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Local contractors switch on

Solar farm developers say tender decisions are close



LOCAL job opportunities are starting to flow as developers of the community solar farm at Nikenbah prepare to begin work.

David Muir, commercial project manager with Ingenero, the company responsible for developing the solar station, said Fraser Coast businesses had been proactive in lobbying for a share.

"I've got people contacting me to get information and I am trying to get the message across that we are getting ready to award contracts," Mr Muir said.

"We are giving people about two more weeks to get back to us with firm quotes.

"We want to get cracking and hopefully we will start in December.

"The main factor for us is going to be the rain."

Mr Muir said a local company contracted by Wide Bay Water had already completed a large portion of the earthworks.

He said a local contract had been awarded for a perimeter fence.

Ingenero will install an estimated 1600 ground-mounted mono-crystalline panels over four hectares.

When the farm is operating it will generate 401kW with the

total energy capacity expected to increase in the coming months.

The \$2.7m solar farm will generate about 630 megawatts of energy annually, enough to power about 100 homes.

Mr Muir said local contractors with expertise in mechanical fixing, high and low voltage electrical, building and earthworks can contact him at david.muir@ingenero.com.au.

He said until tenders were let it was unclear how much of the \$1m predicted to be spent locally actually would be.



POWER ON: Local jobs are expected to start to flow soon from the Ingenero solar farm project.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED