



O&M Technician

Introduction to SOLA

SOLA is a 100% South African, vertically integrated renewable energy solutions provider, specialising in the development, construction and operation of solar PV and battery energy storage projects. We focus on partnering with the private sector to deliver clean energy to businesses across South Africa using cutting edge clean energy generation and storage technologies. We help our clients to grow and prosper through the adoption of low cost and reliable renewable energy, enabling them to meet their carbon reduction and sustainability targets. For more information, visit www.solagroup.co.za.

The overall purpose of the position:

A 150MWac (195 MWdc) Solar PV Plant with ground-mounted tracking systems is currently under construction and approaching readiness for the commissioning phase in Virginia, Free State Province. This role involves conducting fault and failure investigations, performing repairs, carrying out planned and unplanned maintenance, and generating reports, all while strictly adhering to HSE requirements during the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) phase. Additionally, the successful candidate will be expected to commence services during the approaching commissioning phase of the project and subsequently transition into the Operations and Maintenance team upon project handover and satisfactory work performance of the candidate.

Reports to:	O&M Plant Manager
Location:	Virginia, Free State Province
Contract type:	Permanent Contract
Number of positions:	1 (One)

Summary of Responsibilities:

- Actively participate during project commissioning activities as required and directed by the line manager.
- Plan, prepare for, manage and execute activities pertaining to Preventative Maintenance on the Solar plant assuring all HSE procedures are followed.
- Plan, prepare for, manage and execute activities and execute pertaining to Corrective Maintenance on the Solar plant assuring all HSE procedures are followed. Activities include but are not limited to:
 - Respond to all alarms triggered on the Solar plant;
 - Resolve all trips on the Solar plant as soon as possible;
 - Attend to all breakdowns, do fault finding/root cause analysis and resolve, fix or replace faulty equipment with minimal energy loss;
 - Diagnose and replace PV panels;
 - Diagnose, test, repair and/or replace cables, cable interconnections, PV junction/string boxes, connectors and fuses in PV systems;
 - Diagnose, test, repair and/or replace transformers;
 - Diagnose, test repair and/or replace HV yard equipment;
 - Diagnose, test repair and/or replace parts/subsystems of mechanical tracking systems; and
 - Diagnose, repair and/or replace switchgear and control gear in PV systems.
- Apply root cause analysis techniques on all major and recurring faults;

- Investigate technical failures and prepare formal technical report;
- Generate and manage tickets on the ERP system.
- Enforce HSE compliance with contractors.
- Optimise operation and maximize the production of power plants.
- Correctly and timely operating the plant.
- Willing to work standby/Overtime as per the company policy requirements.
- Complying with the parameters defined by the Operation and Maintenance Function related to operation, maintenance, availability.
- Perform technical maintenance activities of the plant with special attention on the conversion units and tracking system.
- Be willing to perform other Ad Hoc activities on site as guided by the Plant Manager.

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- Execute maintenance activities assisted by different actors involved in the plant maintenance.
- Comply with Legal, Safety and Environment requirements.
- Rectify, investigate and report regularly and promptly any issues that may arise.
- Link the data detected by the systems (SCADA, control rooms etc.) to the events occurred in the power plants.
- Monitor the power plants status.
- Assist the Plant Manager on plant optimisation (reliability and future CAPEX projects).
- Perform standby duties.
- Train/mentor artisans/interns
- Interact with Eskom where necessary.
- Record keeping and management of spare part movements.
- Report significant events to Senior Technicians / Plant Managers.
- Any other duties, as assigned by the Senior Technician / Plant Manager, in line with the role.
- Conduct switching activities on low voltage and medium voltage (typical 33kV/132kV) electrical networks.
- Follow method statements and direction from the O&M Plant Manager and Senior Technicians.

Key Performance Indicators

- Plant availability & Performance ratio
- Planned and unplanned maintenance completed
- Time to resolve technical breakdowns and tickets
- HSE compliance and statistics
- Spare part inventory management

Minimum Requirements, Knowledge & Experience

- Preferably diploma in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering or similar.
- Valid Driver's License - at minimum category B.
- Previous electrical plant operating authorisation is advantageous.
- Previous experience in Operation & Maintenance of renewable power plants will be advantageous.
- Must have solar installation or solar operations experience (1-3 years), preferably with large scale installation and tracking systems.
- Knowledge of SCADA / PLC and communication systems will be advantageous.
- Must have completed ORHVS training (Authorized Person) and be able to conduct live and remote switching duties.
- Some exposure/experience with mechanical systems, such as slow rotating torque transfer systems, will be beneficial.
- Understand/Interpret technical drawings and SLD's.

- Understand and adhere to HSE requirements.
- Able to work in a team as well as independently and have strong interpersonal skills.
- Be self-driven and have a strong ability to work independently, but able to work according to approved systems Framework and standards.
- Must be able and willing to perform work that can be physically demanding.
- Must be in possession or be able to obtain a medical fitness certificate in terms of Annexure 3 of OHS Act Construction Regulations.
- Must be proficient in English (verbal and written communication) and preferably another language.
- Must be fully computer literate (MS Office Suite and Google App Suite) and be able to be trained in the other systems.
- Preference will be given to candidates from the host community.
- Candidates must have access to their own transportation for commuting to and from work, and for operational reasons, reside within 30 km from the site.

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.

Application Instructions:

To apply:	Click on this hyperlink to complete the application form for this position. Further instructions are given in the form.
Closing Date:	In the interest of finding the most qualified candidates, we do not have a specific closing date for this position. We will continue to accept applications until we identify ideal candidates. We encourage interested individuals to submit their applications as soon as possible.