



POWER AFRICA
Leveraging Partnerships to Increase
Access to Power in Sub-Saharan Africa

“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS

May 17 – May 30, 2014

Article Summaries & Full Clips

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IN THE NEWS: Featured “Power Africa” Articles

May 17 – May 30, 2014

POWER AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

[African ministers make progress on the Africa Power Vision](#)

New Business Ethiopia | May 13, 2014

A ministerial consultation on the Africa Power Vision took place on the margins of the World Economic Forum on Africa on 8 May in Abuja. The consultation was in preparation for a meeting to be hosted by United States President Barack Obama in August of 2014.

[Radio Interview - Andy Herscowitz, Coordinator for Power Africa](#)

FederalNewsRadio.com | May 16, 2014

On Federal News Radio’s program, The Federal Drive, Power Africa Coordinator Andy Herscowitz discusses the initiative, one year after President Obama announced the effort.

[Ghana - US pledges support to meet energy capacity](#)

Business & Financial Times Online | May 22, 2014

The United States has pledged its commitment to help Ghana augment the standard of quality in energy supply, improve operational efficiencies of the utilities, and increase access to electricity in

the country’s energy and power sector.

[Tanzania - Obama’s millions for power](#)

The Citizen | May 19, 2014

Local investors in the energy sector have a chance to get up to Sh160 million each in grants from a US initiative to promote off-grid power generation. Called ‘Power Africa Challenge’, it will see successful entrepreneurs win up to \$100,000. The challenge, according to USADF, targets entrepreneurs and part of dynamic organisations or companies that work on off-grid technologies.

[Nigeria- US Commerce Secretary Canvasses For Investment In Nigeria](#)

Ventures Africa | May 23, 2014

US Secretary of Commerce, Penny Pritzker called for more US investment in Nigeria and Africa as she led 20 American companies on an energy business development trade mission to West Africa between May 18 and 23.

[US working to power Africa’s electricity goals](#)

CNBC Africa | May 21, 2014

A review of Power Africa upon US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker’s visit with a trade delegation to Nigeria and other African countries.

OPINION

[Opinion - Electrifying Africa now up to Chairman Menendez](#)

TheHill | May 27, 2014

Electricity expansion is the next big thing in U.S.-Africa relations. Boosting energy access is good for American business, good for American foreign policy, and transformative for millions of poor people—all at no cost to U.S taxpayers. This is an easy policy win. But the Senate has to move quickly. Specifically, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) needs to act.

[Washington is not \(entirely\) broken](#)

TheHill | May 22, 2014

Every so often, something happens in Congress that brings lawmakers together from both sides of the aisles and promises meaningful change in real peoples’ lives. That’s exactly what happened this month when the House passed a bill that we believe could save countless lives and help millions of people lift themselves out of extreme poverty. The Electrify Africa Act passed the House overwhelmingly thanks to the leadership of both parties

IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

May 17 – May 30, 2014

ETHIOPIA

[Djibouti and Ethiopia to Develop Geothermal Power Capacities](#)

Addis Fortune | May 25, 2014

Djibouti and Ethiopia are developing new geothermal power capacities that are intended to enable them meet increasing demand for electricity and enhance their sustainable-energy portfolio. The World Bank has provided details about its contractor prequalification procedure for the drilling of four full-size geothermal production wells in Djibouti, while Icelandic powerplant builder Reykjavik Geothermal says it hopes to commence its \$2-billion Corbetti Geothermal Power Project in Ethiopia in July this year.

[Environmental Network Seeks Solar Dissemination in Ethiopia](#)

Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa) | May 25, 2014

The Horn of Africa-Regional Environment Centre & Network (HoA-REC&N) is looking towards a third attempt to procure 10,000 solar lanterns for distribution in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray.

[Ethiopia Set to Expand Electricity Through Clean Geothermal Energy](#)

World Bank Press Release | May 29, 2014

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved a US\$178.5 million

credit from the International Development Association (IDA*) and a US\$24.5 million grant from the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) Trust Fund to help the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) develop its geothermal energy resources to boost electricity supply to all Ethiopians and increasingly become a regional power hub.

[Government plans to expand electricity access to 75% by 2015](#)

Ethiopian Herald | May 22, 2014

Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) announced by the year 2015 it plans to expand access to electricity from the present 51 percent to 75 percent of Ethiopia's population. The move by the government will made to promote and support the development and expansion of social service as well as income generating activities in rural parts of the country, according to The Ethiopian Herald.

GHANA

['Independent power companies will reduce power crises'](#)

Ghana Web | May 26, 2014

The Minister of Energy and Petroleum Emmanuel, Kofi Buah says he is confident that independent providers in the country will generate enough power to alleviate the current

energy crisis in the country. According to him, companies such as General Electric and Symbion Power among others will undertake projects that will add about 1450 megawatts to the national grid.

[GE and partners to develop Ghana thermal power project](#)

African Review of Business and Technology | May 16, 2014

The first phase of the project will initially produce 360MW in simple cycle mode. (Image source: isado/Flickr)US-based General Electric and its partners, Endeavour Energy and Finagestion, have signed a joint development agreement for the Ghana 1000 project. The project aims at adding 1,000MW of thermal power to Ghana's installed electricity capacity, the company said.

[Ghana to increase energy supply by October](#)

SpyGhana.com | May 27, 2014
The first power supply from the Aboadze Thermal Power Plant is schedule for October 27, 2014, Ron Barnatt, Plant Manager at the Takoradi International Company, contractors of the project, has said. Mr Barnatt told the media that expansion works on the 400 million- dollar project was steadily progressing.

[Ghana-USA sign pact to increase generation in power sector](#)

Ghana Broadcast Corporation | May 20, 2014
Ghana and the USA have signed

an agreement to increase generation in the power sector, modernise transmission and address the financial stress of the utility companies. Speaking after the official signing of the agreement between the countries, the Minister of Energy Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah said the MOU will go a long way to address the challenges in the power sector.

[Ghana's Utility Regulator May Sanction Power Producers Over Cuts](#)

Bloomberg | May 27, 2014
Ghana's electricity producers will face sanctions if they don't explain power shortages by May 29, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission said. Electricity generators including state-owned Volta River Authority, which produces 80 percent of the nation's power, won't be allowed to raise prices and may be fined if they fail to explain unannounced power cuts.

[Landfill sites can generate biogas for Ghana](#)

SpyGhana.com | May 29, 2014
Chief Executive Officer of Renewable Green Energy Ghana, Richard Dablah believes, the solution to Ghana's current energy crisis sits in the numerous landfill sites dotted around the country

[National Energy database established](#)

Daily Graphic | May 23, 2014
The Energy Commission, in collaboration with other stakeholder institutions, has established a national energy database with the view to opening up energy access in

the country to enhance policy making and national development planning.

[Symbion Negotiates Power Purchase Agreement With Gov't To Construct 430 Megawatts Of Power](#)

Peacefmonline.com | May 19, 2014

United states based energy company Symbion power is concluding power purchase agreement with government this week to kick start the construction of 100 megawatts of power in July this year.

KENYA

[Bring down the cost of power, Uhuru orders](#)

Standard Digital News | May 17, 2014

President Uhuru Kenyatta has directed the Ministry of Energy to accelerate measures to bring down the cost of power. He gave the directive when he met with Energy Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir, Principal Secretary Joseph Njoroge and chief executive officers of nine parastatals in the energy sector.

[Ministry seeks to aid power purchase from private investors](#)

Daily Nation | May 24, 2014
The Ministry of Energy has formulated a new policy to facilitate the purchase of power from private investors. Under the feed-in-tariff policy, Kenya Power is required to sign power-purchase agreements with investors to accelerate investment in the development of renewable energy.

[5,000MW power plan on course](#)

The Standard | May 22, 2014
Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir said last September, the Government commenced an ambitious 40-month power generation expansion programme aimed at bringing down the cost of energy by 40 per cent.

[KenGen seeks advisor to secure funds for 140MW geothermal plant](#)

East & Horn Africa - The Africa Report | May 20, 2014
Kenya's main electricity producer KenGen is looking for an adviser to help it secure financing for the development of a 140 megawatt (MW) geothermal plant, it said on Tuesday.

