

Where Sun Meets Water

DISTINCT FEATURES OF FLOATING VS. LAND-BASED SOLAR PROJECTS

O&M

Greater chance of biofouling than on land, but less need to control vegetation

Permitting

May be complex and lengthy if regulations are vague or lacking, but cost and trouble of obtaining land are removed

Construction

A launch area is typically needed, but no levelling works, and need for heavy equipment is rare

Health and safety

Workers must also operate on and under water, not just on land

Engineering design

Suitable mooring, anchoring, and electrical routing required, but no need for mounting structure

Technical studies

Bathymetry, water level, hydrology studies take place in addition to geotechnical study

Environmental impact

Potential impact on aquatic life but no risk to land habitats