

South Korean firm eyes developing 13,000 solar-powered gas stations

Hanwha Q CELLS Korea is considering installing solar panels across 13,000 petrol stations in South Korea following an agreement signed by the solar energy firm with the Korea Oil Station Association, companies Dasstech and Dongwon EnC, and project financier Jeonbuk Bank.

The solar project aims to maximize the use of petrol station rooftops, which are considered ideal for harnessing solar energy as they are typically higher than those of adjacent structures and can help conserve land area.

According to the company, if all petrol stations in the country were to be fitted with solar panels, they would be capable of generating 300MW of power, which could supply electricity to about 90,000 homes every year.

Installing solar panels will also help fuel station owners obtain a Renewable Energy Certification and up to 50% more benefits than if they were to use only conventional power sources.

"Solar-powered gas stations are an interesting hybrid concept that combines solar energy with fossil fuels, illustrating how both energy sources can work side-by-side in a real business environment," said Hyun-Soo Cho, President and CEO of Hanwha Q CELLS Korea.