

CLEAN ENERGY MINI-GRIDS NEWSLETTER

March 2016 Edition



FEATURE STORY

Favorable Winds for Mini-grids in India

Ankita Jena, Policy Coordinator & Hari Natarajan, CEO, Clean Energy Access Network, India

The environment for renewable energy based mini-grids in India is beginning to look promising because of several recent developments on the policy and regulations front. The first was an explicit reference to mini-grids within the revised National Tariff Policy and the recognition of the need for electricity regulators to provide an appropriate exit option for private investment in mini-grids that have been established in order to address the energy needs of those without access.

[Read more](#)



MINI-GRIDS AROUND THE WORLD

Operating Commercial Micro-Grids in India

Nikhil Jaisinghani, Co-founder, Mera Gao Power

Mera Gao Power (MGP) has been building and operating solar-powered micro-grids since installing its first pilot system in 2010. Investor demands at the time were for a payback period of less than five years on rural infrastructure since then, investor expectations have become more ambitious with expected payback periods at three years or less. MGP's goal from the outset was to develop a model that could deliver on these expectations.

Bringing Solar Nano-Grids to Kenya

Dr. Murray Simpson, CEO, INTASAVE Energy, & Dr. Daniel McGahey, Regional Director, INTASAVE Africa

[INTASAVE Energy](#) has launched a scalable USD \$30 million program to help deploy solar nano-grids (SONGs) in over 1,500 communities in Kenya in the next 18 months. An additional roll out of SONGs across eastern and southern Africa is planned over the coming two years.

[Read more](#)

TOOLS & RESOURCES

Guide to Licensing a Mini-Grid Energy Service Company in Kenya

Produced by the German Climate Technology Initiative and the GIZ Promotion of Solar-Hybrid Mini-Grids Project, this report looks at lessons learned from the application for a power generation and distribution permit for the Kenyan Talek Power Solar Mini-Grid Project.

ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility Booklet

The first edition of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility (EREF) booklet provides a comprehensive summary of the five clean mini-grids projects that were selected for development for under EREF 2 funding.

Micro-grid Technician Training Program Handbook

The Clean Energy Access Network and Global Sustainable Energy Solutions - India have published a handbook for mini-grid technicians called "Installation, Operation & Maintenance of Solar PV Microgrid Systems".

[Read more](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Third Call for Mini-Grid Proposals by EnDEV Rwanda

Coming Soon

[EnDEV Rwanda](#) is planning a third call for proposals in mid-May 2016 contingent on the outcome of the second call and the approval of the Rwandan Rural Electrification Strategy.

Second "Solar for All" Contest Now Open for Applications

Deadline: May 1, 2016

The second "Solar for All" Contest for Innovative Community Solar Electrification Solutions 2016, organized by the Canopus Foundation and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE, is now accepting applications.

Short Video Contest 2016: "Showcasing Community Solar Electrification Solutions"

Deadline: May 1, 2016

The Canopus Foundation is now also accepting applications for the "Showcasing Community Solar Electrification Solutions" Short Video Contest 2016 (formerly "Showcasing Village Grids" Contest) alongside the second "Solar for All" Contest. One outstanding short video on the topic of community solar electrification will be chosen to win a 2,000 Euro prize and will be showcased to the expert jury and other participants at the second "Solar for All" awards ceremony to be held at Intersolar India 2016 in Mumbai later this year

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NEWS

Bill Gates Points to Micro-grid Development as Means of Electrifying Africa, New York Times

In an interview with the New York Times, Gates was asked what centralized and decentralized technologies are powering emerging economies. His answer? Microgrids.

Microgrids Positioned for a Bright Future, Energy Manager Today

Greentech Media expects microgrids to grow 267 percent between last year and 2020, when the industry will be worth \$829 million. Despite the growth, the story says, barriers include high upfront and financing costs and difficult to quantify reliability and resilience benefits.

Rwanda Adopts Green Mini-grid Technology, ESI Africa

The Government of Rwanda was awarded a \$840,000 grant from the African Development Bank-hosted Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA). The funds will be put towards the deployment of green mini-grid systems (GMGs), and help drive private investments in this sub-sector, the AfDB said in a statement.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS

APRIL

ARE-RECP Off-Grid Investment Forum 2016

April 12-13, 2016

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Solar & Off-grid Renewables West Africa;

April 19-20, 2016

Accra, Ghana

MAY

Saudi Power

May 9-11, 2016

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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CONTACT US

Send us your suggestions of news, events and updates for the newsletter at minigridnews@unfoundation.org.



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