

“The First Question: Is it Reliable?”



Interview with
Mohammed Saady
Technical Services Director | Jinko Solar

JinkoSolar Tiger Pro series has finally gone official: The company launched its 2020 flagship series. The new Tiger Pro Series panels with excellent power output of up to 580Wp break fresh ground for the industry: this is the first 580Wp utility solar panel commercialized, continuing the combination of tiling ribbon, MBB and half-cut cell technologies adopted in Tiger previous generation. This series includes standard 72 cell and upgraded 78 cell design with peak efficiency of up to 21.6% allied to lasting performance. All the modules under this family are available in both mono facial and bifacial options.

JF4S: With the new launch of Jinko Tiger Pro modules with power reaching up to 580Wp, what is the impact of releasing 500+WP modules in the solar market?

Mohammed Saady: I think the new trend of 500+Wp modules is very interesting, all the studies done so far show that having higher power modules will contribute in reducing the price of wafer and BOS components which in turn will reduce the LCOE. But the impact is not only in reducing the price, but also in pushing the limits: Jinko is working with other BOS suppliers to make sure that our modules are compatible with their products, and we have already seen many inverter and tracker suppliers offering new improved products compatible with 500+Wp modules.



JF4S: We see the bifacial technology is getting more attention in 2020, especially in utility projects. Do you think bifacial technology is suitable for Middle East and Africa?

MS: The concept of bifacial technology is very simple: generating electricity from both sides of PV module. It has been in development for many years and we started seeing it commercially available in the last 3 years. I believe the technology has reached a maturity level to compete with other PV technologies in the market, Bloomberg has estimated the market share of bifacial technology to reach up to 20% in 2020. This is in line with Jinko Solar's own estimation – that's why half of Jinko's product portfolio is bifacial modules.

The Middle East and African region is well suited for this technology, we have high solar irradiance and albedo values (ground reflectivity), and we have seen in many projects that the rear side energy generation is reaching up to 20%. This will positively reduce the LCOE because the price gap between mono-facial modules and bifacial modules is very low.

JF4S: What are the main concerns for any new technology in the solar industry?

MS: For any new technology, the first question being asked is "Is it reliable?" Reliability is the key for any successful product and technology, if the technology is not reliable then the risks of implementing it will be huge and nobody will be willing to invest in it. So it's very important to show the reliability of any new technology. This could be done by conducting extensive durability testing beyond IEC standards: for example, when Jinko offered the Tiling Ribbon technology in early 2020 for Tiger modules, we did a double IEC testing and we got very low degradation values, almost half of allowed degradation values.

JF4S: Thank you very much for this interview, Mr Saady!