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NEWS

Miranda Alliance and Baker McKenzie Advise on €1.29B Project in Angola

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Lawyers from the Miranda Alliance and Baker McKenzie are behind a €1.29 billion rural electrification project in Angola.

The project is expected to provide sustainable electrical power to approximately one million Angolans through the construction of small-scale energy production units by Portuguese group M. Couto Alves (MCA).

As the southwestern African country [targets](#) a 60% electrification rate by 2025, mini solar grids with energy storage in lithium-ion batteries will be developed in 48 Angolan communities and new distribution grids in a dozen more, according to a Baker McKenzie spokesperson.

Law firms Miranda & Associados in Portugal and Fátima Freitas & Associados in Angola, members of the global Miranda Alliance, are advising an MCA consortium on the project and Baker McKenzie advised the involved banks on the loan, two of the firms told Law.com International.

The consortium is formed by M. Couto Alves Vias, S.A. and MCA Deutschland GmbH, the MCA Group entity based in Germany. The German body is in charge of the development and design of the project and M. Couto Alves Vias is responsible for the construction activities, according to Miranda public law partner Renato Guerra de Almeida.

The Miranda lawyers working alongside Guerra de Almeida for MCA include partner Nuno Cabeçadas, head of projects, and tax partner Lília Tomé de Azevedo.

Fátima Freitas' team out of Luanda is led by of counsel Ana Sofia Roque.

The Miranda Alliance lawyers are providing day-to-day advice on the project implementation, Guerra de Almeida told Law.com International, [reportedly](#) expected to span 36 months.

Baker McKenzie banking and finance lawyers advised Standard Chartered Bank, Commerzbank, Kommunalkredit, Santander and Afreximbank on the loan for the project, a spokesperson for the law firm told Law.com International.

The firm's team was led by partner Luka Lightfoot out of London and included partners Nick Tostivin and Kathrin Marchant in London and Frankfurt, respectively.

Baker McKenzie's client, Standard Chartered, acted as the Export Credit Agency (ECA) coordinator and lead arranger of the solar project's financing, [according](#) to the bank. Selected by Angola's Ministry of Finance, Standard Chartered structured the financing package to include two facilities: €1.2 billion supported by Germany-based ECA Euler Hermes and the remaining €90 million as a commercial loan.

The alliance in which law firms Miranda and Fátima Freitas are part of covers 16 jurisdictions across Africa, Timor-Leste, Macau and Portugal. It also has one liaison office in Houston, Texas.

The Portuguese firm, Miranda, was the founding member of the Miranda Alliance in 1987 and now has a staff of around 100 fee-earners, according to Guerra de Almeida. Fátima Freitas, founded in 1992, has a staff of close to 60 people, 40 of whom are fee-earners.

Miranda was awarded International Law Firm of the Year at the African Legal Awards in [2022](#) and [2019](#).



Renato Guerra de Almeida,
Miranda & Associados.
Courtesy photo

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