

***Interview published in Al Ahram, December, 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 to the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Finnish Independence.***

Mr. Jan Wasastjerna, Naps Systems CEO, is introducing us to his company, a leading Finnish technology company, specialized in solar energy systems since 1981.

**Mr. Wasastjerna, what are solar energy systems?**

- Solar energy systems are at the basis extremely simple: a solar module, a charger and when needed an inverter and/or a battery. These components supply solar electricity to all possible applications, which can be extremely complex. Our engineers are optimizing such systems for the particular use of our clients.

**What are the applications your company is a leader in?**

- Our company has sold over 200 000 systems to more than 120 countries in 25 years... so there are really many applications we could talk about. However I should like to point at three recent achievements that make me particularly proud of our teams:

1) Casablanca airport: this is one of our "haute couture" projects... We tailormade semi-transparent modules with a Moorish design and turned it into a breathtaking architectural project.

2) Sri Lanka rural electrification of 587 villages: it is the largest solar electrification project in the world! It was targeted at education and health facilities, which improved the living conditions of more than 200 000 families

3) Cathodic protection of pipelines: we are finalizing some projects and our references in this field are excellent.

In Africa and the Middle-East, we have also been active in the telecommunications field, vaccination campaigns powered with solar energy, water pumping, obstruction light systems (that means security and street lighting)...

**What are your plans for Africa and the Middle-East?**

- As I told you, we are now currently active with the supply of cathodic protection for pipelines, airports, rural electrification but we always count on innovative local agents to bring us more projects and ideas. A substantial part of our job is looking for such qualified business and technical partners.

**Any specific plans for Egypt?**

- Your country has great potential when it comes to solar energy applications which means that we will definitely increase our activity in Egypt in the coming

years. This business perspective is coupled with a personal cultural interest in the Egyptian culture which makes me follow the building of the Grand Egyptian museum. My hope is that our company and our local agents will contribute in building closer relations between Finland and Egypt!

To know more about Naps Systems: [www.napssystems.com](http://www.napssystems.com)

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