[Kenya forges ahead with plan to invest in nuclear energy](#)

The Standard | May 21, 2014
The body charged with development of nuclear electricity in the country is planning a study on the national electricity grid to establish its compatibility with nuclear electricity. The Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board (KNEB) yesterday said it was looking for a consultant that would undertake a technical evaluation, which would include an analysis of the electric grid requirements to support proposed nuclear power plants.

[Mini grids seen as solution to increasing electricity access for Kenya's poor](#)

Business Daily Africa | May 30, 2014

A number of interrelated factors are silently and progressively pushing Kenya towards development and utilisation of mini grids. This dynamic push may catch key policy makers in the energy sector, the national government and the county governments flat footed.

[US' Ormat among firms chosen to build Kenya power project](#)

African Review of Business and Technology | May 15, 2014

In the Menengai field, Geothermal Development Company is drilling Phase I of their estimated 400MW project. (Image source: Geothermal Development Company)Ormat Technologies announced that it has been awarded its first well head power plant project by Kenya's Geothermal Development Company (GDC) in the Menengai geothermal field in Kenya on a Build-Own-Transfer (BOT) basis.

LIBERIA

[LEC Insists On Quality Performance](#)

New Democrat (Monrovia) | May 27, 2014

An executive of the Liberia Electricity Corporation has emphasized that quality performances and meeting deliverables will be the hallmark of the entity. The Deputy CEO for Planning, Joseph Mayah stressed that distinction must be given to top performers during training exercises aimed at scaling the performances of employees and the LEC to new heights.

NIGERIA

['Lagos Loses N31 Billion Annually to Energy Wastage'](#)

Leadership (Abuja) | May 21, 2014

Energy audit conducted in Lagos state has revealed that estimated N31 billion is lost annually to energy wastage in the state. The General Manager, Lagos State Electricity Board(LSEB), Mrs Damilola Ogunbiyi, who disclosed this at a briefing on Tuesday in Lagos said the state got the statistics from a power audit conducted by the Lagos Government through the state electricity board.

[Eko Disco to Roll Out 360,000 Electricity Meters](#)

This Day | May 20, 2014

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC), Mr. Oladele Amoda, has stated that the company has concluded plans to roll out a total of 360,000

electricity meters to customers under the distribution network., The customers are presently being billed without meters in their premises.

[FG Earmarks U.S.\\$4 Billion for Power Construction, Transmission](#)

This Day | May 21, 2014

In its quest to provide adequate power supply the federal government has earmarked \$4billion for the construction and rehabilitation of transmission infrastructure in the country. Also, some of the major power projects that attracted transmission such as the Mambila Hydro Power project, are to be executed under a public private partnership (PPP) arrangement.

[FG Targets 30,000MW of Renewable Electricity in 10 Years](#)

This Day | May 20, 2014

The federal government has disclosed a grand plan to supplement on-grid electricity generation and distribution across Nigeria with renewable energy sources like solar, hydro, wind and biomass.

[FG to Attract Investments in Power Sector](#)

Vanguard | May 23, 2014

The Federal Government will continue to create the enabling environment to attract investment in the power sector for efficient generation and distribution, the Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, has said.

[FG Upbeat On Good Power Supply As June Supply Deadline Nears](#)

This Day | May 20, 2014

The federal government has said that it will live up to its pledge to improve on-grid power supply to Nigerians before the end of the first quarter of 2014. The government had shortly after privatising successor generation and distribution companies created from the unbundling of defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), set a June deadline for new investors to improve supply of generated electricity across Nigeria.

[Honeywell Partners USTDA on N31 Billion Sagamu IPP](#)

Daily Independent (Lagos) | May 29, 2014

The Honeywell Group and United States Trade Development Agency (USTDA) have signed a Grant Agreement for a feasibility study on Honeywell's N31 billion Sagamu Independent Power Plant (IPP) project.

[NERC Tells DISCOs to Close the Metering Gap](#)

Daily Trust | May 20, 2014

The Chairman/CEO of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, Dr. Sam Amadi, has reiterated the urgency and need to close the metering gap;

and at the same time urged for standardization of customer estimation, avoidance of extortion and exploitation by both the utility companies and the customers.

[52 Percent Generation Loss Triggers Tariff Increase in 2014](#)

Daily Trust | May 28, 2014

The nation's protracted power generation loss is responsible for a tariff increase in the Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO) from June 2014, records have shown.

[Senate to Partner DISCOs for Improved Power Supply](#)

Daily Independent | May 21, 2014

The Senate has said that it was ready to work with the newly privatised Electricity Distribution Companies (Discos) and others in the electricity sector to ensure that the privatisation of the sector meets expectation of majority of Nigerians for a much improved and affordable electricity power supply in the country.

TANZANIA

[2nd Round of Off-Grid Energy Challenge Finally Takes Off](#)

Tanzania Daily News | May 27, 2014

Eighteen grants of up to USD \$100,000 each will be awarded

to companies, organisations and individuals providing off-grid solutions which deploy renewable resources and power economic activities in their respective communities.

[Gas Policy Highlights Transparency](#)

Tanzania Daily News | May 17, 2014

The 2013 Natural Gas Policy states that the formation and implementation of the Natural Gas Fund will highlight transparency, distribution consumption and good governance in funds collected from sales.

[TPSF forms firm to take part in oil, gas economy](#)

The Guardian Reporter | May 20, 2014

In efforts to increase the participation of local people in the country's economy, particularly oil and natural gas, a new company has been formed. The aim of the Tanzania Oil and Gas Corporation PLC, the brainchild of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), is to ensure that Tanzanians get the opportunity to participate, own and invest in all fields of mining, oil and natural gas, from upstream to downstream, through the company.

IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

1. Power Africa: African ministers make progress on the Africa Power Vision | New Business Ethiopia
2. Power Africa: Andy Herscowitz, Coordinator for Power Africa, USAID - FederalNewsRadio.com
3. Power Africa: Ghana - US pledges support to meet energy capacity | Business & Financial Times Online
4. Power Africa: Obama's millions for power - National - thecitizen.co.tz - Tanzania
5. Power Africa: Opinion - Electrifying Africa now up to Chairman Menendez | TheHill
6. Power Africa: US Commerce Secretary Canvasses For Investment In Nigeria | Ventures Africa
7. Power Africa: US working to power Africa's electricity goals | CNBC Africa
8. Power Africa: Washington is not (entirely) broken | TheHill

9. Ethiopia: Djibouti and Ethiopia to Develop Geothermal Power Capacities | Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa)
10. Ethiopia: Environmental Network Seeks Solar Dissemination in Ethiopia | Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa)
11. Ethiopia: Ethiopia Set to Expand Electricity Through Clean Geothermal Energy | World Bank Press Release
12. Ethiopia: Government plans to expand electricity access to 75% by 2015 | Walta Info
13. Ghana: 'Independent power companies will reduce power crises' | Ghana Web
14. Ghana: GE and partners to develop Ghana thermal power project | African Review of Business and Technology
15. Ghana: Ghana to increase energy supply by October | SpyGhana.com
16. Ghana: Ghana-USA sign pact to increase generation in power sector | Ghana Broadcast Corporation
17. Ghana: Ghana's Utility Regulator May Sanction Power Producers Over Cuts | Bloomberg
18. Ghana: Landfill sites can generate biogas for Ghana | SpyGhana.com
19. Ghana: National Energy database established | Daily Graphic
20. Ghana: Symbion Negotiates Power Purchase Agreement With Gov't To Construct 430 Megawatts Of Power | Business News | Peacefmonline.com
21. Kenya : Bring down the cost of power, Uhuru orders | Standard Digital News
22. Kenya : William Ruto warns Kenya Power cartels | The Standard
23. Kenya; Ministry seeks to aid power purchase from private investors | Daily Nation
24. Kenya: 5,000MW power plan on course | The Standard
25. Kenya: KenGen seeks advisor to secure funds for 140MW geothermal plant | East & Horn Africa - The Africa Report
26. Kenya: Kenya forges ahead with plan to invest in nuclear energy | The Standard
27. Kenya: Mini grids seen as solution to increasing electricity access for Kenya's poor - Money Markets - businessdailyafrica.com
28. Kenya: US' Ormat among firms chosen to build Kenya power project | African Review of Business and Technology
29. Liberia: LEC Insists On Quality Performance | New Democrat (Monrovia)
30. Nigeria: 'Lagos Loses N31 Billion Annually to Energy Wastage' | Leadership (Abuja)



