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Expedite solar rollout timeline

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Cost pressures force faster execution of large-scale solar projects

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KUALA LUMPUR: Solarvest Holdings Bhd is moving to speed up the delivery of its large-scale solar projects as rising fossil fuel prices — driven by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East — push stronger demand for renewable energy.

Chief executive officer Datuk Davis Chong Chun Shiong said the group is exploring ways to cut project timelines from the current 18 to 24 months to between 12 and 16 months.

"If a project takes 18 to 24 months to deliver, we need to talk to regulators on how we can



CHINA'S resilient supply chains keep solar and battery prices stable.

execute faster," he told an online news portal on Tuesday.

Solarvest, the country's largest solar player, develops utility-scale

capacity for the national grid while also serving corporate clients through direct offtake agreements. The group is adding about 1.3

gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity this year and aims to roll out at least another 5GW by 2028. It is also preparing to undertake large-scale solar projects for Tenaga Nasional Bhd starting next year.

Chong said higher fossil fuel costs are expected to push up energy bills for industrial users in the second half of 2026, accelerating the shift towards solar solutions.

Despite global uncertainties, he noted that solar panel and battery prices are likely to remain stable or trend lower, supported by resilient supply chains from China.

"Panel prices are currently about US\$0.11 per watt, while battery prices hover around US\$100 per kilowatt-hour, narrowing the gap with China's

US\$60 to US\$80 range," he said. Industry players are already seeing stronger demand.

Progressure Power Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Cliff Siaw said inquiries have jumped by at least 40 per cent in April, driven largely by data centre operators and semiconductor supply chain firms looking to build their own solar capacity.

"For our industry, the higher the energy costs are, the faster the return on investments, so it makes more financial sense," he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Amar Fadillah Yusof said the country's renewable energy capacity reached 12GW in 2025, highlighting Malaysia's steady shift towards cleaner energy.