



# Positioning for Growth

**SUSTAINABLY GOLD**  
REGENERATION | CLIMATE | PEOPLE | RENEWAL

**Ergo solar  
energy project**

60MW photovoltaic (PV)  
160MWh battery energy storage system (BESS)

Jaco Schoeman / Chief Operations Officer

2 April 2025

## Positioning for the next phase: Vision 28



Vision 28: capital infrastructure development designed for FY2028 and beyond



**3mtpm**  
Tonnage throughput



**6tpa**  
Gold production



Depleted Ergo sites replaced to fund Ergo 2.0



**1.650mtpm**  
Interim throughput capacity



FWGR Phase II expansion underway



**0.6mtpm to 1.2mtpm**

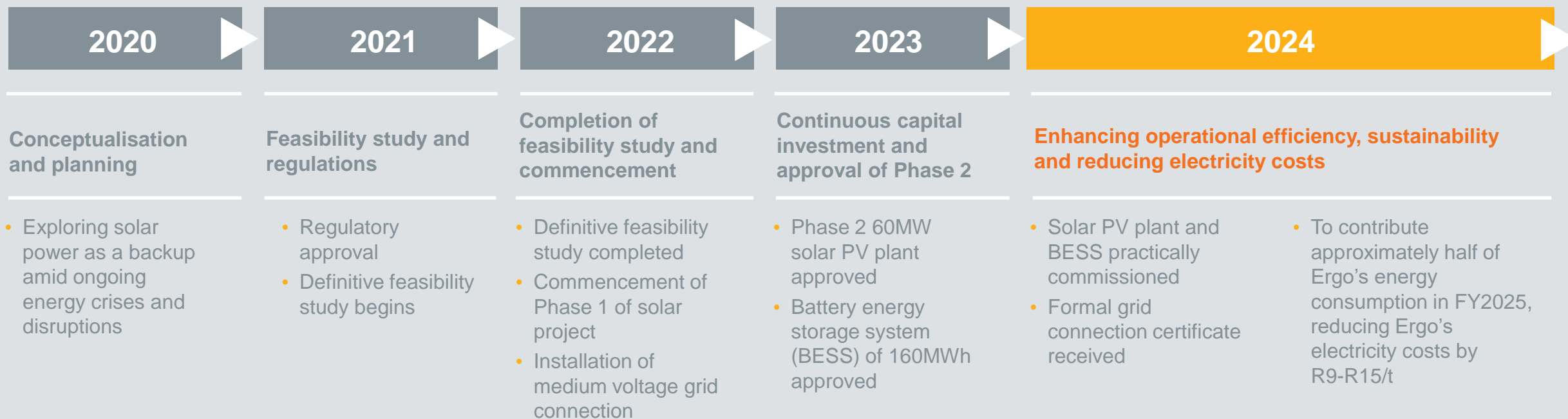
To make this a reality, we are pursuing our aggressive capital reinvestment programme to create the capacity infrastructure to realise our vision for FY2028 and beyond

# Solar project timeline

*A milestone in sustainable energy*



*Advancing circularity,  
optimising costs and  
strengthening energy security*



## Scale, impact and innovation of the solar plant project



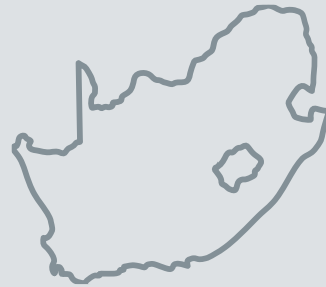
**R2.9 billion**

Self-funded  
from DRDGOLD's  
cash reserves



**47GWh**

From June 2024 to  
February 2025, the  
solar plant produced  
47GWh



**60MW**

60MW PV facility -  
one of the largest  
renewable energy  
initiatives in the  
South African  
mining sector



**160MWh**

160MWh BESS used  
capacity  
  
187MWh BESS  
installed capacity

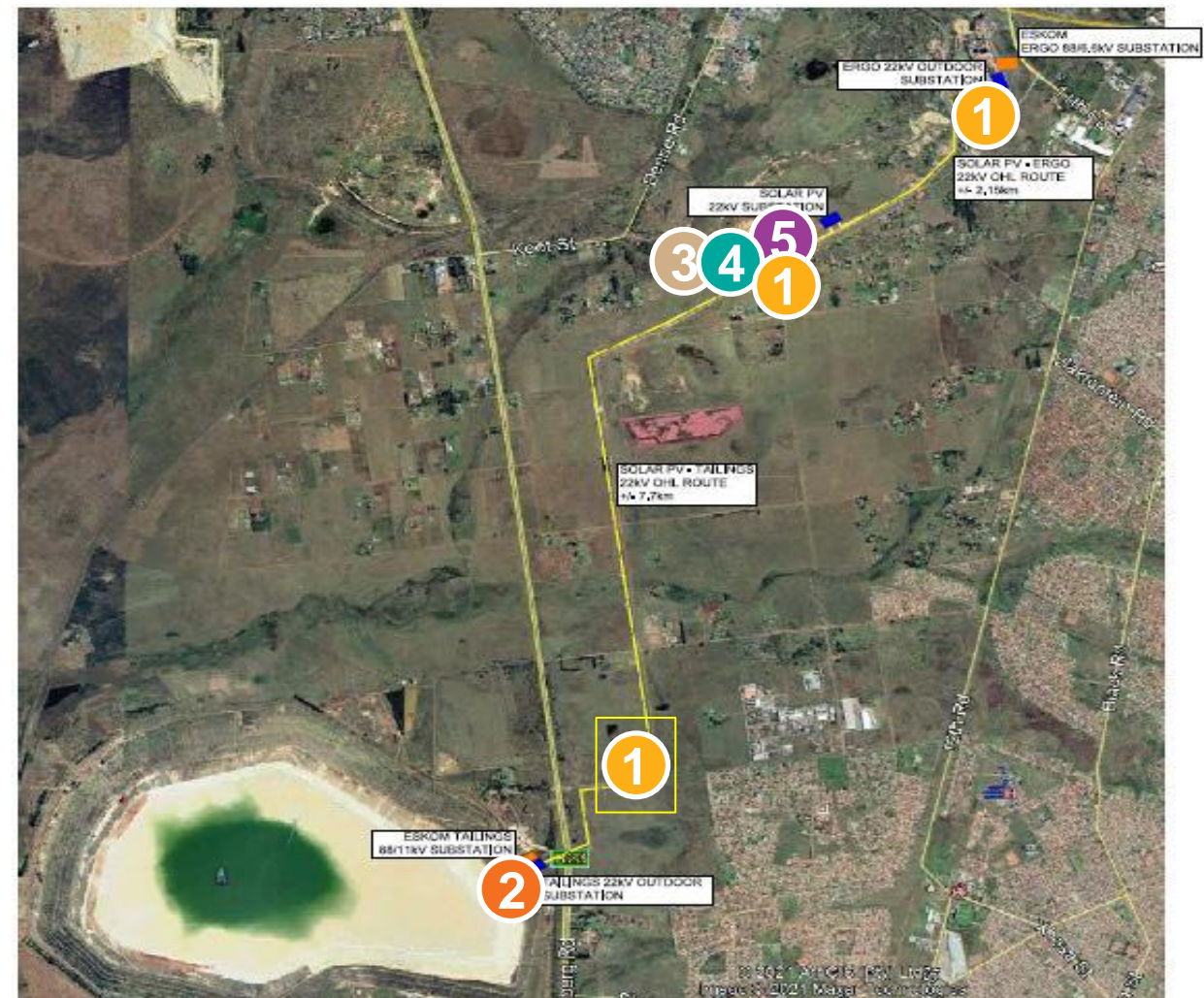


**132 500**

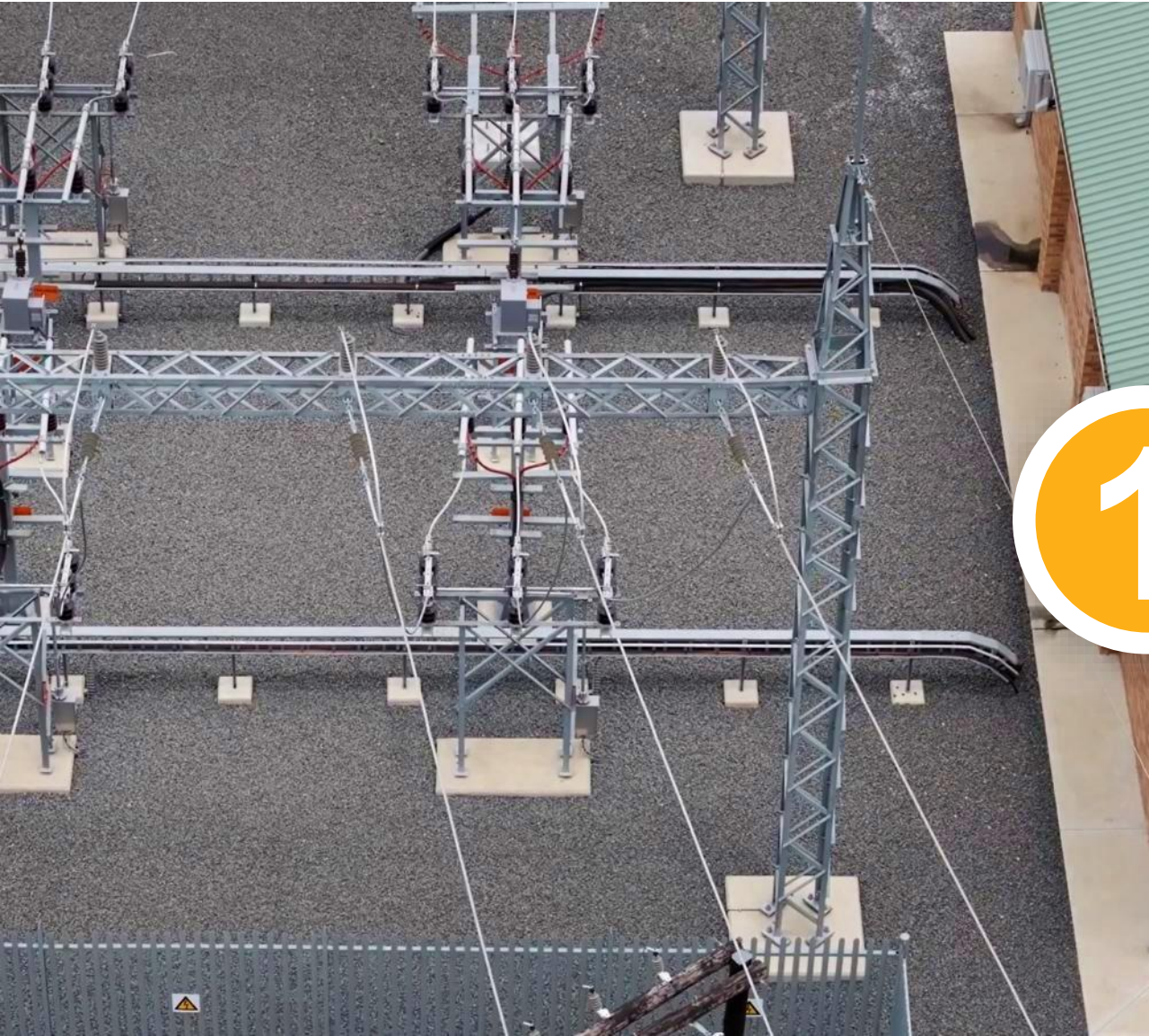
The solar PV plant  
consists of 132 500  
bifacial PV panels of  
575 watts that feed 188  
inverters (350kW units),  
42 BESS containers,  
each containing 96  
lithium-ion batteries

## Five project pillars





## Five project pillars



1

## Medium voltage works

- Comprises 11.2km of double 22kV overhead lines
- Upgrade existing consumer 6.6kV substation
- Construction of new 22kV / 6.6kV substation at Ergo
- New PV substation at solar field
- All works to connect PV plant to Ergo plant and Brakpan / Withok tailings storage facility (TSF)

## Five project pillars

### 88kV works

- Construction of 88kV Eskom switching station and installation of 3.2km double 132kV overhead lines operated at 88kV (Eskom infrastructure)
- Self-design and self-build
- Reduce tariff and facilitate grid connection for exporting energy to other DRDGOLD operations
- Construction of new 88 / 22 / 11kV substation at Brakpan / Withok TSF and 22kV overhead line connecting the substation to the solar PV substation (Ergo infrastructure)