31. Nigeria: Eko Disco to Roll Out 360,000 Electricity Meters | This Day
32. Nigeria: FG Earmarks U.S.\$4 Billion for Power Construction, Transmission | This Day
33. Nigeria: FG Targets 30,000MW of Renewable Electricity in 10 Years | This Day
34. Nigeria: FG to Attract Investments in Power Sector - - Nebo | Vanguard
35. Nigeria: FG Upbeat On Good Power Supply As June Supply Deadline Nears | This Day
36. Nigeria: Honeywell Partners USTDA on N31 Billion Sagamu IPP | Daily Independent (Lagos)
37. Nigeria: NERC Tells DISCOs to Close the Metering Gap | Daily Trust
38. Nigeria: Power - 52 Percent Generation Loss Triggers Tariff Increase in 2014 | Daily Trust
39. Nigeria: Senate to Partner DISCOs for Improved Power Supply | Daily Independent (Lagos)
40. Tanzania: 2nd Round of Off-Grid Energy Challenge Finally Takes Off | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)
41. Tanzania: Gas Policy Highlights Transparency | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)
42. Tanzania: TPSF forms firm to take part in oil, gas economy | The Guardian Reporter

“Power Africa” Coverage: May 17 – May 30, 2014

1. Power Africa: African ministers make progress on the Africa Power Vision | New Business Ethiopia

URL Source: <http://newbusinessethiopia.com/index.php/buss/business/investment/804-african-ministers-make-progress-on-the-africa-power-vision>

Tuesday, 13 May 2014

A ministerial consultation on the Africa Power Vision took place on the margins of the World Economic Forum on Africa on 8 May in Abuja, convened by the Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance for Nigeria, Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and co-hosted by Mr. Chinedu Osita Nebo, the Nigerian Minister of Power.

The consultation had as its purpose, to deepen discussions on the Vision for African power and develop a consensus and roadmap leading to the August, 2014 meeting to be hosted by United States President Barack Obama.

The consultation was a follow up to a first meeting of ministers in charge of the power sector that was held on 28th March this year on the side-lines of the Seventh Joint ECA/AU Annual Conference of Ministers of Finance, Economy, Planning and Development, during which, a draft Vision for African Power was reviewed and discussed.

Opening remarks were delivered by Ministers Okonjo-Iweala and Chinedu Nebo; Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC); Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD; and Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

All speakers emphasized the positive strides that the continent had made and agreed that the next steps were to refine and further develop the Africa Power Vision and advance the initial discussions that had taken place in March.

The presence of the AUC, NEPAD, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and ECA leadership was hailed as a strong demonstration of African leadership and commitment to this important initiative.

The ECA Executive Secretary stated that the need for championing, home grown organic solutions, and regional thinking are key issues to bring the vision to fruition.

“The Power Africa Initiative is an enabler, and the Africa Power Vision, derived from Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa - PIDA - is focused on making projects more bankable and easier to sell,” he said.

Participants included Ministers of Power and Finance from Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Rwanda, and Ghana as well as select multilateral and private sector entities.

A meeting of the working group is scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the upcoming AfDB annual meeting in May, to develop a framework for the governance and legal framework of selected projects.



The Vision will then be presented to African Heads of States during the upcoming African Union Summit, to take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from June 26-27, 2014, according to the press statement from ECA External Communications and Media Relations Section.

2. Power Africa: Andy Herscowitz, Coordinator for Power Africa, USAID | FederalNewsRadio.com

Source URL: <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/535/3623022/Andy-Herscowitz-Coordinator-for-Power-Africa-USAID>

Fri May 16th, 2014

Andy Herscowitz, Coordinator for Power Africa, USAID

Nearly a year ago, the White House promised it would help sub-Saharan Africa turn the lights on. More than two-thirds of people there live without electricity. The Power Africa initiative includes a dozen federal agencies, six African countries and corporate partners. Andy Herscowitz coordinates the effort on behalf of the United States Agency for International Development. He joined Tom Temin and Emily Kopp on the Federal Drive to discuss the initiative.

3. Power Africa: Ghana - US pledges support to meet energy capacity | Business & Financial Times Online

Source URL: <http://www.thebftonline.com/content/us-pledges-support-meet-energy-capacity>

May 22, 2014

By Ekow Essabra-Mensah | B&FT Online | Ghana

The United States has pledged its commitment to help augment the standard of quality in energy supply, improve operational efficiencies of the utilities, and increase access to electricity in the country's energy and power sector.

"Our government's strong partnership, especially in the powers sector, is targetted at playing a key role in helping Ghana over one of its key constraints to growth," the United States Ambassador to Ghana, Mr. Gene A. Cretz, told a media conference after the signing ceremony of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in Accra, aimed at strengthening Ghana's energy sector.

Presently, Ghana has 2,800 megawatts of installed electricity capacity -- with government promising to deliver 5,000 megawatts by the end of 2016.

The Minister for Energy and Petroleum, Mr. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, signed on behalf of Ghana while Penny Pritzker, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, signed for the US government.

The MoUs signed were geared toward the implementation of institutional, regulatory and structural reforms, and the execution of catalytic, sustainable, transparent and non-discriminatory economic reforms to spur rapid broad-based and inclusive economic growth.

It also highlighted the tremendous efforts made by Ghana and the United States to ensure Ghana's investment climate is able to absorb the significant inflow that are primed to enter the market.

Mr. Cretz, said: "What we have to do with this is harness all the capabilities we have in our governments and agencies, as well as the private sector, to facilitate transactions between the private sector and government of Ghana to achieve all of these goals".

He disclosed that a number of companies are gaining serious momentum on some exciting projects in the power sector in Ghana -- citing General Electric, Symbion, HPI and ECC as some of the companies.

He indicated that all those companies are making progress in the process of realising objectives of the Power Africa initiative launched by US President Barack Obama last year.

"Power Africa, an initiative of President Barrack Obama to support Africa's enormous power potential through partnership, trade and investment, was part of the process.

"Power Africa is truly a whole government endeavour, and we are fully behind this effort and pledge our full support in helping Ghana hit the target of 5,000 megawatts by 2016."

He said President Obama recognises the critical role power played in moving Africa into the next stage of development.

Mr. Obama launched the Power Africa Initiative (Power Africa) on June 30, 2013, during his visit to Africa.

Power Africa draws on the tools of multiple US government agencies, including the Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of State (State), Department of the Treasury (DOT), Export-Import Bank (EXIM), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), to partner with the private and public sectors to increase significantly the amount of electricity available in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Cretz is hopeful that the two countries will work hard in the coming months to finalise the US\$500million grant through the second Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact to improve the energy sector.

The compact, when finalized, will directly strengthen the power sector by improving reliability and service delivery, as well as help ensure continued and cost-effective power supply.

Mr. Buah said the government welcomes the initiative and pledged the government's commitment to play its part in ensuring that all goals of the MoUs are achieved.

He affirmed the country's commitment to work together in addressing increased power generation, helping modernise transmission infrastructure, and strengthening distribution.

"The MoUs were very specific on the areas we are going to work with, and we are going to work to address the financial strength of the utilities, to work at addressing issues of gas and increase generation capacity, and have enough reserve margins.

"We agree that the way forward is to make sure that the investment climate is one that is attractive to the private sector, and to work closely with the government of Ghana," Buah said.

4. Power Africa: Tanzania - Obama's millions for power | The Citizen

Source URL: <http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/News/Obama-s-millions-for-power/-/1840392/2319896/-/xtcugt/-/index.html>

Monday, May 19 2014

Local investors in the energy sector have a chance to get up to Sh160 million each in grants from a US initiative to promote off-grid power generation.

The opportunity is a follow-up of President Barack Obama's Power Africa project that he launched last year during his tour of Africa.

Tanzania, alongside Ghana, South Africa and Senegal were the countries that Mr Obama visited.

A foundation established to promote US' new trade partnership with Africa -- United States African Development Foundation (Usadf) -- has called for proposals from entrepreneurs to compete for the grants for off-grid power technologies.

Called 'Power Africa Challenge', it will see successful entrepreneurs win up to \$100,000. The challenge, according to Usadf, targets entrepreneurs and part of dynamic organisations or companies that work on off-grid technologies.

According to the organisers of the challenge, this will involve those with winning ideas that seek to provide energy to under served communities in the targeted countries. "Usadf will consider proposals from 100 per cent African owned and 100 per cent African managed enterprises, associations or organisations. The organisations must not be government owned or operated in any way," says Usadf.

It adds; "Applicants may be developers of their own technology and/or may be acquiring and implementing technology developed elsewhere."

Proposals for off-grid solutions from the countries of Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Liberia, Tanzania, and Ghana are being accepted. The set deadline for receiving proposals is June 20, this year. Power Africa is a new US government, interagency, presidential initiative to accelerate and diversify economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa through increased power generation and distribution of reliable, affordable and sustainable power and helping to ensure responsible, transparent and effective management of energy resources

5. Power Africa: Opinion - Electrifying Africa now up to Chairman Menendez | TheHill

Source URL: <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/207093-electrifying-africa-now-up-to-chairman-menendez>

Electricity expansion is the next big thing in U.S.-Africa relations. Boosting energy access is good for American business, good for American foreign policy, and transformative for millions of poor people—all at no cost to U.S taxpayers. This is an easy policy win. But the Senate has to move quickly. Specifically, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) needs to act.

Step one was taken by President Obama when he announced Power Africa[1] last June. This White House initiative aims to catalyze the power sector in six African countries and bring electricity to 20 million families for the very first time.



Then, on May 8, the House passed H.R.2548, the *Electrify Africa Act of 2014*[2]. Led by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), this supportive legislation attracted broad bipartisan support and 117 co-sponsors. It helped too that the Congressional Budget Office scored the bill as saving \$86 million[3]. Next up is a companion bill from the Senate.

Why should Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Bob Corker (R-Tenn.)—or the American public—even care about this issue?

Africa is moving toward the front-burner of U.S. foreign policy. Terrorism, international criminal syndicates, and cross-border disease are major 21st century national security issues. We cannot fight these threats effectively without close partnerships with capable African allies. It's no coincidence that the six countries covered by Power Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia) are also close U.S. allies. Americans are also belatedly awakening to tremendous new opportunities in Africa. The continent is now home to six of the ten fastest growing economies in the world. Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole is projected to grow at nearly 6 percent next year[4]. And it's not just oil and mining. Nigeria, now the largest economy in Africa, is expanding at 6-8 percent each year even as its petroleum sector is stagnating.

Power is the critical sector. Surveys consistently point to the cost and reliability of infrastructure as the leading barrier to further African business growth[5]. Nigeria, for example, has only about 4 gigawatts of electricity generation today while real demand is closer to 50 gigawatts[6]. Nigeria, like most African countries, has thus put power at the heart of its growth strategy.

This combination of rapid economic growth and explosive demand for energy means Africa is becoming a big-time destination for investors from China, Korea, India, Europe, and elsewhere. The question I keep hearing is: So, where are the Americans?

The United States has world-class power developers, the best energy technology, and decades of experience in bringing steady affordable electricity to consumers and industry. However, getting these giant deals done usually requires some public policy support, and that's why Power Africa and the *Electrify Africa Act* are important.

Electricity access would hugely benefit ordinary citizens too. The vast majority of Africans live today without any electricity at all. Most rely on wood or other biomass for cooking, light, and heating. Further, those who do have access to power use less than an average American refrigerator[7]. The arrival of electricity to a neighborhood is simply transformative, boosting health, education, and job creation. We've seen that impact in our own history, and now we can help do the same in Africa.

Strategically, Power Africa is exactly the kind of next-generation foreign policy partnership that America needs. Development is the third leg of U.S. foreign policy (alongside diplomacy and defense), but our development aid model is already obsolete. Neither American taxpayers nor our allies abroad want traditional aid to last forever.

Development policy of the future will leverage public policy to unleash private capital and innovation. Real partnerships, built on mutual interests to foster trade and investment, are how the U.S. can remain influential and relevant in emerging and frontier markets.

Senate action is urgent because legislation can push Power Africa to meet its goals and ensure the effort lives beyond 2016. Ideally, a Senate bill will move out of committee soon and onto a floor vote, with time for conference, and then a presidential signature before the first week of August.

Timing matters because on August 5, forty-seven leaders arrive in Washington, DC, for the first-ever U.S.-Africa *Heads of State Summit*[8]. A new U.S. law supporting rapid electrification on the continent would be a



strong signal of American leadership and a sign that we are ready to reposition U.S. engagement toward a modern and mutually beneficial model. What do you say, Chairman Menendez?

Moss is chief operating officer and senior fellow at the nonpartisan Center for Global Development. He is a former deputy assistant secretary of State.

Africa - Power Africa: U.S. Commerce Secretary Brings Delegation To Africa In Search Of Energy Contracts
Source URL: <http://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Solar-Energy/U.S.-Commerce-Secretary-Brings-Delegation-To-Africa-In-Search-Of-Energy-Contract.html>

6. Power Africa: Nigeria - US Commerce Secretary Canvasses For Investment In Nigeria | Ventures Africa

Source URL: <http://www.ventures-africa.com/2014/05/us-commerce-secretary-canvasses-investments-for-nigeria/>

May 22, 2014

VENTURES AFRICA – US Secretary of Commerce, Penny Pritzker has called for more US investment in Nigeria as she leads 20 American companies on an energy business development trade mission to West Africa between May 18 and 23.

Pritzker however noted that companies in the US would only invest in countries that keep ethical standards, have good working environments and also observe the rule of law.

“Nigeria needs to take the tough steps that allow businesses to truly thrive,” the US Secretary said.

She added that encouraging workforce training and protecting intellectual property are other factors American companies look out for in a country they would invest in.

According to her, companies must be allowed to a good extent, to operate without being disturbed with unnecessary regulation. Corruption and government interference in businesses should also be eradicated as this will increase investors’ confidence in the country and encourage influx of more foreign investment.

Pritzker therefore advised Nigeria to sign the Government Procurement Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which will regulate the procurement of goods and services by the government, thereby encouraging transparency and reducing corruption.

She also urged Nigeria as well as business leaders and leaders of civil society groups to cooperate in finding home-grown solutions to the country’s challenges.

“I believe that together we can, must, and will move toward strengthening our security, promote democracy, spur more trade, investment and economic opportunity to benefit Nigerian citizens,” said Pritzker.

Tony Elumelu, Chairman of Heirs Holdings spoke on behalf of the private sector at the gathering of business leaders.

The Founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation said the visit of the US Commerce Secretary and the companies emphasizes the level of importance attached to Nigeria by the world powerhouse.

He noted that although Nigeria is proud of its oil and what it has been able to do for its major importers like the US, there is more to Africa’s largest economy than just oil.

“We are about agriculture, we are about telecoms, we are about real estate and hospitality, we are about entertainment, we are banking and financial services and so much more,” Elumelu said.



The entrepreneur said several reforms are ongoing to improve the nation's manufacturing sector which has a lot of growth potential, hence the need for investors and partners with the requisite skill and capacity for the development of the sector to key into these opportunities as they also help us grow.

The delegation also visited Ghana as part of the energy business development trade mission.

7. Power Africa: US working to power Africa's electricity goals | CNBC Africa

Source URL: <http://www.cnbc.com/news/resources/2014/05/21/us-working-to-power-africa%E2%80%99s-electricity-goals/>

By: Nicole Naidoo

May 21, 2014

The United States has committed itself to attracting investment and aiding several African countries in reducing their electricity deficit.

"Power Africa is designed to catalyse new financing and investment in energy solutions that will help Nigeria and the five other countries that comprise Power Africa to provide reliable electricity to its citizens. Already, Power Africa has closed on transactions totalling nearly 3,000 megawatts with an additional 5,000 megawatts in the planning stages," said United States (US) Secretary of Commerce, Penny Pritzker.

