

BPE Renewables acts for largest rooftop installation in the UK

BPE Solicitors' Renewables Team advised SBC Renewables (a subsidiary of EMDC Solar Company and formerly the Solar Building Company) on the largest single span roof PV site in the UK. The system, designed by SBC, sees an array of 24,272 solar panels installed on the rooftop of the new Marks & Spencer East Midlands' distribution centre in Castle Donnington.

BPE advised SBC on the commercial property lease of the roof space, the corporate structure of the project and the construction aspects of the building which included de-commissioning and re-building an adoptable estate road, footpaths and sewers and a brand new freight terminal which required 1.4 kilometres of new line to connect to the rail network.

EMDC lease the roof space and sells the energy back to M&S with any excess being sold to the grid. BPE Renewables advised SBC on the power purchase agreement (PPA) for the sale of energy to the retailer and for the overspill energy sold back to the grid, as well as advising on Renewable Obligation Certificates ensuring the builder/developer received a fixed energy price for 20 years.

Completed early this year, the installation annually generates around 6.1MW of electricity. The energy generated is enough to make the fully automated distribution centre, which is big enough to hold 11 football pitches, close to self-sufficient during daylight hours and will lower M&S's carbon footprint by 48,000 tonnes over the next twenty years.

"It was an extremely interesting and challenging project for the Renewables Team," said Dale Williams, Partner at BPE Renewables. "It's the largest commercial rooftop solar system in the UK and it's taken 18 months of sometimes very demanding work to complete the deal on behalf of SBC."

BPE has supported SBC Renewables with respect to the structuring and sale of a number of Solar PV sites across the UK. "Forever mindful of what the ultimate financier would accept, we advise on the legal structure of a deal. This includes corporate formation, land option agreements, agreements for leases, way leaves, asset/share sale agreements together with advice and due diligence processes," said Williams.

To date the BPE Renewables has been the force behind UK projects culminating in producing 120MGW in the ground with 284MGW projects in the pipeline.

ENDS

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