## Five project pillars



3

### 20MW PV plant

- Engineering, procurement, construction, management and operation of 20MW PV facility
- Comprises 44k of 550w bifacial PV panel interconnected to 350kW inverters, feeding 2.5MW minisubs which feed the PV substation for evacuation to the Ergo plant and the Brakpan / Withok TSF load via the 22kV network

## Five project pillars

### 40MW PV plant

- Engineering, procurement and construction of additional 40MW of PV to the current 20MW PV plant
- Adding a further 88k of 575w bifacial panels
- Combined 60MW PV output 171GWH p.a.
- Enabling supply to load, charge to BESS and export to the grid



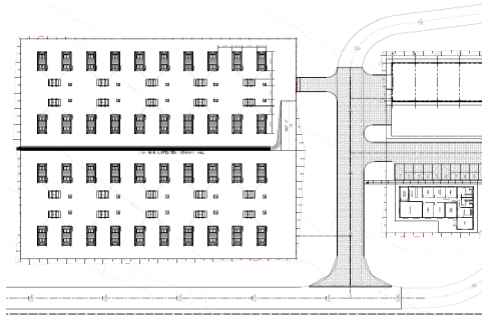
## Five project pillars



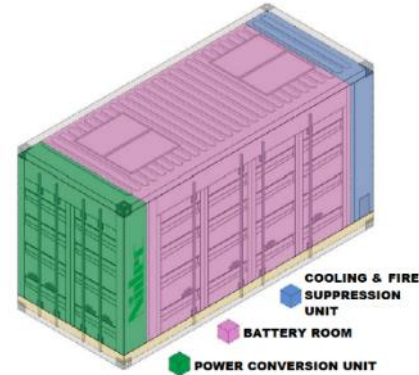
## 40MW / 160MWh BESS

- 187MWh installed capacity
- LiFePO<sub>4</sub> lithium battery system on a 100m<sup>2</sup> footprint
- Purpose built containerised BESS integrated with the PV plant
- To enable curtailment support, arbitrage and load shifting for tariff reduction and back up supply in event of grid outages
- BESS enables export of all power generated into the grid at peak tariff if required