"We're working together to attract additional private investment and to secure financing for renewable energy projects. In addition our commercial law experts are creating a library of documents to help streamline the process for negotiating and closing agreements and transactions under Power Africa. Power Africa is just one example of our longstanding commitment to ensuring Africa's continued growth and prosperity."

Pritzker has arrived in Lagos, Nigeria for an energy business development trade mission to West Africa, along with 20 American energy companies.

"This trade mission is a sign of commitment by our government to support a new US business focus in Africa. Today nearly 600 million Africans, two thirds of the people on the continent, lack electricity. This problem is particularly stark in rural areas where 85 per cent of the population does not have power," she said.

"Studies have shown that Africa will need 300 billion dollars in investments to achieve universal electricity by 2030. Already the United States government has committed seven billion dollars towards Power Africa and has secured additional commitments totalling 14 billion dollars from 35 private sector partners. Here in Nigeria, the Power Africa initiative is providing technical assistance as your government privatises its electricity industry."

She also indicated that the US is pushing for the seamless renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) as well as the growth of entrepreneurship on the continent

"The commerce department itself is dedicating more human resources to Africa. A measure that will benefit Africa is an opportunity to grow entrepreneurship on the continent. Here in Nigeria where youth unemployment is roughly 40 per cent, we want to support innovators as they launch start-ups and create jobs. This is crucial for long-term stability and economic growth," Pritzker said.



“President Obama has asked me to assemble CEOs from both Africa and the United States to discuss ways to deepen commercial relationships and strengthen the presence of US companies in African markets. It will require all of us to work together – our entrepreneurs and business leaders, our government officials and our citizens themselves. We can accomplish great things if we work together towards a common good.”

8. Power Africa: Opinion - Washington is not (entirely) broken | The Hill

URL Source: <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/206805-washington-is-not-entirely-broken>

May 22, 2014

By Neera Tanden and Tony Fratto

If you’re looking for proof that Washington is broken, there’s plenty of evidence. Democrats and Republicans can’t seem to agree on anything, from taxes and healthcare, to immigration, foreign policy, and gay marriage. Yet, every so often, something happens in Congress that brings lawmakers together from both sides of the aisles and promises meaningful change in real peoples’ lives.

That’s exactly what happened this month when the House passed a bill that we believe could save countless lives and help millions of people lift themselves out of extreme poverty. The Electrify Africa Act passed the House overwhelmingly thanks to the leadership of both parties, especially the bill’s sponsors, Reps. Ed Royce (R-Calif.) and Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), the respective chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A decade ago, Democrats and Republicans worked together on another piece of life-saving legislation: the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). When President George W. Bush proposed the establishment of PEPFAR, both parties rallied to make the largest commitment of funds by any one nation to combat a single disease in human history. Dubbed a “medical version of the Marshall Plan,” PEPFAR has exceeded even the most hopeful expectations. Although the road was occasionally bumpy, together, Americans from both parties have led the charge to turn the tide against a killer disease to such an extent that the actual end of AIDS is possible within our lifetime. Think about this: in 2002, only 300,000 people around the world were receiving life-saving antiretroviral treatments. Today, more than 9.7 million are being kept alive, many of them flourishing, thanks in large part to America’s commitment to getting safe, effective medications to those in need.

Electrify Africa will support the Obama administration’s Power Africa initiative and can have a similarly transformative effect on peoples’ lives if it is carried out with the needs of the poor and environmental sustainability woven into its planning. Right now, there are nearly 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa without access to basic electricity. Imagine what that means for women giving birth in dark hospitals or people in need of medical treatment. Without refrigeration, many vaccines are useless and millions of pounds of produce are left in the fields to rot. After dark, students can’t study, doing business becomes nearly impossible, and crime often spikes. Even the simple act of feeding your family is fraught with peril; astoundingly, more people die each year from the effects of toxic smoke inhalation caused by cooking over indoor fires than from AIDS, malaria, and TB combined.

One of the strongest and most vocal advocates for Electrify Africa is the same group that championed PEPFAR a decade ago: The ONE Campaign. America has delivered in some big ways since Bono launched ONE ten years ago. As a nation, we’ve helped deliver 360 million mosquito nets to malaria-stricken countries, worked with partners to save more than 5 million children’s lives from preventable diseases *such as pneumonia and diarrhea, and helped more than 50 million kids go to school for the very first time. ONE has done commendable work bringing Democrats and Republicans together to improve lives around the world, a refreshing reminder that politics can indeed end at the water’s edge.*

Tanden is president of the Center for American Progress, a liberal advocacy organization. Fratto is a partner at Hamilton Place Strategies and a former White House deputy press secretary under President George W. Bush.

Power Africa Partner Country Energy News Coverage: May 17 – May 30, 2014

9. Ethiopia: Djibouti and Ethiopia to Develop Geothermal Power Capacities | Addis Fortune

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405281305.html>

25 May 2014

Djibouti and Ethiopia are developing new geothermal power capacities that are intended to enable them meet increasing demand for electricity and enhance their sustainable-energy portfolio. The World Bank has provided details about its contractor prequalification procedure for the drilling of four full-size geothermal production wells in Djibouti, while Icelandic powerplant builder Reykjavik Geothermal says it hopes to commence its \$2-billion Corbetti Geothermal Power Project in Ethiopia in July this year.

The World Bank, one of the financiers of the 31 million dollar Djibouti Geothermal Power Project, which is being developed by another Icelandic firm, Reykjavik Energy Invest, advertised the invitation for bids from qualified drilling companies to execute the project. Funds will come from a number of institutions. The bank said the steam well drilling program entails civil engineering preparatory works, to be funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) at Lake Assal geothermal field.

10. Ethiopia: Environmental Network Seeks Solar Dissemination in Ethiopia | Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405281313.html>

By Irkyihun Minda

May 25, 2014

The Horn of Africa-Regional Environment Centre & Network (HoA-REC&N) is looking towards a third attempt to procure 10,000 solar lanterns for distribution in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray.

The Centre, an autonomous institution under the Addis Abeba University (AAU), is a body that promotes more than 40 higher learning institutions and research centres, endogenous civil society and community based organisations in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. It held a National workshop on May 19 and 20, 2014, at the Gullele Botanic Garden, on the dissemination of solar energy technologies in Ethiopia.

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Energy & Resource Institute of India (TERI) to discuss challenges and market availability for solar powered products in Ethiopia.



Participants came from the federal Ministry of Water Irrigation & Energy (MoWIE) and six regional water & energy bureaus, as well as the National Bank of Ethiopia, NGOs, solar product suppliers and researchers.

The Network has twice tried to buy the lanterns it intends to distribute to the regions, Araya Asfaw (PhD), the executive director told Fortune. Both tenders failed, however, because of the high prices offered by suppliers. He did not specify the time, but a third tender is in the pipeline. This project is supported by the European Union Energy Facility, and the lanterns are expected to be distributed in September 2014.

The lanterns will allow mobile phone charging. The project will also include establishing 20 solar mini grid shops mainly to recharge the distributed lanterns for household lighting, Asfaw said. That is to complement the small panels on the lanterns, which require 12 hours of charging for just six hours of lighting.

The mini grid shops will be run by TVET students, who will receive training for that purpose, Asrat said. The workshop had four private businesses displaying the solar powered products they had imported for sale. A supplier told the workshop that one of the problems facing the solar products sector in Ethiopia was that the government did not have enough awareness and expected to buy state-of-the art products for a cheaper price than they were actually worth.

Most of the products displayed included mainly solar lanterns and home lighting systems. One company displayed a solar powered cooker it made in Ethiopia.

11. Ethiopia: Ethiopia Set to Expand Electricity Through Clean Geothermal Energy | World Bank Press Release

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405300590.html>

May 29, 2014

Press release

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved a US\$178.5 million credit from the International Development Association (IDA*) and a US\$24.5 million grant from the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) Trust Fund to help the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) develop its geothermal energy resources to boost electricity supply to all Ethiopians and increasingly become a regional power hub.

