

## QSTP, GreenGulf launch solar power trials

BY SATISH KANADY

**DOHA:** GreenGulf Incorporated, Qatar Science and Technology Park and the consortium partners yesterday agreed to establish an experimental facility to study different solar-to-electricity conversion methods. The project has the patronage of H H Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation.

The facility will be located at QSTP, which was officially inaugurated on March 16. QSTP's focus areas include energy and the environment, both of which are addressed by the GreenGulf project.

In the first phase of the project, GreenGulf will run trials of photovoltaic and solar-thermal electricity generation techniques. Of particular interest is the performance of each technology in Qatar's particular environmental conditions of dust, heat and humidity.

The venture then aims to establish a 500 kW pilot plant using the most appropriate technology which would supply electricity to Education

City, of which QSTP is a part.

Dr Tidu Maini, Executive Chairman of QSTP, said: "I couldn't think of a better way of marking our inauguration than by creating this partnership with GreenGulf. The science park is here to bring cutting-edge technologies to life for the benefit of Qatar's environment and its people, and solar energy is one of the strategic areas where we think we can make the most impact."

"We see solar as a realistic and achievable renewable energy source for Qatar. The GreenGulf venture is a crucial step in studying and developing the technology, while keeping our firm eye on commercialising the results as well through a pilot plant. This helps us accelerate Qatar's goal of becoming a post-carbon economy", he added.

GreenGulf is a Renewable Energy business based in Qatar. The company is focussed on investment in the development and management of large-scale renewable energy assets in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

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