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Situation Report — Casablanca's Waste-to-Energy Contract Award

Edition 1 | Information current as of 31 August 2026, 18:00 Khartoum time (EAT)

Research Team

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A BUTEC-Kanadevia Inova consortium has won the EPC contract for a $1.5bn, domestically financed waste-to-energy plant near Casablanca — on track to be Africa's first large-scale facility converting municipal waste directly into electricity.

Headline Fact

A consortium led by BUTEC and Kanadevia Inova has been awarded the main engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract for a $1.5 billion waste-to-energy plant outside Casablanca, Morocco — a project on track to become the first large-scale facility on the continent to convert municipal waste directly into electricity, financed entirely through domestic Moroccan bank debt (attaqa.net, 31 August 2026; Ecofin Agency, 5 August 2026).

Timeline

3 August 2026 — A consortium of Kanadevia Inova (Swiss-Japanese), Moroccan energy company Nareva, Japanese trading house Itochu, and Moroccan builder Somagec signs a 33.5-year concession agreement with the Casablanca municipality to develop, finance, build, and operate the plant (Reuters, via Ecofin Agency, 5 August 2026).

4 August 2026 — Itochu confirms the consortium has also signed power purchase agreements with Morocco's National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE) and regional utility SRM Casablanca-Settat; financial terms are not disclosed (Itochu Corporation press release, 4 August 2026).

5 August 2026 — Kanadevia Inova CEO Bruno-Frédéric Baudouin tells Reuters that Moroccan banks will finance the project in full and that construction will begin "as soon as financing is fully secured," which the company expects in the fourth quarter of 2026 (Ecofin Agency, 5 August 2026).

28–31 August 2026 — BUTEC, in partnership with Kanadevia Inova, secures the project's main EPC contract, covering all civil, structural, architectural, and mechanical-electrical-plumbing works plus off-site infrastructure. attaqa.net relays the announcement on 31 August, citing a company statement (attaqa.net, 31 August 2026).

Before end of 2026 (planned) — Construction is expected to begin, contingent on the financing close.

Mid-2030 (targeted) — The consortium expects full commercial operation, with partial waste processing and power generation possible 6–10 months before construction fully concludes, per attaqa.net's reporting of the company statement.

What We Know / What We Don’t

Confirmed: The plant will be built beside the Médiouna landfill — a roughly 70-metre mound near Casablanca that is close to full capacity and has caused decades of odour, methane emissions, and agricultural-land pollution (Ecofin Agency, 5 August 2026; attaqa.net, 31 August 2026). It will process approximately 1.5 million tonnes of non-recyclable waste annually and is designed to serve electricity needs equivalent to nearly one million people, or roughly a quarter of Casablanca's population (Itochu, via Ecofin Agency; attaqa.net). It would be Africa's first large-scale facility of this kind; the only comparable installation, Cape Town's New Horizons Energy plant (commissioned 2017), produces biomethane rather than electricity at a smaller scale (Ecofin Agency, 5 August 2026).

Unconfirmed or disputed: Sources disagree on the plant's total generation capacity — Reuters/Ecofin Agency report 115 megawatts, while attaqa.net's 31 August report, citing the same underlying project data, cites 126 megawatts (comprising the waste-to-energy unit plus 50MW of on-site solar and 4MW of landfill-gas recovery). 3Bi has not been able to independently resolve this discrepancy as of publication and flags it for readers rather than picking a figure. The financing has not yet closed; Baudouin's Q4 2026 timeline for securing it is a company projection, not a confirmed close.

For context, not comparison of scale: Sudan's own power sector remains under acute, unrelated strain — the Ministry of Energy and Oil has attributed blackouts exceeding 18 hours a day in parts of the country to war damage and the halted Ethiopian import line, and protesters blocked the Port Sudan–Khartoum highway over power cuts during an August 2026 heatwave (Sudan Tribune, July and August 2026). 3Bi has found no report of a comparable domestically financed, large-scale waste-to-energy or circular-economy power project under development in Sudan.

Do-No-Harm Note

This edition names public officials in their professional capacities (a company CEO speaking on the record to Reuters) and describes infrastructure and government policy rather than individuals or communities at risk. The Sudan comparison draws only on previously published, non-identifying reporting about national power-sector conditions. 3Bi assessed that this item does not identify, endanger, or misrepresent any named individual or community, and no further generalization of detail was required.

What to Watch

Whether the consortium confirms its Moroccan bank financing close in Q4 2026 as projected, and whether construction breaks ground before year-end as planned. Whether Kanadevia Inova, ONEE, or Itochu clarify the 115MW/126MW capacity discrepancy in subsequent statements. Whether Morocco's Ministry of Energy Transition cites the Casablanca project in future waste-management or circularity policy, given its precedent for the smaller Fez waste-to-energy plant operating since 2015. Whether Sudan's Ministry of Energy and Oil or municipal authorities in any Sudanese city signal interest in circular-economy or blended-finance power models as reconstruction planning continues.

Sourcing & Next Update

Sources: attaqa.net (31 August 2026); Ecofin Agency, citing Reuters and Itochu Corporation (5 August 2026); Itochu Corporation press release (4 August 2026); Sudan Tribune (July–August 2026). This is a single-edition situation report; 3Bi will issue a follow-up if the financing close, construction start, or capacity-figure discrepancy is resolved with new public reporting.

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