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## **86MW Prieska Solar PV project 50% complete in just 9 months**

*Cape Town, 04 April 2016:* The Mulilo-Sonnedix-Prieska PV project, a 125 hectare solar PV project valued at R1.3 billion and situated 50km south-west of Prieska in the Northern Cape, is already halfway to completion, absolutely on schedule, on budget and is set to connect to the grid in Q3 this year.

The Northern Free State area of Prieska is fast becoming the solar capital of the country and the 86MW project, which covers an area equal to 125 football or rugby fields, is expected to power 86 000 homes.

Farid Mouceur, Sonnedix country manager, said that the project, which is being developed under the renewable energy independent power producers programme (REIPPPP), will be run under the auspices of the Department of Energy. "The project will connect to the grid in Q3 2016 and has an expected 20 year lifespan, which we will operate with a local team."

juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd, the South African subsidiary of the international juwi group, is building the Mulilo Sonnedix Prieska PV solar park in the Northern Cape Province for Independent Power Producer (IPP) Sonnedix. When complete, the 125 hectares site (approximately 2km by 1km) will host 275 000 PV modules, connected by 990km of cable. Even if the technology is not complicated, the logistics behind coordinating such a project are tremendous.

"As the EPC we do the design and the engineering - we procure all of the materials and services, every single thing down to the last nut and bolt, and we put it all together on site. So we have intergrated a lot of services and a lot of functionality to deliver a project that performs at a guaranteed level for the investor," said Greg Austin, MD of juwi.

The RE industry has made a considerable impact on the Northern Cape region in terms of job creation and opportunities for South African suppliers.

"For us it is important to use as many South African suppliers as possible. Most of our large equipment, solar modules, the mounting structures, the invertor station, is all procured through a local South African entity. Some of the components are imported as they are not manufactured in South Africa, but our full supply base is South African for this project," said Austin.

According to Mouceur, 850 jobs have been created on the Prieska project, with over 500 going to local people living in the region.

"The lifestyle of the many people has really, changed. Many came with nothing and are now supervisors, junior supervisors, team leaders, forklift drivers. This solar project gives the community of the Siyathemba area a lot, a lot of hope," said Piet Olyn, project community liaison officer.



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### **About the juwi Group and juwi Renewable Energies (Pty):**

juwi, one of the leading global companies in the field of renewable energy, celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. As an experienced renewable energy pioneer with a strong regional presence, juwi offers project development and EPC services with related offerings for the transition to greater utilisation of sustainable energy globally. Company activities focus on solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind projects, and ongoing renewable energy power plant operations & maintenance activities.

The juwi Group was established in 1996 in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. Since the end of 2014, Mannheim-based utility, MVV Energie AG, has been partner and majority shareholder (63%) of the juwi Group. juwi has about 1,000 employees located in offices on all continents and has a growing pipeline of project activities across the globe. Working together with passion to implement renewable energy economically and reliably is what drives us.

To date juwi has completed wind projects totalling approximately 880 wind turbines with a total capacity of 1,900 megaWatts (MW) at more than 150 sites. In the solar PV segment, juwi has designed and constructed more than 1,500 projects with a total capacity of around 1,600 MW. Combined, these energy systems produce more than 7 billion kiloWatt hours (kWh) of clean energy per year, equalling the annual demand of around 2 million South African households. In the process, juwi has initiated an investment volume of around 7 billion Euros to realize these projects.

juwi Renewable Energies based in Cape Town, South Africa (“juwi South Africa”) participates in the Renewable Energy IPP (REIPP) Procurement Programme initiated by the South African government for utility-scale renewable energy power generation. To date juwi South Africa has built four solar plants totalling 35 MW under the REIPP Procurement Programme, and will complete another 86 MW solar plant (largest in the juwi Group’s history) by mid- 2016. juwi South Africa also develops and bids wind projects under the Programme, and is also active in the government’s Small IPP Programme. In addition to this, juwi South Africa has started constructing large solar PV projects that deliver cost competitive electricity to a range of commercial and industrial end-users.

German engineering, local competency, quality delivery. Partner with us and you partner with success.

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