



South African Photovoltaic Industry Association

SAPVIA – Residential PV Working Group

Date: 14 November 2024

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Chairperson: De Wet Taljaard

Declaration of Interest and Prevention of Anti-Competitive Behaviour

Participants of all SAPVIA meetings agree not to engage in or discuss the following topics:

- **Price-Fixing** - current or future prices, pricing strategies, or price changes.
- **Market Division** - allocation of customers, suppliers, territories, or market shares. dividing markets by geographic areas or product lines.
- **Collusive Tendering** - bid-rigging, including agreements on who will submit bids or the terms of bids, information about tender processes or strategies.
- **Production and Supply Control** - agreements to limit or control production, supply, or distribution of products or services, capacity, production quotas, or inventory levels.
- **Boycotts** - agreements to boycott or refuse to deal with specific customers, suppliers, or competitors, collective actions against any market participant.
- **Information Sharing** - competitively sensitive information, including sales volumes, market shares, costs, marketing strategies, future business plans, research and development projects, or investment strategies.
- **Exclusionary Practices** - strategies to exclude competitors from the market or to create barriers to entry, exclusive dealing, tying arrangements, or predatory pricing.
- **Anti-Competitive Agreements** - discussions that could lead to anti-competitive agreements, whether formal or informal, conversations that could be interpreted as attempts to coordinate competitive behaviour.

Facilitator	De Wet Taljaard (DT)	Attendees:
Note taker	Thabang Molai (TM)	Patrick Narbel (PN)
		Peter Mclean (PM)
		Tanya J
		ChrisM
		Magda Hamman (MH)
		Vincent Maposa (VM)
		John
		Ashalin Govindasamy (AG)
		Tseke
		Alecia Pienaar (AP)
		Pamela Gama (PG)
		Sinethemba Mnguni (SM)

Notes

1.	Opening	Chairperson
	<p>Welcome and Introduction DT welcomed all participants and thanked them for joining the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies Claude Peters</p>	
2.	<p>Working Group TOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the meeting was to officially introduce and launch the Residential PV Working Group, providing context and background information, and outlining the group's purpose, structure, and objectives. The working group's terms of reference were discussed, with an open invitation for input and comments from all members present. SAPVIA Governing Committee is the highest decision-making body within SAPVIA, and working groups report to it on a regular basis, every second month. The working group chairs and deputy chairs will provide an annual report back on initiatives and outputs, showcasing the group's work to a broader SAPVIA's audience and member base. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT emphasized the importance of industry accountability, ensuring that working groups are productive and yield useful outputs for members and the broader industry. • Working group members are encouraged to identify and drive initiatives, and SAPVIA, as an industry association, will engage with relevant stakeholders to support working group initiatives. • DT highlighted that each working group within SAPVIA has the freedom to structure its meetings and operations as deemed appropriate by its members. • It was agreed that the draft Terms of Reference for the Residential PV Working Group would be circulated to members for review and comment, allowing them to provide input and feedback. 	
3.	<p>Focus Areas for The Year</p> <p>3.1 Tariffs Structure Review and Participation in Public Consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PN raised concerns about Eskom's recent tariff plan, which is currently in public hearing until next month. • The tariff plan, if implemented as is, could significantly impact the feasibility of residential PV systems. • The group decided to add a tariff review to the agenda. • DT suggested incorporating this issue into the broader framework of public participation. • Other working groups have found success in preparing formal position papers for submission to relevant entities such as NERSA, Eskom, and the Department of Energy (DfE). • PN agreed with this approach and expressed willingness to contribute extensively to developing the necessary documentation. 	

	<p>3.2 Residential Solar PV and BESS Technology Advancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM suggested including insights into the latest advancements in solar technology as part of the working group’s agenda. • DT agreed and proposed adding this as a standing agenda item for continuous updates from members. • Areas of interest include: • Changes in the residential market segment for solar technology. • Differences between utility-scale and residential solar modules in South Africa. • Increasing prevalence of larger wattage panels in residential installations. • Developments in battery energy storage systems, particularly their optimization in low-load shedding scenarios. • Strategies for maximizing self-consumption and reducing electricity costs through battery storage. <p>3.3 Installation Quality and Compliance (proposed by Peter McLean).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PN suggested that the working group should focus on driving install quality for the industry overall, citing the importance of preventing incidents such as house fires. • PM emphasized the importance of educating the public on the quality of solar installations, highlighting the risks associated with fly-by-night installers. • DT agreed and noted that this is an industry-wide issue that SAPVIA has tried to address through various initiatives. • DT mentioned the PV Green Card programme and the PV Professionalisation Steering Committee, coordinated by Green 	
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	<p>Cape, which brings together various stakeholders, including the insurance industry, commercial banks, Fire Protection Association and the Electrical Contractors Association of South Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT highlighted the importance of a communication strategy targeted at end-users to raise awareness about the risks associated with non-compliant electrical contractors and installations. He noted that this strategy aims to communicate the differences between supplier requirements and national installation standards. • DT provided an update on the efforts to update the national installation standards, specifically the SANS 10142-1 standard. He mentioned that the relevant service committees are working to include safety aspects in the main body of the standard and that the updated standard is expected to be released before the end of the year. 	
4.	<p>Call for Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson</p> <p>A formal note will be sent out for a call for nominations.</p> <p>Nominations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Narbel • Vincent Maposa • Agreepa Neduvhuledza 	
6.	<p>Closure</p> <p>With a vote of thanks DT adjourned the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Next meeting: 20 February 2025</p>	Chairperson

Action Items

No:	Action	By Whom
1.	Circulate the Terms of Reference to all the working group members for review and inputs.	TM