar expertise
 - Affiliate of two German solar companies
 - Jointly over 500 installations, more than 100 MW_p
 - Systems from 3 kW_p to > 1 MW_p



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Partners





Current situation Malé



- Solar energy less expensive than diesel energy
- Land scarcity \rightarrow Large solar systems not feasible on land
- Malé feasible solar PV deployment potential only 5 MW (in yellow)

Study and Picture by International Renewable Energy Agency <u>www.irena.org</u> published in *"Maldives renewable energy roadmap"* 2015



Floating PV in freshwater lakes is an established technology

- Water regulation pond Yasugi, Japan
- System size: 1 MW_p
- Grid connection 2013
- System surface: 1.23 ha

But until 2014 no technology available for floating PV on saltwater.





Partly reclaimed land for PV projects close to sea

- Japan, partly reclaimed land 1,2 km² (area Malé 5,8 km²)
- System size: 70,000 kW_p
- Grid connected in 2013
- Costly solution!





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Since 2014 Swimsol installs floating PV platforms in saltwater!





Swimsols projects in the Maldives



- Rooftop system at Addu High School
 - 2.8 kW_p (May 2014)
 - Awarded the Zayed Future Energy Price, 2015
- Floating solar platforms at resort islands
 - 15 kW_p (November 2014)
 - 28 kW_p (April 2015)
- Project pipeline
 - 100 kW_p currently being installed on local island, finalized January 2016
 - Total pipeline of ~1.5 MW_p in 2015/16



Technology

- Platform specifications
 - Dimensions: 14 x 14 meters
 - Power: 24 kW_p (96 modules x 250 W_p)
 - Wave/wind resistance: 1.5 meters, 100 km/h
 - Output: Up to 10% higher than roof system mainly due to cooling effect of water
- System setup
 - Heavy-duty panels designed for tropical climate
 - Mounted on floating platform
 - Series of platforms form large solar park
 - Connected to land by underwater power line



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- Swimsol uses heavy-duty solar panels
 - Glass on the front- and backside plus edge sealing and protected junction box
 - Tested thoroughly in damp heat & salt mist corrosion tests
 - Long-lasting high efficiency and up to twice as durable as standard panels
- Conventional solar panels not suited for tropical climate
 - Not protected against humidity through backside foil
 - Efficiency losses and low durability



Larger floating PV systems in the pipeline



- Visualisations for 1 MW (one hectare, 1.4 soccer fields)
 - Covers ~25% of average resort s consumption
 - Costs of 3 Mio. \$



Visualisation of 10 MW_p solar energy park for Malé





Project specification 10 MW_p solar energy park for Male[′]

- 10 MW_p floating solar park: 400 platforms \rightarrow 300m x 200m space requirement
- Could power 10% of Malé's yearly energy demand
- Many suitable locations available, connection to Malé with medium or high tension submarine cables
- Cells can be coloured e.g. flag of Maldives. Landmark and tourist attraction, visible by google earth.
- Investment costs of 30 Mio \$ can be borne by Swimsol and international investors.



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Financing 10 MW_p floating PV – 30 Mio \$



- Swimsols finances, builds, owns, operates system in Phase 1
- Swimsol sells electricity to STELCO via FIT
 - FIT either fix (3,42 MVR per kWh)
 - or FIT bound to oil price and STELCO's diesel production costs in Male. E.g. solar price can be 10% lower than STELCO's current diesel production costs. As such STELCO and Rep. of Maldvies assure that solar FIT is always lower than energy produced by diesel. In graph below STELCO's savings indicated in green colour.



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