# Components of the BESS



1. BESS consists of 42 container units and 21 transformers



2. Each container consists of batteries, cooling, fire suppression and a 1MW inverter



3. Battery room:

1 x BESS unit =  
2 x 6" containers

Each container = 12 rack  
Each rack = 8 batteries  
Each battery = 52 cells

4 032 batteries in total

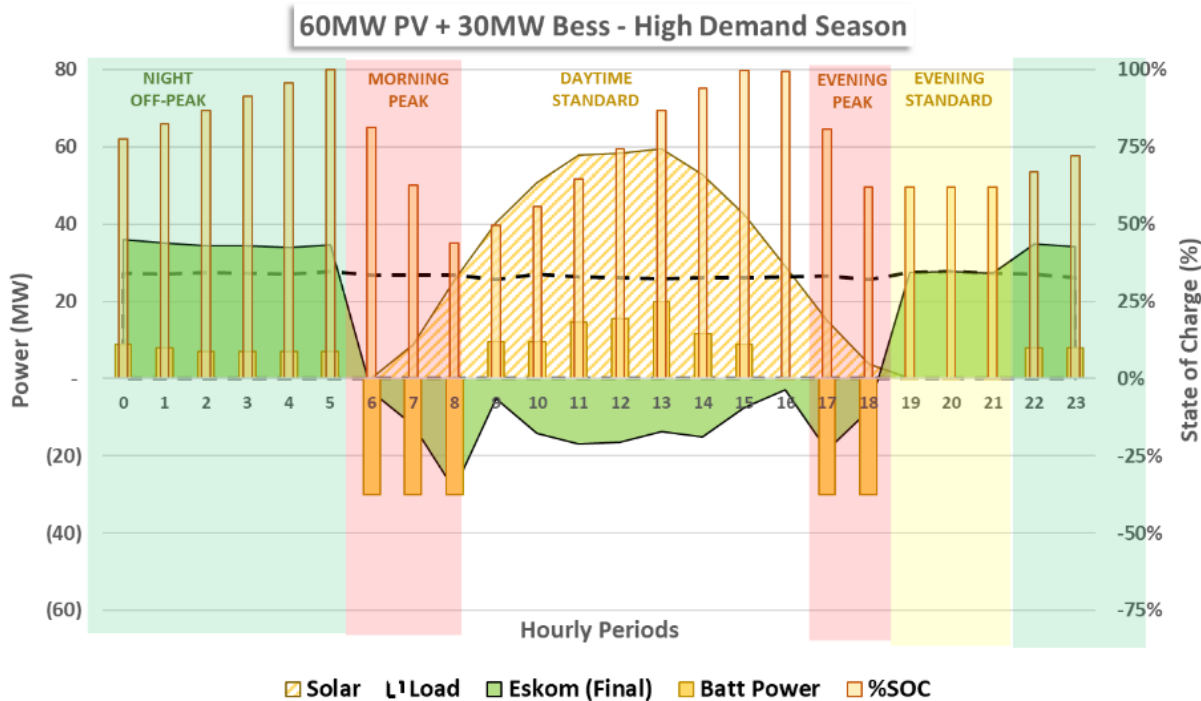


4. Cooling system



5. Power conversion unit

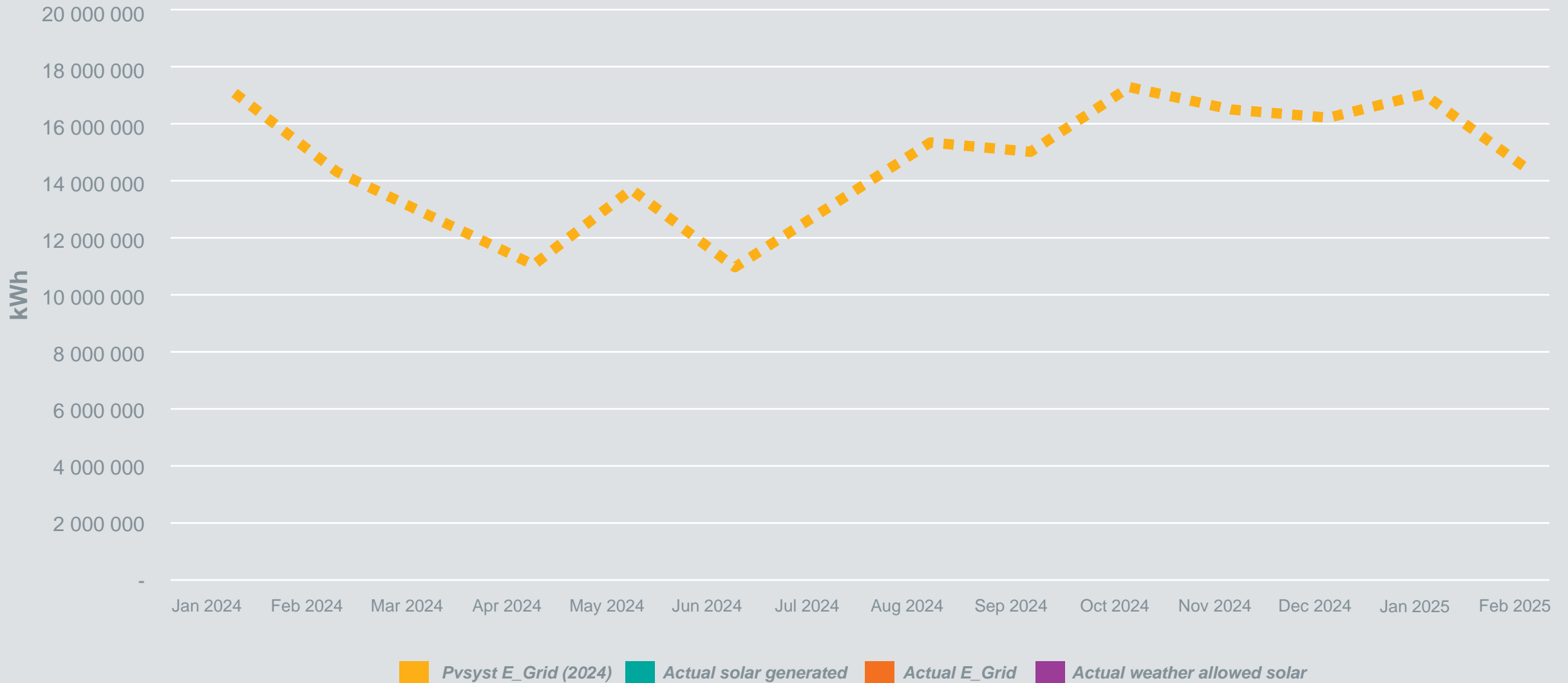
