

## Box 19.7: Factory turning out solar panels in Kenya

In January 2018, pay-as-you-go firm M-Kopa announced sales of over 100 000 photovoltaic (PV) solar panels manufactured in Kenya by Solinc, a local firm.

Solinc set up the first solar PV module factory in Central and East Africa in 2011. By 2018, the company had about 30 Kenyan employees.

M-Kopa has been sourcing its 20-W and 15-W solar panels from the Solinc factory in Naivasha since 2016. These panels are used in M-Kopa's larger home systems, which include televisions, lighting, radio and phone-charging. M-Kopa has vowed to source all of its solar panels in Kenya, with plans to invest in 500 000 panels by 2020.

Mugo Kibati, Chairman of M-Kopa, considers Kenya to be a hub for solar innovation. 'The government has created an enabling environment for the solar sector', he says, 'and now we are seeing the impact and benefits flowing into the wider economy.'

*Source:* M-Kopa press release, 16 January 2018, see: <https://tinyurl.com/mkopa-solar-solinc>

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