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## UK's biggest rooftop solar plant



21 July 2011 03:55pm

**The UK's biggest rooftop solar plant - the size of 2.5 football pitches - has been unveiled.**

Costing £4 million, the 7,000 panels have been installed at the Promens plastics plant near Beccles, Suffolk.

With a capacity of 1.65MW, the panels produce enough energy to power 480 homes.



Adrian Banks, engineering manager at Promens, said: "This is really another step along the path of commitment to reduce our impact on the environment and this is the most significant step

Promens Beccles has done in the last 12 months."

Almost all of the power produced will be used on-site, with any surplus feeding into the national grid.

The scheme was paid for by hundreds of small investors from across the UK who contributed sums starting at £3,000. They were brought together by fund manager Octopus.

The installation was developed by Lightsource and built by Grupotec.

Nicholas Boyle, chief executive of Lightsource, said: "This roof-top solar plant highlights the important role solar generation has to play in our future energy mix, particularly when the energy it produces is used at source, removing the need for wasteful distribution networks."

It is the largest initiative of its kind to date and changes to Government subsidies are expected to limit future developments on this scale.

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