



# Etienne van der Linde

## Project Subject Matter Expert

Seasoned senior leader with a reputation for building teams that can successfully execute complex capital projects. Internationally recognized as a specialist in project management and execution for his success in delivering major capital projects/programs ranging from \$50k up to \$3.6 billion within the Renewable Energy, Transmission & Distribution, and Infrastructure sectors.

Considered a subject matter expert in developing optimal processes and procedures to effectively deliver projects. Passionate about driving project management and operational excellence through effective project management frameworks while building effective top-tier talent teams. Established strong relationships with top-tier EPCs and suppliers within the Canadian and American market.

Trusted to execute numerous HVDC transmission projects as both the EPC and OE. Managed the development and/or execution of 1700MW+ of solar; 1400MW+ of wind; 50MW+ of battery storage systems; and 140MW+ of combined cycle generation ranging between 0.5MW and 400MW per project. Experience spans the entire project life cycle including feasibility and permitting through to engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning. Fully versed in all project execution structures including (but not limited to) EPC, EPCM, and Design Build contracts from both the Owners perspective and the Contractor perspective. Personally executed over \$14 billion worth of projects on three continents over the past 19 years.

## Contact

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## Education

### Master of Business Administration

Gordon Institute of Business Science

### M.Eng Project Management

University of Pretoria

### B.Eng Industrial Engineering

University of Pretoria

### B.Tech Civil Engineering

University of South Africa

## Expertise

- Team Development and Management
- Company/Divisional Start-ups
- Contractor Management (EPC)
- Project Execution (Concept to Finish)
- Project Development & Regulatory
- EPC and Vendor Relationships
- Process Development & Implementation
- Project Controls & Monitoring
- Management of Procurement Lifecycle
- Risk Management
- Major Projects

## Selected Experience

### 2022 - Current

Kiwetinohk Energy Corporation (Canada)

#### Solar Execution Lead

- Lead the EPC execution of all solar and BESS projects within the company.
- Champion the RFP processes to contract all EPC labour and major equipment.
- Develop and maintain strong relationships with top-tier EPCs, suppliers and vendors.
- Represent the company at conferences and events within the solar and BESS sectors.
- Assist with the development of all solar and BESS projects by providing strategic and technical input.
- Tasked to establish and manage an owner's project execution team including project management, procurement, construction management, and project controls.
- Tasked to establish project delivery structures including the methodology, templates, governance, workflows, processes, and procedures to facilitate the successful execution of projects.
- Projects include:
  - 400MWac of solar currently in execution (RFP complete, awaiting FID).
  - 770MWac of solar currently in development (various stages).
  - 100MW of combined cycle gas generation (RFP complete, awaiting FID).

**Highlights:** Successfully leveraged past vendor and EPC relationships to significantly enhance the economic feasibility of the projects.

### 2023 - Current

TransAlta (US)

#### Project Recovery Consultant

- Provide recovery strategies on both cost and schedule for two "in-flight" wind projects.
- Assist with the implementation of the proposed recovery strategies.
- Provide recommendations on best practices for future projects.
- Projects include 500MWac of wind (two projects) currently in execution (Construction and Commissioning).

**Highlights:** Successfully provided and implemented actions to significantly reduce the COD dates of the projects leading to cost savings and expedited revenue.



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### Selected Experience (Continued)

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## Focus

- US experience spans OK, NY, NM, CA, MA, MI, WI, TX.
- Canada experience includes AB, SK, ON.
- At the forefront of agrivoltaics in utility scale projects within North America.  
Passionate to ensure projects are designed and constructed to offer multiple sources of revenue while using regenerative soil practices.
- Highly experienced in solar, wind, combined cycle and BESS project development and execution.
- Considered an expert in HVDC project planning and execution.
- Motivated to further cultivate and maintain existing strong relationships with established EPCs and vendors to ensure projects are staffed with experienced resources at the most effective cost.
- Places a priority on safety & environmental practices to ensure work is executed safely and responsibly.

### 2020 - 2023

SWITCH Power / PACE Canada (Canada)

#### Director of Project Execution

- Trusted to lead the EPC execution of all solar projects within the company.
- Established the project delivery structure and strategy including the methodology, templates, governance, workflows, processes, and procedures to facilitate the successful execution of projects.
- Developed the operating and maintenance strategy including the methodology, templates, workflows, processes, and procedures to facilitate the successful execution of projects.
- Established and managed a project delivery team including project management, procurement, and project controls.
- Projects include:
  - 51MWac of solar fully commissioned.
  - 6MW of BESS fully commissioned.
  - 44MW of BESS in development (various stages)
  - 350MWac of solar in development (various stages).
  - 450MW of wind in development (early stages).

