



## Senior Grid Engineer

### Introduction to SOLA

SOLA is a vertically-integrated provider of solar technology, project development, finance, and engineering expertise in Africa. SOLA grows businesses, connects communities, and helps people prosper by advancing the adoption of clean energy throughout the African continent. Our team is committed to powering Africa with clean, affordable energy.

### The overall purpose of the position:

As Senior Grid Engineer you will have overall responsibility for grid connection activities working alongside the Utility Project Development, Engineering, and Construction teams. Your scope will encompass all aspects of the grid connection process from capacity assessments, MV & HV connection design, engagement with Eskom, and overseeing the implementation of grid connection works. You will head up, and grow, SOLA's grid engineering team.

**Reporting Line:** Project Development Director / Chief Technical Officer

**Location:** Cape Town or Johannesburg

### Summary of Responsibilities:

#### Technical

- Provide both strategic and technical insight into SOLA's utility project pipeline planning
- Participate as a key resource in the identification of new project sites and project acquisition targets.
- Undertake assessment of grid connection capacity (including load flow assessments) and estimate connection costs, in order to find the most commercially and technically viable grid connection configurations for SOLA's utility-scale projects .
- Manage and oversee the interface with Distribution (Dx) and Transmission (Tx) System operators during the project development and construction phases.
- Ensure that Cost Estimate Letters (CELs), Budget Quotes (BQs) and Connection Agreements are received/executed timeously .
- Ensure that the grid connection aspects of project construction is completed on time and within budget, with the project achieving full Grid Code Compliance as scheduled.
- Review grid connection scope, cost, timing and risks for project acquisitions .
- Prepare documentation for and manage the entire RETEC process.
- Prepare preliminary designs and SLD.
- Prepare / Review detailed design documents that may be prepared internally or by external consultants/EPC Contractors, and provide PrEng sign off on final designs.
- Lead handover of the grid connection aspects of projects from development into construction, and finally through construction close-out and into the O&M team.
- Manage and training of SOLA's grid engineer(s) to first of all assist the senior grid engineer in the tasks listed in this JD and secondly increase grid engineering capacity in SOLA.

#### Administrative/Operational/Managerial

- Prepare reports for management and provide technical input for PPAs and other contractual documents as required .
- Undertake site assessments/inspections (within South Africa and other parts of Africa).
- Assist with general technical and engineering work, including regulatory reviews, project planning, grid connection costing, technical design, tender specifications and review, design reviews, and other aspects of renewable energy project developments.
- Develop, review and provide inputs to tender and contract technical specifications to ensure that grid connection and electrical items are adequately covered and risks mitigated.
- Support the Project Development and Engineering teams in preparing highly competitive tender submissions for government and private client offtake processes, including REIPPPP bids.
- Stay abreast of the competitive environment relating to renewable energy project connections to the network.

#### CLEAN ENERGY FOR AFRICA

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- Actively participate in the SAPVIA grid access/technical working group and attend all relevant forums/meetings to inform the company project strategy.

### Interpersonal

- Establish strong working relationships with various stakeholders including Eskom Grid Access Unit, the Dx and Tx System Operators, RETEC, GCAC, equipment suppliers, EPC and O&M Contractors, external consultants and lender's advisers.
- Display a problem-solving attitude and demonstrate innovative ways to resolve challenges (using technical, commercial and interpersonal skills).
- Operate as a strategic thinker, using your knowledge of energy markets and renewable energy to inform SOLA's strategy and implementation plans over the coming decades.
- Strong desire to learn and grow within a multidisciplinary environment.
- Engage and work with a diverse range of internal and external stakeholders.
- Supervise and manage internal and external resources.
- Independent and critical thinker with strong analytical ability and commercial awareness.

### Key Performance Indicators

- Project CELs and BQs received
- Grid Connection agreements negotiated
- Detailed design documentation complete and signed off
- Grid connection and site identification strategy approved and in execution
- Number of new projects identified, reviewed and prioritised for securement/acquisition

### Minimum Requirements:

- Electrical engineering degree (B.Eng or M.Eng)
- Electrical PrEng registered
- 7+ years professional experience as an electrical engineer, including 5+ years in a project environment working on substations and/or grid-connected renewable energy facilities
- Knowledge of Digsilent, PSSE, PSCAD and other relevant simulation software
- Detailed understanding of the South African Grid Codes, regulations and standards that relate to renewable energy projects and connecting/operating these generators within the network
- Awareness and understanding of the equivalent codes, regulations and standards in the region
- Knowledge and experience of power systems, grid studies, and grid connection of utility-scale renewable energy projects in South Africa and beyond
- Experience in negotiating grid connection agreements
- Understanding and interest in large BESS (beneficial)
- Must be fully proficient in English (verbal and written communication)
- Must be fully computer literate (MS Office Suite and Google App Suite)
- The ideal candidate will be passionate about the renewable energy industry and the company's contribution to the future of energy.
- He/she will embody respect and responsibility in the full sense of the word, and will enjoy contributing to a team of highly knowledgeable professionals.

SOLA is dedicated to achieving transformation, hence one of our values is "dig diversity". Our Employment Equity plan and targets will be considered as part of the selection process for this position.

**If you are interested to apply for this vacancy, please submit your CV to [hireme@solagroup.co.za](mailto:hireme@solagroup.co.za) and complete the screening survey [here](#).**

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