# Strategic advantages of PV and BESS



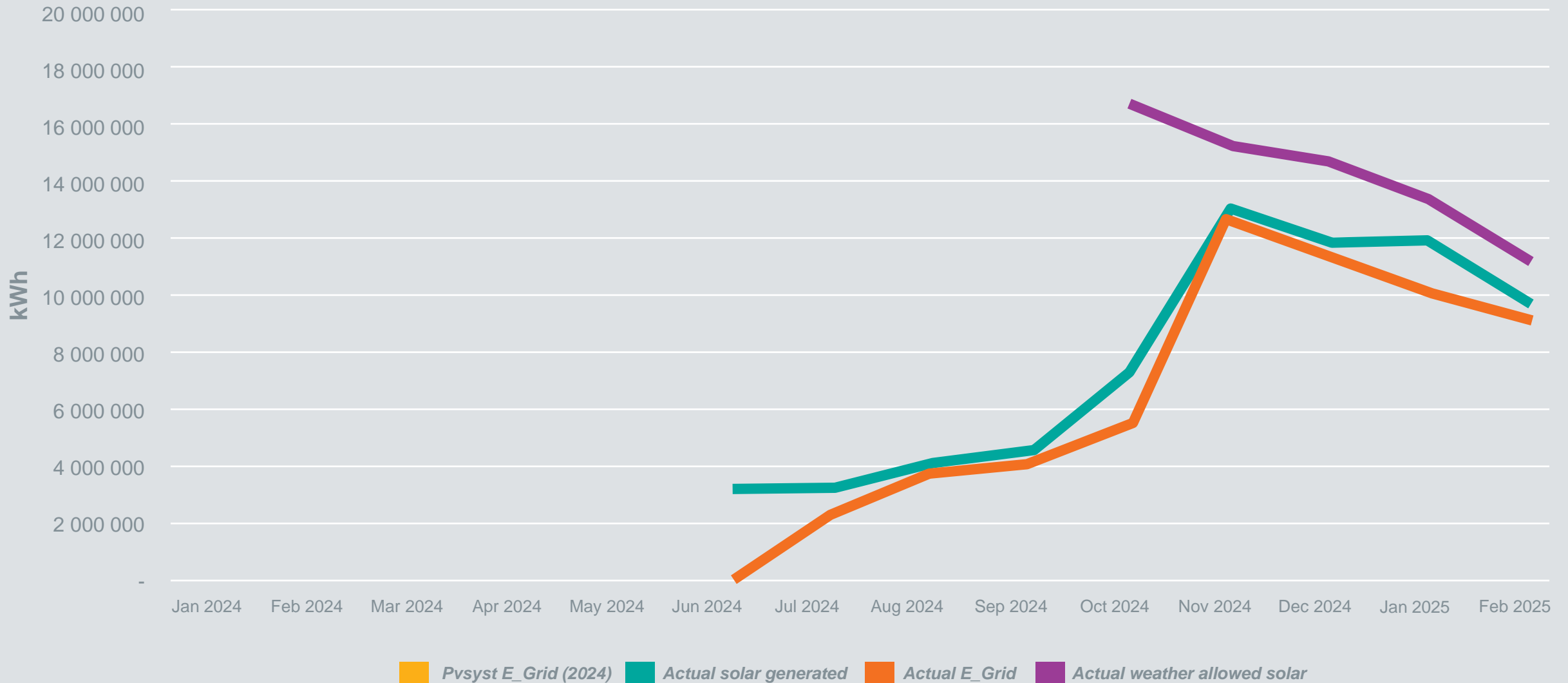
- Solar PV plant and battery system designed to operate together seamlessly
- Plant supplies power to the Ergo plant and the Brakpan / Witkop TFS during the day while simultaneously charging the BESS
- Batteries charge during the day with solar power and discharge at peak demand times (5-7pm) when electricity is most expensive
- Recharge overnight with cheaper off-peak power, ensuring cost savings and energy efficiency

