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THE SUNRANCH FILE
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SUBJECT: COMBINED PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS

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215 kWh Under Investigation



How CPI Took Control of Its Energy Costs

SunRanch Solar delivers a turnkey Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for Combined Private Investigations

Combined Private Investigations (CPI) has built its reputation over more than two decades on a simple discipline: follow the evidence wherever it leads. As one of South Africa's largest independent forensic investigation firms, CPI runs a 24-hour national operations centre, in-house forensic and intelligence teams, aviation and K9 units, and a legal division that carries cases through to courtroom testimony. It is a business that does not switch off, and one that cannot afford blind spots.

So when CPI turned its investigation method on its own energy costs, the approach was familiar: gather the evidence, follow the money, and act on the findings.

The Finding

Grid electricity is priced by time of day, and the peak periods carry a premium. For an operation running a 24-hour centre and continuous case work, that premium is difficult to avoid without a plan.



EXHIBIT A - Huawei LUNA2000-215 kWh

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The Solution

SunRanch Solar designed and delivered a battery energy storage system engineered around CPI's specific load profile and operating pattern, rather than a generic, off-the-shelf capacity:

Battery: Huawei LUNA2000-215kWh
Power conversion: 108 kVA PCS

The system charges the battery during cheaper tariff periods and discharges it through the expensive ones, so CPI's peak-period grid draw is offset without any change to how staff work or how the operations centre runs. The 108 kVA conversion rating was matched to CPI's actual demand rather than oversized against the battery's ceiling, keeping the system efficient while leaving headroom for future load growth.



EXHIBIT B - Huawei Inverter



EXHIBIT C - PCS

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The Control Layer

The system is only as good as the intelligence behind it, so we installed a Sivula monitoring and plant control system to give CPI full visibility over the installation. Sivula ties the battery and the site's backup generator into a single control architecture, coordinating dispatch between them rather than leaving each to operate as a separate, unmanaged asset. For a site that cannot tolerate a gap in supply, that means the operation centre, forensic labs and case teams draw on whichever source is most efficient at any given moment, with the switch between them handled automatically rather than manually.

One Team, One File

CPI received the project as a single-point-of-responsibility EPC delivery: design, supply, installation and commissioning under one contract, with SunRanch Solar accountable throughout. There were no handovers between contractors and no gaps in the record, an approach that suited a Customer whose business depends on exactly that standard.

Case Closed

The system is commissioned and operating. CPI now has a controlled, monitored answer to its peak-period energy costs, delivered by a partner who understood that for this Customer, precision and accountability were not optional extras.

For CPI, it is one more example of a business built on scrutiny applying that same standard to its own operations. For SunRanch Solar, it is a reminder that good energy design, like good investigative work, starts with asking the right questions.

Want your own energy costs put under the same scrutiny? Bring the file to SunRanch Solar.