The domestic demand for electricity in Ethiopia is expected to grow by more than 25 percent per year. Over the next five years, the GoE intends to significantly expand electricity coverage, reaching 75 percent of towns and villages and connecting four million consumers to the grid.

The Geothermal Sector Development project (GSDP) will help the government to fulfill this increasing demand for electricity by diversifying its power generation sources and tapping into its substantial geothermal energy potentials.

"In addition to providing energy security the project will support Ethiopia's efforts to build a climate resilient green economy, by developing renewable energy sources with low carbon emissions," said Guang Zhe Chen, the World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia.

The project which will be implemented in two phases will develop two potential geothermal sites (Aluto and Alalobad) and help establish an institutional framework for geothermal development during its first phase. During its second phase, electricity will be generated using the steam resources developed and identified in the first phase.

The power generated from geothermal plants will provide electricity directly to the grid and allow more households and businesses to connect at affordable rates. It will also provide reliable energy to existing commercial consumers currently affected by the energy rationing resulting from insufficient generation capacity.

"The geothermal project marks a new push to increase access and improve reliability of electricity supply to new and existing customers", said Raihan Elahi, the World Bank Task Team Leader for the project. "Reliable electricity supply to industries and businesses will support job-led growth."

In March 2013, the WBG announced a major international effort to expand renewable power generation in developing countries by tapping into the underutilized resource, geothermal energy. The project will continue to support the joint effort of the Climate Investment Fund/Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) and the WBG to promote development of geothermal energy across the globe.

12. Ethiopia: Government plans to expand electricity access to 75% by 2015 | Walta InfoSource

May 22, 2014

URL: <http://www.websiteadministrator.com.au/index.html>

Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) announced by the year 2015 it plans to expand access to electricity from the present 51 percent to 75 percent of Ethiopia's population.

The move by the government will be made to promote and support the development and expansion of social service as well as income generating activities in rural parts of the country, according to The Ethiopian Herald.

During the opening of a two day National Workshop, State Minister Kebede Gerba, commented the development of large scale hydropower projects is being done with assessments to environmental and social impacts of the projects.

Kebede also said developing small and micro hydropower has gained the attention of the government for they are suitable and economical in electrifying remote rural areas. In addition to this, they are helpful to establish agro processing plants and productive activities in rural part of the country.

He further noted since 2005 the country has shown great progress in the power sector by implementing Universal Electricity Access Program via grid expansion. In particular he lauded the success of the program with the supply of electricity to households of rural towns, villages and social service centers. In addition to this, Kebede stated the government has established Off-grid Rural Electrification Fund in order to harmonize the efforts of grid expansion by involving the private sector and cooperatives. (arabnews.com)

13. Ghana: 'Independent power companies will reduce power crises' | Ghana Web

Source URL: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/310567>

May 26, 2014

The Minister of Energy and Petroleum Emmanuel, Kofi Buah says he is confident that independent providers in the country will generate enough power to alleviate the current energy crisis in the country.

According to him, companies such as General Electric and Symbion Power among others will undertake projects that will add about 1450 megawatts to the national grid.

He said this when the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Ghana to define the parameters of investment in the energy sector.

Speaking at a press conference after the signing, Energy Minister Emmanuel Kofi Buah indicated the intervention of the new power providers will benefit the country immensely.

He also expressed the hope that Ghana will be able to have enough opening that will allow enough generation of power saying “we are hoping that we will be able to have enough opening that allow on annual basis enough generation and modernize our transmission infrastructure so that we don’t have the challenges that we see.”

This, he said, will also help the country in the long term.

The Energy Minister said his ministry is not only committed to addressing the country’s challenges but is also working to make Ghana a net exporter of power in the sub region.

Many parts of the country have been undergoing blackouts and load-shedding due to the low supply of gas from Nigeria.

Although the Volta River Authority (VRA) has said it generates the required amount of power to end the load shedding and the frequent power outages soon, the problem is yet to end.

An Energy Research firm, KITE has also warned that Ghana is likely to be hit with another phase of severe power crises next year if rainfall for this year remain the same or lower than the previous year.

14. Ghana: GE and partners to develop Ghana thermal power project | African Review of Business and Technology

Source URL: <http://www.africanreview.com/energy-a-power/ge-and-partners-to-develop-ghana-thermal-power-project>

May 16, 2014

The first phase of the project will initially produce 360MW in simple cycle mode. (Image source: isado/Flickr)US-based General Electric and its partners, Endeavour Energy and Finagestion, have signed a joint development agreement for the Ghana 1000 project

The project aims at adding 1,000MW of thermal power to Ghana's installed electricity capacity, the company said. The agreement was signed by General Electric's vice-chairman, John Rice, Finagestion's chairman Vincent Le Guennou and CEO of Endeavour Energy, Sean Lang. Also present at the signing ceremony was Ghana’s deputy minister for energy John Janakpor.

The first phase of the project, which will initially produce 360MW in simple cycle mode, is expected to begin delivering power by early 2017. At completion, it will generate more than 540MW in combined cycle mode, said the partners. The second phase, they said, will be implemented before 2019 to create one of the largest single power parks in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The first phase of the project alone will require more than US\$20mn of development capital, over US\$200mn of equity from the project sponsors, and more than US\$600pn in debt financing," said Jay Ireland, CEO and president of General Electric Africa. The over-US\$1bn project, includes a floating storage and regasification unit to facilitate importation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for power generation. The importation of LNG as part of the project will cut out the challenge the country currently has of having generation plants without gas to power them.

The use of LNG is also expected to reduce the cost of generation as compared to light crude oil. "The Ghana 1000 Project will be unique as an liquefied natural gas-to-power project completed in an emerging market and is important to Ghana because it will both add reliable, baseload generation as well as help to lower the cost of power in the country when compared to plants currently running off expensive light crude oil," said Sean Long, CEO of Endeavor Energy, an Africa-focused developer and operator of thermal and hydroelectric power projects.

Finagestion is an African utility sector operating group controlling several concessions in water and electricity sectors in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. Finagestion is a portfolio company of Emerging Capital Partners (ECP), a pan-African private equity firm and will assume a key role as part owner and operator of the facility and be part of the Ghana 1000 consortium.

"This is the first time such quanta of power will be produced from a single location in sub-Saharan Africa outside South Africa. The fact that we are putting 1,000MW on a single site will yield significant savings on account that the power generation units can leverage the same balance of plants parts and staff," said Vincent Le Guennou chairman of Finagestion and co-CEO of ECP.

15. Ghana: Ghana to increase energy supply by October | SpyGhana.com

Source URL: <http://www.spyghana.com/ghana-increase-energy-supply-october/>

May 27, 2014

The first power supply from the Aboadze Thermal Power Plant is schedule for October 27, 2014, Ron Barnatt, Plant Manager at the Takoradi International Company, contractors of the project, has said. Mr Barnatt told the media that expansion works on the 400 million- dollar project was steadily progressing.

The 10 journalists were on a study tour of the thermal plant to round-off a one-week intensive training workshop on mining, oil and gas organized for them by Penplusbytes, an International ICT Journalism, with support from Star-Ghana. Mr Barnatt said all construction works as well as electrical and mechanical installations were almost complete.

Installation of two turban engines at the power house to enhance efficiency have been completed while sea works is on course, Mr Barnatt said and expressed appreciation at the prompt support of the Energy and Finance Ministries towards the project.

Ernest Kofi Osafo, Chief Financial Officer of the Takoradi International Company, explained that according to the contractual agreement, Ghana had 10 percent share of the facility while the remaining 90 percent goes to the construction firm.

According to him, upon completion, the Volta River Authority (VRA) would manage the project after 25 years the nation would take-over the 100 percent shares.

Source: GNA

17. Ghana: Ghana-USA sign pact to increase generation in power sector | Ghana Broadcast Corporation

Source URL: <http://www.gbcghana.com/1.1743500>

May 20, 2014

Ghana and the USA have signed an agreement to increase generation in the power sector, modernise transmission and address the financial stress of the utility companies.

Speaking after the official signing of the agreement between the countries, the Minister of Energy Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah said the MOU will go a long way to address the challenges in the power sector.

He signed on behalf of Ghana.

