

# CLEAN ENERGY MINI-GRIDS NEWSLETTER

June 2016 Edition



## FEATURES

### Using Software to Make a Compelling Business Case for Mini-Grid Deployment

*By: John Glassmire, Director of Energy Engineering at HOMER Energy*

One of the greatest challenges facing those who want smarter, cheaper, cleaner energy is the large number of options and technologies available to provide power. Advocates for particular technologies all insist they have the only solution to our looming global energy crises. The sheer number of hybrid solutions can frighten even the most well-informed decision makers. This is the problem that modeling software such as HOMER® was engineered to answer: How do I design a system that provides *clean, reliable, affordable power*?

[Read more](#)

### Key Considerations for Deploying Microgrids Worldwide

*By: Arjun Gupta, NABCEP Certified PV Installation Professional and Senior System Design Engineer at UGE International*

Microgrids powered by renewable energy are fast replacing those powered by fossil fuels. As a global developer, UGE has over 330 MW of renewable energy experience worldwide, including the installation of several solar and wind powered microgrids. Through UGE's consultative approach, they work to understand how to best design and develop microgrids across a variety of locations for both grid-tied and off grid use.

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## POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

### India Issues a Draft National Policy on Renewable Energy Mini/Micro-grids

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued a draft national policy for mini/micro grids ([refer](#)). The policy aims to create up to 500 MW capacity in the private sector in the next five years.

### BNEF Releases Rwanda Simplified Licensing Procedure for Off-Grid Renewable Energy Projects

Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) has published a [summary](#) of the [2015 Rwanda Mini-grid Licensing Policy](#).

### Energy Access: It's the Policy, Stupid

Power for All Communications Director William Brent discusses how policy and regulatory changes can have a transformative impact on energy access and result in more rapid deployment of distributed renewable energy.



## TOOLS & RESOURCES

### ARE Launches Off-Grid Job Platform

The Off-Grid Job Platform plays an important role in attracting talented and motivated individuals to work in the off-grid sector. This tool helps businesses to find the right candidates for their vacancies, for job seekers to find jobs that match their ambitions and for the sector as a whole to attract new talent.

### Enabling Mini-Grid Development in Rural India

Using a comprehensive life-cycle cost analysis, this study finds that mini-grids are more economical than incumbent energy services available to households without central grid connections in India. Through a qualitative analysis, the study identifies the threat of central grid extension as the gateway barrier preventing mini-grid development in India. The issues associated with the gateway barrier have common elements with the so-called holdup problem as identified in the economics of organizations.

### Electricity Beyond the Grid: Accelerating Access to Sustainable Power for All

This new report by Price Waterhouse Coopers indicates that existing stand-alone business models and mini-grid business models will transform into more connected smart off-grid energy systems with a

substantially larger market size compared to those today. New business models driven by the development of mobile payment, data analytics and large battery systems will emerge and drive the transformation.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Liberia: Supply and Installation of 5 Micro-grid Photovoltaic Generators  
*Closing Soon*

Niger: Feasibility Study of PV Hybridization of Diesel-Based Mini-Grids in Niger  
*Deadline: July 13th*

Zambia: Financing Round for Off-Grid Electrification  
*Deadline: August 8th*

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## NEWS

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### Microgrids Going Macro. North America Leads but Latin America and Asia Pacific Right Behind

Navigant Research has noted as of the second quarter of 2016 that the remote microgrid segment has a growing dominance in the microgrid market, showing increasing visibility in the Middle East and African region as well as the Latin American and Asia Pacific regions.

### El Hierro The leading example for renewable integration on islands?

El Hierro is a frequently cited example for renewable integration on islands, but microgrid expert Martin Baart “couldn’t disagree more”. He argues that the project didn’t present a viable business case, the duration of the project was unreasonable, the technologies used were conservative, and the goals weren’t achieved.

### Targeting Areas with Strong Sunlight and Little or No Access to Electricity, Caterpillar’s New Hybrid Microgrid Play

Caterpillar became the latest big infrastructure company to unveil a microgrid play with the recent launch of its hybrid microgrid into the global market. The Cat hybrid technology combines solar, energy storage and fossil fuels and will focus on projects 10 kW to 100 MW.

### Bypassing Utility Models for Clean, Smart Microgrids in Emerging Markets

Energy project developers are just beginning to see the advantages of bypassing the old and “messy” electricity infrastructure in favor of clean, smart microgrids in developing countries. That was one of Hareesh Patel’s observations about the information gleaned from developers for its latest Mercatus Global Advanced Energy Insights Report. The report also found that renewable energy projects in emerging markets are yielding 28 percent higher returns than in North America and Europe.

### Africa Mini-Grid News

- **Kenya:** Solar Firm Seeks Nod to Challenge Kenya Power Monopoly
- **Madagascar:** Fluidic Energy Signs Agreement for Mini-grid Electricity Project

to help 100 African Villages

- **Nigeria:** Solar-Nigeria Project is Looking to Electrify 2.8m People
- **Rwanda:** Tesvolt to Supply a Decentralised Power System
- **Senegal:** How Viable are Mini-Grids in Senegal?

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### Asia Mini-Grid News

- **Bangladesh:** Remote Islands Getting Mini-Solar Power Grids
- **India:** How Private Mini-grids Can End the Darkness of Rural India
- **Indonesia:** Italy's Enel and Indonesian Utility Company Sign MOU to Cooperate on Sustainable Power Generation in Indonesia
- **Myanmar:** Let There be Light - The Challenge of Powering Myanmar
- **Pakistan:** Villages Without Wires

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## EVENTS

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**India Energy Access Summit 2016**  
August 10-12  
New Delhi, India

**Intersolar Middle East**  
September 19-21  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**Asia Power Week**  
September 20-22  
Seoul, South Korea

**Solar Technologies & Hybrid Mini-Grids Energy Access Conference**  
September 21-23  
Bad Hersfeld, Germany

**Power Nigeria**  
September 27-29  
Lagos, Nigeria

**SEED Africa Symposium**  
September 28-29  
Nairobi, Kenya

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## CONTACT US

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