## Sunny prospects: eight new parks in eight weeks



The Corúa 5 solar park in Holguín went online on March 26 (source: Joel Queipo Ruíz/X)

Cuba has come a good deal closer to achieving its goals of expanding solar energy. As Energy Minister Vicente O'Levy <u>announced</u> yesterday at the X platform, all six solar parks that were to be completed this month have already been synchronized with the power grid. Together with the two parks that <u>opened in February</u>, Cuba has thus succeeded in building eight new solar parks with a total capacity of 174 megawatts in recent weeks.



The parks completed so far are located in the provinces of Artemisa, Havana, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, Ciego de Ávila, Holguín and Granma. They each have a capacity of 21.8 megawatts. The implementation of this major project is considered a top priority for the government this year, and all resources are being mobilized for it. The final acceptance of the parks is carried out together with Chinese technicians.

As Energy Minister O'Levy

<u>announced</u>, five new parks with a combined capacity of 109 megawatts are to be completed every month from now on, so that the expansion target of 500 megawatts in total will be reached by the middle of the year. By the end of the year, Cuba plans to complete 55 solar parks with a total capacity of 1200 megawatts and to construct 200 megawatts of battery storage.

With the expansion of solar energy, Cuba hopes to end of the multi-year energy crisis this year. In addition to the solar expansion, two thermal power plant units of the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes power plant in Cienfuegos, each with a capacity of around 150 megawatts, are scheduled to <u>come out of maintenance</u> in the coming months, which will further improve the situation of the power grid. In addition, the power plants in Santa Cruz del Norte ("Ernesto Guevara") and Santiago de Cuba ("Antonio Maceo") are being serviced and decentralized generators are being repaired, which <u>will restore</u> a total of 850 megawatts of power by the end of the year. The continued construction of the Herradura 1 wind farm in Las Tunas is also on the agenda.

The <u>plan is</u> to generate at least 24 percent of the electricity mix from renewable sources by 2030. This target will be "significantly exceeded" <u>according to O'Levy.</u> (<u>Cubaheute</u>)