



18 SEP, 2025

Solar Atap rollout to boost rooftop adoption

The Star, Malaysia



Solar Atap rollout to boost rooftop adoption

New scheme expected to revive residential demand

ENERGY

PETALING JAYA: The rollout of the Solar Accelerated Transition Action Programme (Atap), which replaces the Net Energy Metering (NEM) scheme, offers continuity and renewed impetus for rooftop solar adoption, say analysts.

However, Apex Securities said that while Atap is “structurally more sustainable, it’s economically less lucrative than NEM”.

The government will launch Atap in December 2025, following the expiry of the NEM scheme in June.

Atap will be open to all Tenaga Nasional Bhd customers, both domestic and non-domestic, including existing NEM and the self-consumption (SelCo) programme participants.

“Even so, it should help revive rooftop solar demand, particularly among high-consumption households, small and medium enterprises, and larger commercial and industrial (C&I) users, as it allows larger system sizes compared to the NEM net offset virtual aggregation sub-programme,” Apex Securities said in a report.

Overall, the research house said the introduction of Atap was in line with the broader policy shift that balances consumer incentives with grid cost recovery.

Unlike the previous NEM framework’s one-to-one retail tariff offsets, Solar Atap operates a market-based mechanism.

Under this approach, offsets are calculated based on the system marginal price (SMP), the wholesale clearing price that

“Atap will reduce the monthly bill to RM700 after accounting for solar savings. In comparison with NEM Rakyat, the same household would have seen the bill fall further to RM467.”

Philip Capital Research

reflects the cost of the last dispatched power plant.

For context, SMP in 2025 traded at between 20 and 30 sen per kilowatt-hour, which was well below the prevailing retail tariffs, noted analysts.

Phillip Capital Research said the Atap programme is expected to revive interest in the residential segment, given that the SelCo model has struggled to address the mismatch between solar generation, which peaks during daytime hours, and residential consumption, which typically rises after 6pm.

“For C&I users, Solar Atap introduces better flexibility, giving them the option to participate directly or adopt SelCo with battery energy storage systems, depending on their specific energy usage patterns.”

According to the research house, its estimates show that Solar Atap offers 44% lower savings compared to the earlier NEM Rakyat scheme.

“For a household with a 10-kilowatt-peak rooftop solar system and an average monthly electricity bill of RM1,000, Atap would reduce the monthly bill to RM700 after accounting for solar savings.

“In comparison with NEM Rakyat, the same household would have seen the bill fall further to RM467.”

It explained the disparity was due to the reduced offset rate under the new programme, effectively lengthening the pay-back period.

Meanwhile, Apex Securities expects job flows for the large-scale solar five plus (LSS5+) programme to begin in the first half of financial year 2026, going by the typical timeline of achieving financial closure within six months of developer appointment.

It estimates that the combined four gigawatts of capacity awarded under the LSS5 and LSS5+ auction cycles would translate to around RM12bil to RM14bil of solar engi-

EXCHANGE RATE

OPENING RATES BY MAYBANK ON SEPT 17, 2025

	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.2640	4.1180	4.1080
1 Australian Dollar	2.8570	2.7420	2.7260
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3340	3.2320	3.2240
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0940	3.0080	2.9960
1 Euro	5.0500	4.8870	4.8670
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5540	2.4590	2.4430
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3340	3.2320	3.2240
1 Sterling Pound	5.8100	5.6270	5.6070
1 Swiss Franc	5.4430	5.2110	5.1960
100 UAE Dirham	117.2100	111.1100	110.9100
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5540	3.3340	3.1340
100 Danish Krone	69.3500	63.8100	63.6100
100 Hongkong Dollar	55.2800	52.5300	52.3300
100 Indian Rupee	4.9200	4.6200	4.4200
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0268	0.0242	0.0192
100 Japanese Yen	2.9130	2.8080	2.7980
100 Norwegian Krone	44.7000	41.1200	40.9200
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5300	1.4300	1.2300
100 Philippine Peso	7.6000	7.1500	6.9500
100 Qatari Riyal	118.0000	112.0200	111.8200
100 Saudi Riyal	114.6800	108.8700	108.6700
100 South Africa Rand	25.4000	22.9400	22.7400
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4500	1.3300	1.1300
100 Swedish Krona	47.4800	43.2500	43.0500
100 Thai Baht	14.0100	12.4200	12.0200

neering, procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPCC) opportunities.

However, considering the prospect of a modest recovery in global solar module prices, supported by China’s anti-involution measures to address oversupply, Apex Securities believes the winning bidders will likely adopt a cautious stance and time their execution in order to secure competitive costs.

“Within this space, we expect the largest beneficiaries to be Solarvest Holdings Bhd and Samaiden Group Bhd, given their significant exposure to utility-scale solar projects and strong financial positions, which place them in a favourable position to capture a larger share of the upcoming EPCC job flows.”

The research house’s channel checks indicated that solar module prices have recently risen by about 10%, and this implies near-term cost pressure for local solar EPCC contractors, particularly for fixed-price contracts where additional costs cannot be passed through.

This in turn poses execution risks for both contractors and project developers.