Cape town commercial microgrids

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GreenSun’s third-party technology integrates with most PV inverter and battery storage products, solving inter-device communication hurdles and creating a uniform interface for smart control of stand-alone microgrids as well as embedded networks. It also enables virtual control of demand response-enabled devices (DREDs), providing more options for "big picture" microgrid management.

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SolutionsResidentialCommercialThermodynamic Hot WaterMicro Grids

THE deployment of microgrids across the African continent has evolved beyond its socioeconomic goals to provide a viable answer to the energy "trilemma", said the vice president: Power and Grid for Middle East and Africa at Schneider Electric, Taru Madangombe.

Coined by the World Energy Council (WEC), the energy trilemma is defined as finding the right balance among affordability and access; energy security and environmental sustainability. Speaking at the panel on Development of Mini-Grid and Off-Grid Solutions, at the Africa Energy Indaba held in Cape Town, Madangombe emphasised that microgrids have become a missing part of the puzzle, meeting the WEC trilemma"s energy security challenge.

"We are no longer seeing the adoption of microgrids in rural areas alone but also in major cities where we are trying to stabilise energy security. This is particularly relevant across the African continent which has been faced with major loadshedding challenges for a number of years," he explained.

"Also, the deployment of microgrids in cities makes it more attractive for investors, particularly when aligned with respective country tariff rebates and cost incentive programmes, as well as when an off-taker has been secured.

"And this is also where technology comes into the fold, playing an important role in enhancing microgrid systems to deliver valuable insight into investment decisions through integrated planning and monitoring software tools that provide data analytics and offer visibility for the investor to be able to monitor and track

their revenue generation," says Madangombe.

Looking at energy security challenges, Madangombe cites a current microgrid project at JFK International Airport as a prime example. The project entails the deployment of an 11.4 MW microgrid with rooftop solar, fuel cells and battery storage, enabling an under-construction terminal to be powered during electrical outages.

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