

SPOTLIGHT

INTERVIEW

“Solar is simple! As long as the sun shines and you have the right technology with the right equipment, it’s good business”

Rajat Seksaria, Vice President & Business Head, Punj Lloyd Infrastructure, talks about the company’s plans and competitive advantages in solar.



Tell us a little about Punj Lloyd.

Punj Lloyd Infrastructure Limited (PLIL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Punj Lloyd which was incorporated as a project development company focussing on public private partnership (PPP) projects in transportation, energy and urban infrastructure. Since 2010, the company has grown significantly and presently has assets (commissioned and under development) of about \$400 million. I am proud that each of our projects was commissioned ahead of time; a rare feat in the infrastructure industry. In fact, as recognition of our delivery capability, its road project Khagaria Purnea road project in Bihar received an early completion bonus from NHAI. The present focus of PLIL is in developing solar power projects.

Why solar?

Increased concern on climate and environmental changes, rapid technological developments in available solar technology and proactive government and regulatory environment provide a good backdrop for focusing on this segment. As an infrastructure development company and with a clear focus on quality and delivery, we want to be partners in the solar power revolution in India.

Our first solar development project was an outcome of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission launched in 2010 – the 5MW solar power plant in Rajasthan with a PPA of 25 years with NTPC Vidyut Nigam Limited. The project was financed by US Exim Bank and has been successfully running since January 2012. Today, PLIL has a portfolio of six solar projects (commissioned and under development) of about 83 Mw in size and about \$90 mln in asset value in three different states. Each of those entities with whom we have an agreement are highly rated, making for a high quality portfolio for us.


Are you looking at opportunities in rooftop and solar parks? What projects are you bidding for?

Solar power development in India has evolved into four clear segments; rooftop projects which are typically sub mw size; second – sub 5 Mw, typically undertaken by rich farmers, small enterprises and/or high net worth individuals; third – 10 to 40 Mw which are usually on offer by various state governments; and fourth – large 50 Mw + single site projects usually within a solar park and under the aegis of central government agencies like NRVN and SECI.

Our focus would be in the third category of projects, sized between 10 to 40. Mw, as we believe we have developed strong project delivery capabilities in this segment which requires working collaboratively with various stakeholders like small contractors, local farmer/land owners, local communities, state government, state utilities, etc.

We have executed many rooftop projects. In January 2015, a 200 kWp SPV Grid interactive multi-rooftop, single point integration power plant, designed and commissioned by Punj Lloyd, was inaugurated by Chandigarh Renewable Energy Science and Technology Promotional Society (CREST) at the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) Complex in Chandigarh, taking Punj Lloyd’s cumulative installed solar energy capacity in rooftops to over 1.2 MWp in Chandigarh.

Punj Lloyd had earlier completed a 495 kWp and a 435 kWp SPV grid interactive multi-rooftop single point integration power plants in the government colleges of girls and boys, respectively.

Chandigarh was identified as the model solar city by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in its Solar City Programme. CREST is the nodal agency for executing solar projects in Chandigarh. 

For the complete interview log on to www.infrastructuretoday.co.in