## A smarter approach to energy use

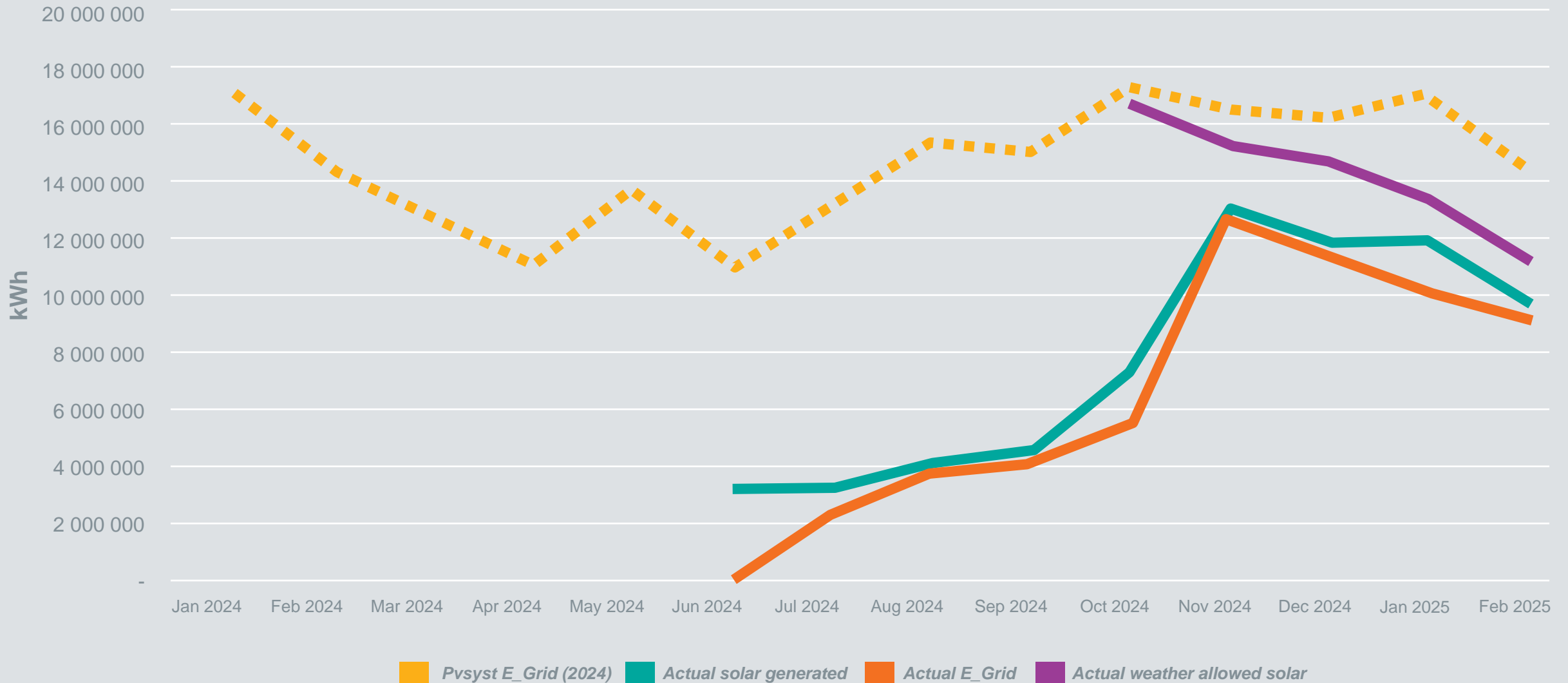
# Renewable energy project – the intention



