

Energy storage for microgrids uganda

Uganda Integrated Energy Minigrid Project Wins Prestigious Award. The Twaake ...

A spokesperson for London-based installer Winch said the subsidized, \$0.29/kWh electricity the networks will offer to villagers is the lowest price for such a system anywhere in the world.

Ugandan energy minister Okaasai Sidronius Opolot, pictured holding the microphone, at one of the new mini-grid sites in Lamwo district.

Image: Promotion of Mini-Grids for Rural Electrification project

The role solar can play in helping to achieve food security has been highlighted by the commissioning of 25 mini-grids in Northern Uganda, with backing from Germany's state development agency and the EU.

The two donors, and the Ugandan government, have commissioned London-based off-grid developer Winch Energy to install the mini-grids as part of the European Union and UN-backed Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU), which aims to bridge the development gap between the north and the rest of the African nation.

Development agency the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, and the EU, will fund the mini-grid program with non-repayable grants to the extent of UGX18 billion (EUR4.44 million) with the local networks to be established in 25 villages in the Lamwo district of Uganda.

Winch, which is owned by French renewables business Total Eren; Japanese conglomerate Itochu Corp; Saudi electrical manufacturer Al Gihaz Holding; and U.K. financial services firm Winch Partners Ltd, said funding for the solar networks included a significant sum which would enable it to reduce the price paid by electricity users for their energy.

The company's country director for Uganda, Alex Wanume, said the total project cost is \$4 million and 60% of the sum will be used to subsidize the cost of the electricity generated so the 15,000 people and 100 businesses which will benefit will pay only \$0.29/kWh. "This is the lowest tariff for mini-grids in Africa or anywhere else in the world," he said. "People can now get affordable power for business and even for home use. A lower tariff is what we are looking at, at the end of the day; lower tariffs and good quality services."

The total generation capacity to be installed by Winch will be around 1 MW, said Wanume.

In addition to benefiting individual homes and businesses, the mini-grids will also supply solar-powered street



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lighting and improved water services through pumping and purification.

The EUR25.9 million DINU program, set up in December 2017 with EUR25.5 million from the EU and the balance from the UN's Capital Development Fund, is set to run until June and aims to bridge the gap between the region and the rest of Uganda by addressing nutrition and food security, roads, and good governance.

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