The US Ambassador to Ghana Gene Cretz who initialled for his country said the MOU lays out the mutual goals set out for the power Africa initiative.

He said the US will play a key role in helping Ghana solve her energy crisis.

Mr Cretz noted that the US is willing to help Ghana reach its target of generating 5,000 megawatts of electricity by 2016.

Earlier at a breakfast meeting, Mr Cretz announced that the US is preparing a large grant to support Ghana's power sector through the millennium challenge corporation compact two.

He said if the momentum on the reform agenda continues, the MCC second compact could be finalised by August this year.

18. Ghana: Ghana's Utility Regulator May Sanction Power Producers Over Cuts | Bloomberg

Source URL: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-27/ghana-s-utility-regulator-may-sanction-power-producers-over-cuts.html>

By Ekow Dontoh May 27, 2014

Ghana's electricity producers will face sanctions if they don't explain power shortages by May 29, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission said.

Electricity generators including state-owned Volta River Authority, which produces 80 percent of the nation's power, won't be allowed to raise prices and may be fined if they fail to explain unannounced power cuts, Nana Yaa Juantuah, spokeswoman for the regulator, said by phone today.

"We can't grant tariff adjustments when the power is not available and no one knows when and how long power will be on or off," she said.

The world's second-largest cocoa producer has rationed power for about three months this year, and is currently cutting supply due to a deficit of 200 megawatts as power plants[2] have shut down for maintenance and repairs, according to the VRA. Rationing may continue until the end of the first quarter of

2015, when refurbished plants will add 330 megawatts, Samuel Fletcher, a spokesman for the VRA said on May 13.

To contact the reporter on this story: Ekwon Dontoh in Accra at edontoh@bloomberg.net[3]

To contact the editors *responsible for this story*: Antony Sguazzino at asquazzino@bloomberg.net

19. Ghana: Landfill sites can generate biogas for Ghana | SpyGhana.com

Source URL: <http://www.spyghana.com/landfill-sites-can-generate-biogas-ghana/>

May 29, 2014

by Richard Dablah

Chief Executive Officer of Renewable Green Energy Ghana, Richard Dablah believes, the solution to Ghana's current energy crisis sits in the numerous landfill sites dotted around the country.

Biomethane gas from decomposition in landfill sites has the characteristics of natural gas with only a few impurities. This can be used to generate electricity for individual communities and reduce the burden and dependence on the national grid.

“With one thousand five hundred tons of waste you could generate about 10 megawatt hours of electricity, so why then bury it?”

Mr Dablah adds it makes no sense to bury and burn resources which can be used to solve real developmental challenges. He explains that the process to extracting methane gas from landfills to power generators is quite straight forward.

Landfill gasification involves digging wells in the site before decommissioning with pipes connected to gas collection points. Bacteria will breakdown the organic waste and methane gas will be produced to power generators. The more expensive science of plasma gasification can convert all the waste in the landfill to synthetic gas for energy production.

However, for Richard Dablah, harnessing the fuel potential of landfill sites is just damage control, the solution to the country's waste management crisis is to work towards getting rid of landfills altogether.

“It is rather unfortunate that Ghana chose the cheapest waste management solution”.

He says the first step is to start segregating waste at source so that it can be managed accordingly, whether to recycle or reuse.

Communities and household can also use their food and other organic waste to produce fuel and compost.

“Currently our composition of waste is 60% organic. That is a lot of fuel” He contends that ‘if we had practiced segregation earlier we would have minimized the waste we generate and would not be facing a sanitation disaster’ He concludes that ‘the land can be used for other things, like schools instead of just burying resources’.

20. Ghana: National Energy database established | Daily Graphic

Source URL: <http://graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/23410-national-energy-database-established.html>

by: Kofi Yeboah | May 23, 2014

The Energy Commission, in collaboration with other stakeholder institutions, has established a national energy database with the view to opening up energy access in the country to enhance policy making and national development planning.

The baseline database contains energy access data on solar-powered facilities, the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) and GRIDCo-connected communities, lighting and cooking sources and fuel retail outlets across the country.

Hosted on the website of the commission at <http://www.energycom.gov.gh>[2], the database will greatly enhance the interests of investors, researchers, students and the business community, according to its managers. The Executive Secretary of the Energy Commission, Dr A. K. Ofori Ahenkorah, stressed the need to constantly update the database.

“We must keep the database as current as possible. The Energy Commission will make resources available for the update of database,” he said in Accra last Tuesday at a meeting of a taskforce that worked on the database project.

Background

In May 2013, the Energy Commission established the National Energy Access Data Task Force to develop a comprehensive energy database for national decision making.

The initiative was in fulfilment of its mandate under Section 2(2)(d) of the Energy Commission Act, 1997[3] (Act 541).

The taskforce has representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, National Petroleum Authority (NPA), (ECG), Ghana Statistical Service, the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services, the Energy Commission and The Energy Centre (TEC) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and the project consultants.

It was co-sponsored by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership[4] (REEEP) on the theme “Building a reliable Energy access database for sustainable energy expansion in Ghana”.

With the REEEP-sponsored project ending this month, the challenge for the taskforce now is how to sustain the database to aid national planning and development.

Gratitude

Dr Ahenkorah expressed gratitude to the REEEP for co-sponsoring the project and members of the taskforce for their commitment to making the project successful. He said the task ahead was to maintain the database “because if you have a 10-year-old data, you cannot plan with it; so we need to constantly update the database”.

A member of the taskforce and lecturer at the KNUST, Ms Gifty Serwaa Mensah, said the objective of the taskforce was to establish a network to facilitate the collection of data for energy use.

She expressed the hope that Ghanaians would be happy with the work done by the taskforce, and added that the way forward was to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Energy access targets

Another member of the taskforce and lecturer at the KNUST, Mr Francis Kemausuor, said energy data was important to measure access to energy and plan for the future. He said a trend analysis from energy policies and plans developed by past and present governments indicated that Ghana was likely to achieve its target of

energy-for-all communities with a population of at least 500 by 2020. He, however, noted that the country might achieve a 100-per cent energy access for households by 2025.

21. Ghana: Symbion Negotiates Power Purchase Agreement With Gov't To Construct 430 Megawatts Of Power | Business News | Peacefmonline.com

Source URL: <http://business.peacefmonline.com/pages/news/201405/200282.php>

May 19, 2014

United states based energy company Symbion power is concluding power purchase agreement with government this week to kick start the construction of 100 megawatts of power in July this year.

The company has already signed a letter of intent to increase the capacity to 430 megawatts estimated to cost 700 million dollars once the country's gas infrastructure is completed.

The decision by Symbion to invest in Ghana was arrived at after intense negotiation with the chief executive of the Ghana investment promotion center Mawuena Trebah. CEO of Symbion Paul Hinks tells Joy business report, the project which will run during peak hours will significantly address the current energy crisis facing Ghana.

'For a start we will use natural gas and jet fuel to operate the turbines until the gas infrastructure in Ghana is completed, so for now the 100 megawatts will be available only during peak hours in the morning and in the evening because jet fuel is expensive' he added. Last year, the Energy and Petroleum Minister Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah and the CEO of Symbion Paul Hinks signed the letter of intent in the US to formalize the deal.

Mr. Hinks who said as part of the deal, Symbion will also offer training for Ghanaians abroad who will in turn train local expertise who will be employed. "Wherever we operate, we have always made it a point to employ over 90 percent of our staff locally with few expatriates joining and we intend to do same in Ghana."

Chief Executive Office of the Ghana Investment promotion center Mawuena Trebah says the center exist to identify and bring to the country strategic investors to aid economic growth and create jobs for the country. She is optimistic the tariff negotiation between Symbion, the energy ministry and Electricity Company of Ghana will be concluded this week to the mutual benefit of all the parties.

According to Mrs. Trebah, whiles the center will work to ensure the commercial interest of the investor, steps will always to taken to strike the needed balance in all negotiation.' For us at the center, bringing in strategic investors to develop our energy infrastructure will always remain key to ensure sustainable economic development' she emphasized.

