D1 Submission: PVDP Background Checks.

> SolarFive Ltd is jointly owned by the two founders of PVDP, a Berlin-based developer of solar farms. PVDP has been successfully developing solar assets in Europe and Japan for the last 18 years, with 1.0GW built to date.
>
> *Scoping Report (June 2023), and elsewhere*

According to public records, PVDP GmbH was founded by Peter Gerstmann 16 years ago (2009). Yulia Lezhen (aka Julia Lejeune) was appointed co-director in 2019.

The PVDP website provides useful examples of its previous solar farm projects in Japan. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to find websites to confirm PVDP's involvement in these, or indeed evidence that they are even functioning solar farms (see Appendix). Only one is mentioned in a solar database.

Would PVDP please give links to (possibly Japanese) websites or other documentation to provide some supporting detail?

> Furthermore, the PVDP team comprises a number of highly experienced professionals with a proven track record of successfully developing and constructing utility scale projects.
>
> *Funding Statement 4.7*

It would be reassuring if PVDP could name some recently completed utility-scale projects that its professionals have constructed, along with weblinks.

Does Mark Owen-Lloyd, the third 'director' of PVDP, have experience of solar farm design and construction? His website, http://owen-lloydfutures.com/ (accessed 25.05.25), implies expertise in trading assets in the energy futures market, and in selling coffee.[1]

[1] It was not possible to connect to his retail coffee outlet, https://www.londongradecoffee.com/ (not accessed 25.05.25).

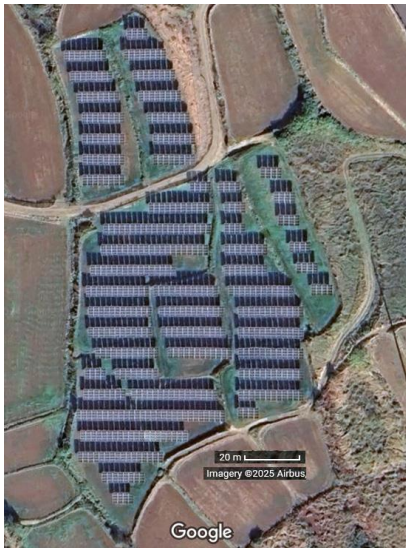
Appendix

The Projects page on the PVDP website[2] lists six Japanese solar farms as examples of the company's achievements.

Projects Japan

1. Ukujima	Under construction	480 MWp
2. Akita	In operation	44 MWp
3. Onikobe	In operation	183 MWp
4. Green Academy	In operation	44 MWp
5. Yamagata	In operation	58 MWp
6. Kawasaki	In operation	56 MWp

1. Ukujima 480 MWp



This was an ambitious proposal to cover one third of Ukujima island with solar panels and to connect this to the mainland via a 64 km seabed HVDC cable.

Government (METI) permission and a Feed-in Tariff (2020 to 2040) were obtained by TeraSol/PVDP in 2013.

Despite preliminary collaboration with Kyudenko (construction) and Kyocera (PV manufacture) progress was minimal in the following five years. This was partly due to delays in securing the 400 MW export licence (obtained in 2015).

In 2018, PVDP withdrew from the project. Kyudenko headed up the new consortium, Ukujima Future Energy, with new collaborators.

Five years later (2023), an accommodation unit for the potential workforce had been constructed, but the project stalled. The final straw was the HVDC link – surprisingly, not its technical challenges and cost, but conflicts with the indigenous fishing community.

The only evidence of PV construction is a single 0.5 ha field (Google satellite image).

One quarter of the FiT subsidy has now expired. In its 2024 financial report, Kyudenko describes the Ukujima Solar project as 'postponed.'

[2] https://pvdp.eu/Projects.html (accessed 25.05.25)

2. Akita 44 MWp

No information found.

Google annotation: “Yurihonjo City Solar Park.”

There is an adjacent HV pylon route near the southern perimeter (marked in red) but no connection to the solar farm substation (red rectangle). The Google imagery might be out-of-date.

3. Onikobe 183 MWp

Kamisol Ltd obtained METI (government) planning permission and a FiT in 2013. It also secured land purchase/lease agreements for this former golf course and adjacent land to the north-west.

In 2017 Kamisol sold these assets to a partnership led by Thai Solar Energy (TSE) for a projected capacity of 183 MWp on 333 ha, with an export contract for 155 MW.

In 2021 Toshiba announced that it had won the contract to install 147 MWp on the 156 ha of the Onikoube site. The press release noted that this was a higher solar panel density than was normal.

Global Energy Monitor[3] confirms that this 147 MWp plant started production in 2023. The connection at the northern end of the plant to the 275 kV grid is visible on satellite imagery.

In December 2023 TSE sold the plant to Amun SK. The export specification was down-rated to 134 MW, and TSE noted that the achievable power was likely to be lower due to the close spacing of the panels. Significant panel cross-shading is confirmed upon zooming in on the satellite imagery.

Kamisol Ltd was a Belize-registered company owned jointly by Peter Gerstmann and Dmitri Glukhov via the holding company SK Directors Ltd.

[3] https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-solar-power-tracker/ (accessed 25.05.25)

4. Green Academy 44 MWp

The Green Academy Country Club (golf course) relocated from this site in 2016.

No information for the PV installation found.

The Google annotation “Fukushima Ishikawa Solar Power Plant” is incorrect. This is the name of the RESOL solar farm complex in nearby Ishikawa city.

An HV pylon route is 200m to the west (red), but no connection to the solar farm is visible.

5. Yamagata 58 MWp

Formerly the Sun Marina Tamaniwa Golf Club and ski resort.
Google annotation: “Tamaiwa PV Generator Facility.”

No information found.

6. Kawasaki 56 MWp

(The correct lat-lon coordinates are 38°13'20.0"N 140°37'40.0"E.)

This is the Kawasaki Solar Park belonging to ReENE Co Ltd, formerly the golf course Magnolia Country Club.

Substantial shading from the adjacent and internal trees is evident in this company photo.

No further information found.