# Renewable energy project update – solar and BESS

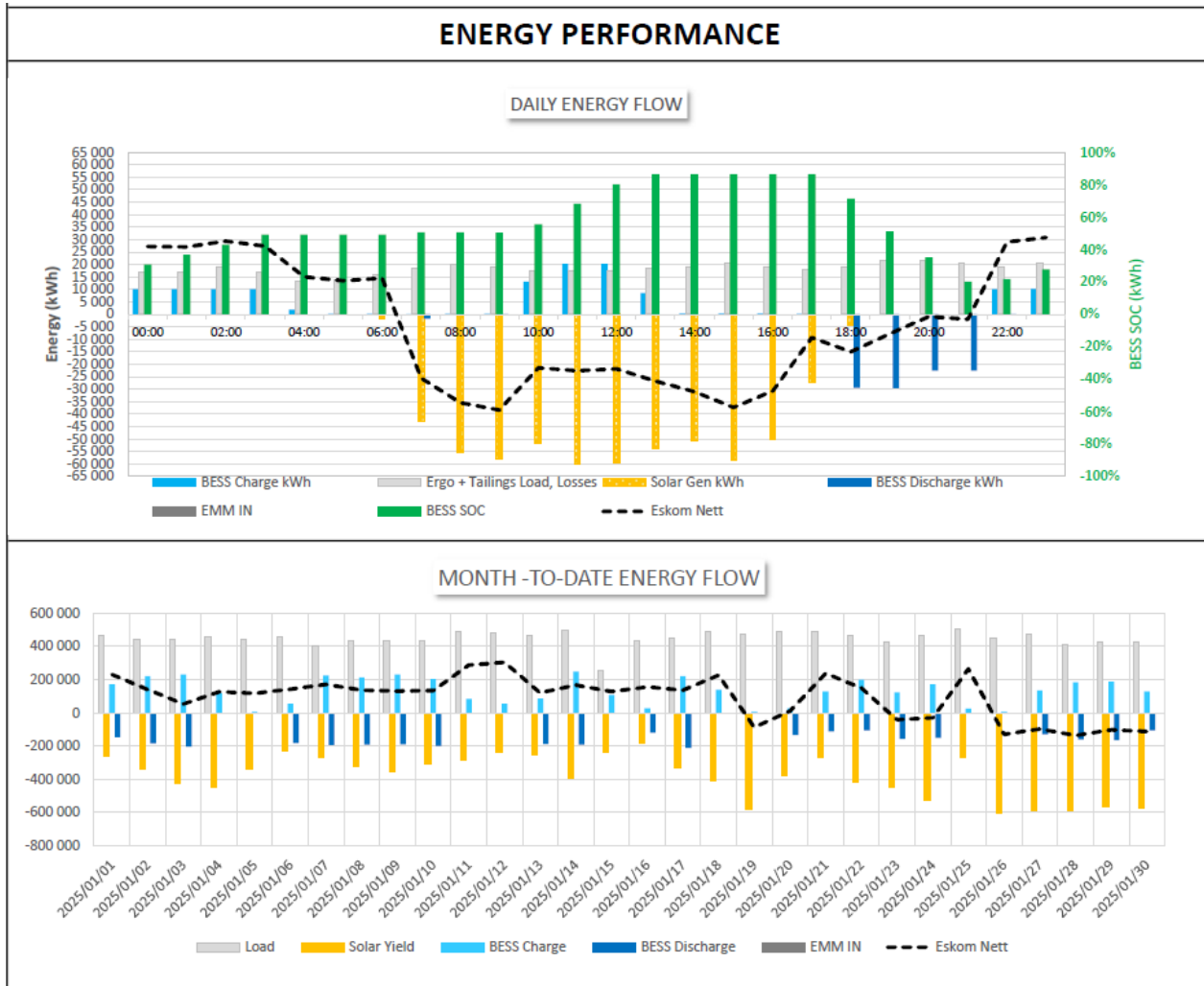


# Renewable energy project update – solar and BESS





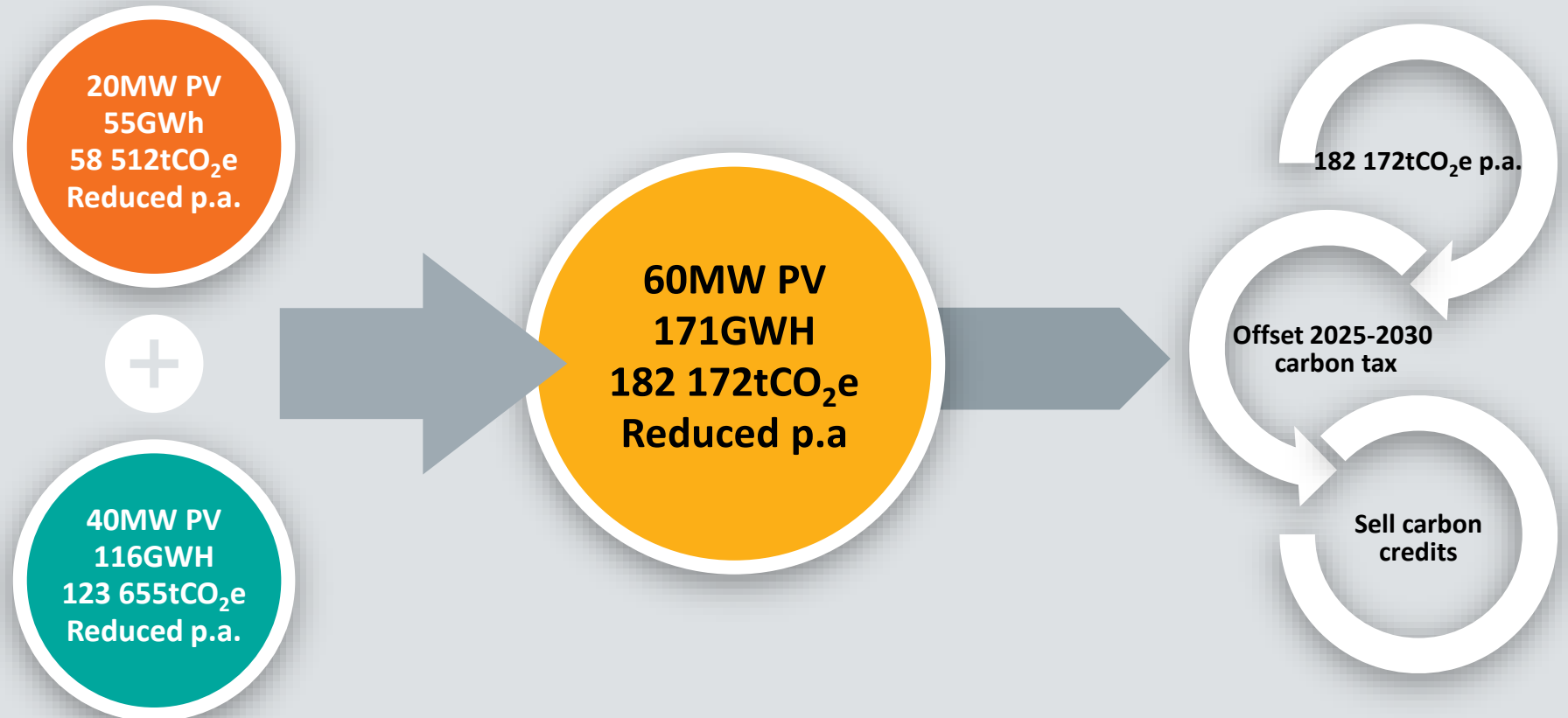
# Solar and BESS performance for Jan 2025



## Our commitment to decarbonisation

SA's nationally determined contribution is a 2030 mitigation target of 350-420Mt CO<sub>2</sub> which has been lodged with the UNFCCC. Eskom's power generation from fossil fuels releases pollutant emissions that include sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and account for 42% of SA's GHG emissions. Solar power reduces the country's dependence on fossil fuel via the reduction of each consumer's carbon footprint.

### DRDGOLD Ergo clean energy solar project: carbon reduction



## Conclusion

Fully aligned with our purpose and business model

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Progress in achieving our PV and BESS objectives:

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Stable and reliable energy for reclamation, processing and deposition – **ACHIEVED** ✓

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Reducing our operating costs (R/t) – **ACHIEVED** ✓

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Reduce our carbon footprint by approximately 50% – **ACHIEVED** ✓

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Potential for additional revenue through the sale of carbon credits – **IN PROGRESS** ⚙️

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By reducing our overall operating cost, we can target lower grade material which was previously not economical, to increase our life of mine





# Contact us

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## **Shareholder data**

(Incorporated in the Republic of  
South Africa)  
Registration No. 1895/000926/06  
JSE share code: DRD  
ISIN: ZAE 000058723  
NYSE share code: DRD