**Highlights:** Assembled a high-performing team to effectively deliver successful projects..

### 2017 - Present

Burns & McDonnell (Canada and US)

#### Senior Project Manager

- Actively managed the design, procurement, and construction of numerous transmission & distribution facilities as well as the development of numerous HVDC projects as Owners Engineer.
- Actively managed multiple solar projects throughout the US through the engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning phases.
- Handpicked by the owner (AltaLink) to spearhead the execution of their largest two capital projects (transmission & distribution) as an imbedded member of the client PMO.
- Created interconnection processes and procedures for multiple utilities in North America (Canada and the US) as an imbedded member of the respective organizations.
- Projects include:
  - 240MW of solar (fully commissioned).
  - 130km of HVAC lines (fully commissioned).
  - Owners Engineer on multiple HVDC projects (in development and FEED).
  - Owners Engineer on two synchronous condenser projects (In EPC RFP),
  - 3 HVAC substations (fully constructed).
  - 1 HVAC substation (in construction at the time of handover)

**Highlights:** Successfully delivered all projects within the allocated budgets and timeframes.

### 2013 - 2016

SNC-Lavalin (Canada)

#### Senior Project Manager / Project Director

- Actively managed the execution of an HVDC transmission line (WATL) which constitutes the largest project to date by both the client and SNC-Lavalin T&D Canada. The project included the construction of two HVDC Converter Stations, five AC Substations and 347km of 500kV DC transmission lines.
- Execution of all project phases including engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning, and close-out of the project.

**Highlights:** Served as the Project Manager initially designated for AC Substations, ultimately assuming the role of Interim Project Director and successfully overseeing the entirety of the project.



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### Selected Experience (Continued)

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## Selected Highlights

- Executed first solar project starting in 2007.
- Executed first wind project starting in 2011.
- Executed first BESS project starting in 2020.
- Regarded as a Subject Matter Expert on major projects.
- Regarded as a Subject Matter Expert on project controls and procurement best practices.
- Regarded as a Subject Matter Expert on project execution.
- Been actively involved in every aspect of the project lifecycle from the initial concept, through development, economic modelling, engineering, procurement, construction and eventual commissioning.
- Regularly requested to provide strategic direction on how to recover projects that are trending over budget or schedule in both the US and Canada.

### 2009 - 2012

Aurecon (Africa)

#### Renewable Energy Lead / Project Manager

- Program manager for all solar and wind projects entrusted to the company from concept through to engineering, procurement, and construction.
- Lead project manager for the world-renowned SKA telescope array which entailed the engineering, procurement and construction management of all infrastructure related to the construction of the prototype (MeerKat) to the world's largest radio telescope array.
- Refined the design, procurement, and construction management processes within the company to align with best industry practices. Selected to assist new divisions with the implementation of processes and procedures aligning with the head office.
- Projects include:
  - 150MWac of solar fully commissioned.
  - 75MWac of solar in construction (at the time of handover)
  - 351MWac of solar in development (various stages).
  - 239MW of wind fully commissioned.
  - 103MW of wind in development (various stages).
  - Radio Telescope (MeerKAT) in construction (at the time of handover).

#### Highlights:

- Pioneered solar and wind project execution in an infant industry, positioning himself as a leader in innovative initiatives.
- Served as the representative for the company on the Project Management Council, contributing to the assessment of cutting-edge tools and methodologies.
- Spearheaded the development of the world's largest radio telescope and successfully oversaw the construction of its prototype.

### 2005 - 2008

Virtual Consulting Engineers / Delta (Africa)

#### Project Manager

- Project Manager for the design, procurement, and construction of numerous military bases, police stations, hospitals, and harbours including power supply to remote areas.
- Project manager for heavy civil work to enable the construction of the runway to the King Shaka International Airport. The airport was designed and constructed within 33 months to be in time for the 2010 Football World Cup.
- Program manager for the revitalization of water and waste water treatment works that included the engineering, procurement and construction of water and waste water treatment works.
- Projects include:
  - Construction of 1 airport runway (King Shaka)
  - Construction of 3 military bases.
  - Construction of 6 border posts.
  - Construction of 2 harbours.
  - Development of a strategic plan to revitalize all health infrastructure.
  - Construction and Development of 3MW of solar fully commissioned.

#### Highlights:

- Introduced to solar energy as a form of generation, gaining foundational knowledge in the field.
- Project Manager for the construction of the King Shaka airport runway in record time which enabled the success of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.