

### **SolarInnovate Energy Solutions**

# Mozambique Voda Communications Base Station Inverter





#### **Overview**

How has ABB refurbished the HVDC link from Mozambique to South Africa?

A key component in the 1920MW HVDC link from Cahora Bassa hydropower plant in Mozambique to South Africa has been successfully refurbished by ABB. At the Songo High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station, ABB replaced the existing equipment with new DC converter transformers, smoothing reactors, arresters and measuring equipment.

Where is the Songo HVDC converter station located?

ABB has successfully commissioned the refurbished Songo High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station in Mozambique, Africa. The station is a key component in the 1920 MW HVDC link transmitting electricity from the Cahora Bassa hydropower plant in Mozambique across a distance of 1,417 kilometers to the South African grid.

Why did Mozambique's Songo converter stop working?

The system links Mozambique's Songo converter station to the Apollo inverter station near Johannesburg, South Africa, by a 1414-km (879-mile), 530-kV HVDC overhead transmission line. This system experienced a long-term service interruption from 1985 to 1997 because of the Mozambican Civil War.

What did ABB do at Songo high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station?

At the Songo High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station, ABB replaced the existing equipment with new DC converter transformers, smoothing reactors, arresters and measuring equipment. The installation houses the first re-connectable converter transformers to go into operation worldwide.

Did the Cahora Bassa Dam survive the Mozambican Civil War?

Although it survived the Mozambican Civil War, the Cahora Bassa dam and



hydroelectric power plant requires major refurbishment. The Cahora Bassa dam and hydroelectric power plant located on the Zambezi River in northern Mozambique was the last major construction project in Africa during the era of decolonization from Portugal.

What is the Songo converter station project?

The Songo converter station project is an ideal case study for the refurbishment of existing HVDC systems to enable the transmission of renewable energy resources. One of the largest issues with accessing renewable energy is the transmission system and distribution network upgrades required. Aerial view of the dam's associated switchyard equipment.



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