



Senior Solar Commissioning Engineer

Introduction to SOLA

The SOLA Group is a vertically-integrated provider of renewable energy solutions, aiming to transform Africa through clean energy. With over 13 years of experience, SOLA's expertise lies in the origination, development, financing, engineering design, project management and operations and maintenance of renewable energy facilities. For more information, visit www.solagroup.co.za.

The overall purpose of the position:

Commissioning of a utility solar power plant is both complex and critical to the successful completion of the project. The overall purpose of this role is to plan, coordinate, and manage the whole process, ensuring that all tasks are completed on time (i.e. planning, switching, permitting, document control, safety compliance, quality, schedule and integration control).

Reports to: Chief Technology Officer
Location: Cape Town or Johannesburg

Summary of Responsibilities:

- Develop site specific commissioning plan.
- Determine resource (persons and equipment) levels to attain schedule milestones and ensure conformance with the commissioning plan.
- Manage and coordinate the commissioning team.
- Develop strong working relationships with various stakeholders, including Eskom Grid Access Unit, the Dx and Tx System Operators, RETEC, GCAC, OEMs, EPC and O&M Contractors, external consultants, and owners' advisers.
- Apply understanding of relevant codes, local and international standards, and design requirements.
- Manage internal engineering team and external resources to ensure delivery of key priorities.
- Monitor the progress of commissioning tasks and address any issues that may arise.
- Verify that the system is operating at optimal efficiency.
- Ensure the commissioning is completed on time and within budget (compile and manage commissioning budget).
- Ensure that all commissioning, testing and handover deliverables are met, as per the applicable contracts/agreements - taking over certificates, as built drawings, manufacturer manuals and instructions, punch lists, test procedures, risk assessment and method statements, permits, LOTO and end of commissioning reports.
- Lead commissioning activities (pre, standalone and integrated) - plans, procedures, checklists and quality control records.
- Prepare, review and approve full end to end commissioning schedule, plans, procedures and inspections for Grid-connected Solar PV plants, in accordance with project drawings, specifications, schedules, procedures, quality & safety requirements, legislation, standards, OEM recommendations and industry best practice.
- Prepare, perform, prove, witness and accept standalone and integrated power plant functional, performance and compliance tests.
- Oversee O&M training and handover and managing defects liability period issues.

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- 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.
- Taking over of the systems or subsystems and managing the handing/taking over process between the construction team, commissioning team and O&M team.
- Manage the documentation for electrical commissioning such as taking over certificates, as built drawings, manufacturer manuals and instructions, punch lists, test procedures, risk assessment & method statements, permits, LOTO and end of commissioning reports.

Key Performance Indicators

- Completion within Scheduled time
- Variance against Budget

Minimum Requirements:

- B.Eng or B.Sc in Electrical (or Electrical & Electronic) Engineering.
- At least 7 years of work experience (at least 4 being in renewable energy, preferably solar PV).
- Renewable energy project commissioning experience, preferable utility scale (Eskom and RETEC)
- Independent and critical thinker with strong analytical and problem solving ability, and commercial awareness.
- Willingness to work onsite for extended periods of time (4-5 months, as example, with R&R as applicable).

Beneficial Skills and Experience:

- Previous experience using applications such as CAD, PVSyst, PVSol, etc.
- Experience working with DigSilent.
- Experience in MV design in sizing cables, earthing, breaker sizing, specifying protection equipment.
- Previous technical interaction with Eskom and Municipalities w.r.t electrical infrastructure design and construction.
- Comprehension of the South African Grid Code and implementation of Protection and SCADA in renewable energy plants.
- The ideal candidate will be passionate about the renewable energy industry and will embody respect and responsibility in the full sense of the word, while enjoying contributing to a team of highly knowledgeable professionals.

At SOLA one of our core values is *Dig Diversity* and we are committed to transformation and embracing diversity. This commitment is what drives us to achieve a diverse and inclusive workplace, representative of the demographics of our society. We therefore give preference to applicants from the designated groups in alignment with our Employment Equity plan.

To apply for this vacancy, [please click on this hyperlink](#) to complete the application form. Further instructions are included in the form.

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