

Industrial microgrids lilongwe

ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP), owned by Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), Afreximbank and Africa Transformation and Industrialization Fund (ATIF), the developer and operator of world-class industrial ecosystems across Africa, is proud to announce the signing of a development agreement with the Government of Malawi for the construction of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and a dry port in the North of Lilongwe, Area 55 in Malawi. This agreement, in line with ARISE IIP's ambition to unlock Africa's industrial potential, will support the Government of Malawi in advancing the country's long term vision of becoming an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant industrialised upper-middle income country by 2063.

With an investment of approximately USD 150 million in infrastructure development and in partnership with Afreximbank, the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and the dry port will be located north of Lilongwe, in the designated Area 55 in Malawi. The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will aim to stimulate and attract multi-sector investments, both industrial and commercial, in the country and offers logistic services and inland container depot services to enterprises in Malawi. It will seek to promote the local processing of raw materials into high value-added finished products, with an emphasis on agricultural products and inputs. Arise IIP will oversee the majority of the project, holding a 65% stake, while the remaining 35% will be shared by the Malawian government and local investors.

Construction work is scheduled to begin in 2024 with the zone expected to become operational from 2026. The project is set to create approximately a minimum of 132,000 direct jobs and over 26,000 indirect jobs.

Gagan Gupta, Founder and CEO of ARISE IIP commented: "It is a great honour to partner with the Government of Malawi for the establishment of an Integrated Industrial Platform and a dry port in the country. Leveraging our experience as developers and operators of industrial ecosystems across the African continent, we are committed to supporting the Malawian Government's initiatives for national development."

Honourable Sosten Alfred Gwengwe, MP, Minister of Trade and Industry of Malawi said "This collaboration with Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms (Arise IIP) represents a significant opportunity to boost trade, investment, and job creation in the country. Given Arise IIP's proven success in developing major projects across Africa, we look forward to seeing the positive impact of our joint efforts."

ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP) is a pan-African developer and operator of world-class industrial parks committed to making Africa thrive. We identify opportunities in commercial and industrial value chains across Africa, and conceive, finance, build and operate the necessary infrastructure, playing a catalytic role in supporting countries to transition to an industrial economy. We are driven by the pursuit of green growth; our ambition is to unlock the continent's industrial potential while neutralising our carbon



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emissions and climate impact. ARISE IIP is currently present in Benin (GDIZ), Togo (PIA), Gabon (GSEZ), Cote d'Ivoire (ZIC), and more. GSEZ was ranked the world's best special economic zone in the timber sector (2020 FDI ranking).

The life-changing moment for the Mthembanji community arrived in a 20-foot container: in July 2020, the village launched its 12 kWp solar-based microgrid. Within the distribution network, 60 households and small businesses were able to switch on the lights for the first time.

Until mid-2020, the remote village of Mthembanji, located in the Dedza township south of Malawi's capital Lilongwe, remained one of the areas not connected to the national grid. People had never experienced a stable and low-carbon electricity supply. That all changed in July, when the 12-kW, solar-based microgrid was commissioned, despite the COVID-19 restrictions. Now 60 private homes and small businesses have access to the solar-powered system. People can now switch on the lights for better conditions for learning and working, can charge their phones and can connect electric appliances like refrigerators or TVs, which has had a positive impact on village's sense of community and economic development.

Packed in an insulated 20-foot shipping container, the system includes SMA inverters and Tesvolt lithium-ion batteries. SMA Sunny Portal enables remote access to system performance data and generation capacity as well as alerting system managers for fast on-site troubleshooting.

The first-of-its-kind microgrid offers new possibilities for rural electrification. Cheaper and quicker to implement than individual solar home systems, microgrids of this size can be deployed in smaller communities that are of less interest to national utilities and larger mini-grid companies.

Having designed the system architecture and a sustainable business model, Strathclyde and United Purpose worked together with Cape Town-based solar company SustainSolar, Malawian electrical contractor BNG Electrical, and smart meters provider Steamaco (UK). SustainSolar completed the commissioning and final testing of the first microgrid to be installed under the Rural EASE (Energy Access through Social Enterprise and Decentralisation) project in Malawi.

Following the system's installation, the site was visited by representatives from the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA), who were impressed with the quality of the installation and innovative technology used in the system. MERA approval has been granted for the sales of electricity which has now begun.

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