

December 4, 2013

**Comments from Germany on Approval by mail: Tunisia: Akarit Concentrated Solar Power Project (CTF) IBRD (MENA)**

Dear Patricia,  
IBRD Tunisia team,

Thank you for providing the proposal for project preparation funds for the CSP project Akarit in Tunisia.

Germany has been very supportive of this project in the recent past.

Project preparation activities for the CSP plant Akarit in

Tunisia (feasibility study and tender docs including technical

specifications) have been finalized by end of June 2013 (consultant

Lahmeyer, financed by EU/ NIF and supervised by KfW). This feasibility study

comprises a broad basis for decision making including the detailed

analysis of a 50 MW CSP plant using parabolic trough, but also analyses of tower technology or different plant sizes (50 MW/ 100 MW).

Since then, we had to notice that the project has not been approved by the Tunisian government. Furthermore, we understand from colleagues in the field that even during a recent meeting in Tunis on German-Tunisian cooperation in the power sector that the Tunisian government is currently not ready to pursue the CSP project any further due to the high cost involved and the subsidies required in addition to potential concessionary funding. We also got the impression that a change of this position cannot be expected in the near future.

Therefore, given this background, we are currently not in a position to approve the proposed grant. Of course, we are open to a discussion with the Tunisia team of IBRD, if they consider this useful (I will be on leave from Dec 6th onwards).

We suggest to shelve the project until such date when the government is prepared to further pursue this project. Other colleagues might also want to comment, possibly an extension due to travel engagements might be considered.

Kind regards,  
Annette

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