



Press Release

Minister Prithviraj Chavan lays the foundation stone for India's first public private partnership project for rural electrification

Thermax to build solar thermal power plant with Department of Science & Technology support for Shive village, Pune

Pune, December 20

Today, at a public function in Shive village, 45 kms from Pune, Mr. Prithviraj Chavan, Union Minister for Science and Technology, Government of India, laid the foundation stone for a solar thermal power plant that will come up over the next 18 months. The technology demonstration project has the active participation from the village through its Gram Panchayat. It is funded by the Government of India's Department of Science & Technology and will be designed and developed by Thermax Limited.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stated, "The Shive project expresses the Government's determination to harness solar energy for the power requirements of our villages. We need more such partnerships between the government and technology companies like Thermax to stimulate our rural economy."

The 250 kW power plant, when completed, is expected to transform the lives of the 1500 people of Shive village. It will be a trend setting project for Indian villages yet to be electrified, and for many of them, though connected to the grid, receive power only for limited hours a day. Acute shortage of power has resulted in the vicious cycle of agricultural stagnation, labour migration to cities, lack of development and poverty.

Explaining the possibilities offered by the project, Mr. MS Unnikrishnan, MD of Thermax stated, "We are happy to provide a replicable model for clean and decentralized power generation through solar energy and local resources in many more villages, which can truly fulfill all the energy requirements of villages, stimulating our rural economy." Besides electricity, this approach can also provide cold storage facility in villages for storage and

preservation of agricultural produce, dairy products and vaccines by using vapour absorption technology, already pioneered in India by Thermax.

Thermax is designing the plant to operate with solar energy, with biomass as support energy source to meet round-the clock energy requirements. This power plant will be designed using air condensers to economise on the water requirements for power generation. Thermax will also manage the operation & maintenance of the solar thermal power plant at Shive for a period of five years

For this project, Shive Gram Panchayat has provided land and local support, essential resources for the success of such projects. From the array of solar technologies, Thermax opted for the solar parabolic trough technology because of its negligible maintenance and suitability for rural conditions. Thermax has adapted and developed this technology through focused R&D and is leveraging its manufacturing capabilities. It has been collaborating with national technology and scientific institutions to adapt cutting edge technology. It also brings its rich 40 year old legacy of providing energy efficient and green solutions to industry. This includes pioneering solutions to generate energy from waste heat and biomass to meet the power, heating and cooling needs of industry.

About Thermax Limited

Thermax Limited, the Rs. 3303 crore leader in energy and environment management, is one of the few companies in the world that offers total integrated solutions in the areas of heating, cooling, power, water and waste management, air pollution control and chemicals. The sustainable solutions Thermax develops for client companies are environment-friendly and enable efficient deployment of energy and water resources. Headquartered in Pune, India, Thermax's international operations are spread over Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. For more information, visit www.thermaxindia.com

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