

# IQ Power teams up with Belgium's CMI on Misrata solar plant

American-Egyptian businessman **Sherif el Helwa**, head of energy start-up **IQ Power**, wants to bring in Belgian engineering group **CMI** (Cockerill Maintenance & Ingenierie) to help his company realise its ambitious solar power plant project in the Misrata Free Zone (MFZ, [MC 1284](#)).

Assisted by its French adviser **Christian Stoffaes**, IQ Power is at an advanced stage in negotiations with CMI, which is interested in the huge 300 MW project which will provide electricity for MFZ. The Belgian group has a subsidiary, **CMI Solar**, which specializes in thermal solar power plants. IQ Power's project makes use of this technology but also the more classical photovoltaic method.

CMI, which is owned by businessman **Bernard Serin**, counts among its directors former French defence minister **Gerard Longuet**. The latter has long been interested in business opportunities at MFZ ([MC 1097](#)), as *Maghreb Confidential* reported. The partnership with CMI could give IQ Power greater weight in its exchanges with the French Treasury ([MC 1298](#)), from which it is seeking financial support.

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