

## Solar Origin 1 Corp. proposes 250-MW project in Bataan

SOLAR ORIGIN 1 Corp., a local affiliate of Singapore-based renewable energy firm Enertrans Global Pte. Ltd., has proposed a 250-megawatt (MW) solar power project in Bataan and is conducting feasibility and scoping studies.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) said the company will hold a public scoping on April 20 to present the project and gather feedback from stakeholders.

"Enertrans Global seeks to participate in the country's renewable energy expansion by developing utility-scale solar power facilities that support the national objective of increasing the share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix, consistent with the Renewable Energy Act of 2008," the company said in a notice issued by the DENR.

Project documents show the proposed facility will have a capacity of 250 megawatts of alternating current (MWac) and will be located on about 280 hectares in Bamban and Maite, Hermosa, Bataan.

The company said projected revenues will mainly come from electricity sales under a contracted tariff of P4.14 per kilowatt-hour.

If approved, construction is expected to take about 12 months, while commercial operations are projected to run for 25 years.

The project will be financed through a 70:30 debt-to-equity structure, covering engineering, procurement and construction costs, land acquisition, and development expenses.

The planned site will host solar photovoltaic arrays and related facilities needed for power generation and system operations.

The company said the project aims to help meet Luzon's growing power demand and support efforts to diversify the country's energy mix.

"It supports the country's efforts to accommodate increasing demand while diversifying the energy mix and reducing dependence on conventional fuel sources," it said, citing Luzon's projected installed capacity requirement of 80,781 MW by 2050. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

# Regulators reviewing airline surcharges after Level 8 increase

THE Department of Transportation (DoTr) is reviewing airline fuel surcharges after regulators raised rates to Level 8 this month, as jet fuel prices remain elevated.

The DoTr, through the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), is assessing jet fuel prices to determine possible adjustments to passenger surcharges, following recent increases linked to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

"We started implementing the reduction of terminal fees for government-operated airports to help lower costs. But the problem really is jet fuel prices, so we are in talks with CAB to make necessary adjustments if needed. We are adjusting the fuel surcharge; it follows a matrix that goes up and down depending on the changes in fuel prices," Transportation Acting Secretary Giovanni Z. Lopez said in a forum on Saturday.

Starting April, the CAB moved from a monthly review of fuel sur-



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charges to a 15-day monitoring cycle to respond more quickly to price movements.

For April 1 to 15, the CAB imposed a Level 8 surcharge, up from Level 4 in March. This is the highest level since Level 6 in August 2024, though below the peak Level 12 recorded in August 2022.

At Level 8, airlines may charge fuel surcharges ranging from P253 to P787 for domestic flights. For international flights, surcharges range from P835.05

to P6,208.98, depending on distance.

The CAB has yet to release its advisory for the second half of April. Mr. Lopez said some countries have already imposed a Level 20 surcharge, the maximum allowed under the CAB framework.

At Level 20, airlines may collect surcharges ranging from P661 to P1,933 for domestic flights per way. For international flights, surcharges range from P2,183.11 to P16,232.44 per way, depending on distance.

For reference, passengers may pay an additional P2,183.11 for flights to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Brunei; P3,396.10 for travel to Japan or South Korea; and about P15,459.47 for flights to North America and the United Kingdom.

"As of now, countries abroad have already imposed a Level 20 surcharge. We are talking to CAB to make necessary adjustments if needed. We are hoping not to reach Level 20," Mr. Lopez said.

Fuel surcharges are variable fees collected on top of base fares to offset changes in jet fuel costs. These are adjusted based on movements in jet fuel prices using the Mean of Platts Singapore benchmark.

According to the International Air Transport Association, jet fuel prices fell 5.3% week on week to \$197.83 per barrel. Year on year, however, jet fuel prices surged 119.7%. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



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## DigiPlus joins global network to monitor betting risks

DIGIPLUS INTERACTIVE CORP. has integrated its sportsbook brand ArenaPlus into a global monitoring network to strengthen oversight of betting activity, as operators face increasing regulatory and integrity risks.

The company said the move links ArenaPlus to Sportradar's Integrity Exchange (SIE), a real-time intelligence network that allows betting operators to share alerts on suspicious betting patterns and help detect potential match-fixing and irregular activity.

The partnership, announced in March, enables the exchange of data across operators and supports early detection of betting-related risks.

"Joining the SIE network is a strategic move to further enhance the ArenaPlus platform," ArenaPlus head Erick Su said in a statement over the weekend.

"By exchanging critical data with an established firm, we are ensuring a safer environment for our users and playing an integral role in protecting the integrity of the sports we support," he added.

DigiPlus said the integration adds another layer of oversight to ArenaPlus operations and complements its existing monitoring systems.

Sportradar's Integrity Exchange is used by betting operators globally to report suspicious activity in real time. The system combines operator data with artificial intelligence (AI)-driven fraud detection tools and expert analysis to support investigations.

"The SIE complements our wide range of integrity services, including the Universal Fraud Detection System AI (UFDS AI) and education programs to help enhance sports integrity globally. Partnering with ArenaPlus, which shares our commitment to transparency and integrity, is an important step in strengthening the region's betting ecosystem," Sportradar Executive Vice-President of Integrity Services Andreas Krannich said.

The integration reflects broader efforts by gaming operators to strengthen compliance systems and manage risks as online betting expands across markets. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

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