22. Kenya: Bring down the cost of power, Uhuru orders | Standard Digital News

Source URL: http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000121409&story_title=bring-down-the-cost-of-power-uhuru-orders

By PSCU | May 17th 2014

President Uhuru Kenyatta has directed the Ministry of Energy to accelerate measures to bring down the cost of power. He gave the directive when he met with Energy Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir, Principal Secretary Joseph Njoroge and chief executive officers of nine parastatals in the energy sector.

He asked the officials to fast track “the commissioning of new power[3] generation projects so as to bring down the cost[4]”. President Kenyatta gave the directive after he was briefed on the power supply status and projections for the period of May to September.

Energy sector officials also updated the President on the progress of the plan to increase the national power supply by 5,000 megawatts by 2016. The officials, led by Chirchir, also briefed Uhuru on projects to improve access to electricity. Access to power is set to increase to 75 per cent, up from 32 per cent in five years’ time after the completion of the Last Line Connection project, which will be implemented in partnership with the African Development Bank at the cost[9] of Sh800 million.

With the current rainfall projections showing the current shortfall will continue, the President said the energy sector should focus on generating more power[10] from other sources than water.

Parastatals represented at the meeting were Kenya Power, KenGen, Rural Electrification Programme, Ketraco, Kenya Pipeline Company, Nuclear Electricity Board, Energy Regulation Commission and the Geothermal Development Corporation.

Kenya : William Ruto warns Kenya Power cartels | The StandardSource URL:

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000122532/ruto-warns-kenya-power-cartels>

By STANDARD REPORTER Updated Monday, May 26th 2014

Kenya: The Government has come up with a comprehensive plan to restructure Kenya Power to rid it of cartels frustrating efforts to speed up distribution of electricity, Deputy President William Ruto has said. The Deputy President assured Kenyans that the Government was working on a plan to reduce the cost of power so that more Kenyans could have electricity in their homes.

Speaking at St Arnesens High School on Sunday when he wound up his two-day tour of South and North Rift regions, the Deputy President put on notice cartels operating in Kenya Power, warning that stern action would be taken against those frustrating efforts to provide Kenyans with electricity at affordable rates.

Mr Ruto said for the Government to achieve its target of ensuring more than 70 per cent of Kenyans get electricity in the next five years, Kenya Power must be restructured to ensure efficiency. The Deputy President said the Government had reversed Kenya Power’s decision to double electricity connection fees.

“We are planning to further reduce the cost of connecting electricity in the next two years to as little as Sh15,000,” he said.23.

23. Kenya; Ministry seeks to aid power purchase from private investors | Daily Nation

Source URL: <http://www.nation.co.ke/business/Ministry-seeks-to-aid-power-purchase-from-investors/-/996/2325284/-/h5x0x9/-/index.html>

May 24, 2014

By TIMOTHY KEMEI

The Ministry of Energy has formulated a new policy to facilitate the purchase of power from private investors. Under the feed-in-tariff policy, Kenya Power is required to sign power-purchase agreements with investors to accelerate investment in the development of renewable energy.

Energy Secretary Davis Chirchir said the policy was aimed at attracting private investors to electricity generation and facilitate resource mobilisation by providing investment security and market stability for investors. He spoke when he presided over the launch of a one-megawatt solar power plant — the Williamson Tea Innovative Solar Park at Changoi Tea Factory in Bomet County — last week.

Bomet Governor Isaac Ruto, British High Commissioner Dr Christian Turner, Williamson Tea managing director Alan Carmichael and the director of Solar Century, Dr Dan Davies, attended the forum.

FEEDING THE GRID

Mr Chirchir said his ministry was laying emphasis on the generation of renewable power, and was considering the introduction of net metering, which allows residential and commercial customers who generate their own electricity from solar power to feed electricity they do not use back into the grid.

Dr Davies said the solar project will help the company cut energy costs by at least 30 per cent. “We applaud Williamson Tea for investing in solar energy to support the company’s growth,” he said.

Mr Alan said the new source of power will reduce consumption of diesel, adding that the factory will no longer suffer disruptions when there is a power blackout. The governor said his government was currently undertaking mega hydro-power projects to cut down on huge electricity costs and persistent power blackouts.

24. Kenya: 5,000MW power plan on course | The Standard

Source URL: http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000122092/5-000mw-power-plan-on-course?articleID=2000122092&story_title=5-000mw-power-plan-on-course&pageNo=1

By NIKKO TANUI Updated Thursday, May 22nd 2014

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir said last September, the Government commenced an ambitious 40-month power generation expansion programme aimed at bringing down the cost of energy by 40 per cent.

Speaking during the launch of one megawatt solar generation project at George Williamson Tea Estate in Konoin constituency within Bomet County, Mr Chirchir said the national programme involves several projects in geothermal, liquefied natural gas, coal, wind, hydro and solar. He added that programme also involves putting in place associated transmission facilities to address the distribution of the generated power.

Chirchir said the private sector was expected to play a key role in the programme.

The Cabinet Secretary said in an effort to encourage accelerated investment in renewable energy development, his ministry formulated the feed-in-tariffs policy on wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and small hydro-power systems.

Under this policy, Kenya Power is supposed to sign power purchase agreements with investors.

“The policy aims to attract private sector investments in electricity generation from renewable energy sources,” said Chirchir.

He said solar energy was abundant in the county and his ministry had been leading in the deployment of the same by installing solar photovoltaic systems in buildings that are remote from national grid. Speaking during the same function, Bomet Governor Isaac Ruto said the county had potential in green power that needs to be exploited.

25. Kenya: KenGen seeks advisor to secure funds for 140MW geothermal plant | East & Horn Africa - The Africa Report

Source URL: <http://www.theafricareport.com/East-Horn-Africa/kenya-kengen-seeks-advisor-to-secure-funds-for-140mw-geothermal-plant.html>

May 20, 2014

Kenya's main electricity producer KenGen is looking for an adviser to help it secure financing for the development of a 140 megawatt (MW) geothermal plant, it said on Tuesday.

The company, 70 percent owned by the government, has installed capacity of 1,252 megawatts (MW) out of Kenya's total 1,664 MW. It aims to add another 844 MW to the grid by 2017 as part of a broader national power expansion programme.

Much of the new power supply will come from geothermal sources, tapping underground steam from the Rift Valley. The advisors are expected to advise KenGen on the identification, procurement and selection of a private investor for the project including funding, KenGen said in a statement, without disclosing the estimated cost of the project.

Kenya relies heavily on renewable energy such as hydroelectric and geothermal power production. KenGen's expansion efforts are part of the government's broader ambitions to add 5,000 MW to Kenya's power output by 2017, with the goal of boosting growth.

KenGen in February said it had drilled the largest geothermal steam well in Africa with a capacity to generate 30MW of power.

Although expensive to drill initially, development of cheaper geothermal power means the country will come to rely less on thermal or fuel-driven power, prone to the vagaries of high international prices, and rain-fed hydroelectric dams.

Kenya currently has 1,664 MW of capacity against a maximum recorded demand of about 1,410 MW.

26. Kenya: Kenya forges ahead with plan to invest in nuclear energy | The Standard

Source URL: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2000121956/kenya-forges-ahead-with-plan-to-invest-in-nuclear-energy?pageNo=1>

By MACHARIA KAMAU

Updated Wednesday, May 21st 2014 at 22:11 GMT +3

The body charged with development of nuclear electricity in the country is planning a study on the national electricity grid to establish its compatibility with nuclear electricity.

The Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board (KNEB) yesterday said it was looking for a consultant that would undertake a technical evaluation, which would include an analysis of the electric grid requirements to support proposed nuclear power plants.

“The proposed grid system study will build on the studies already carried out but with a specific emphasis on the nuclear power plants and is expected to take 12 months,” said KNEB in a statement.

The board also expects the consultant to develop plans to improve the current grid, including having a reserve capacity on the grid to support the use of nuclear power plants. The Ochilo Ayacko-led board is also pushing for local content in the process of developing nuclear electricity in the country. Requirements it has set for the consultant include having a team composed of both local and foreign experts for the study.

Power demand

KNEB expects nuclear electricity to play a critical part in meeting power demand, which has been projected to hit 15,000 megawatts over the next 16 years, from the current 1,400MW. The board was formed in 2010 and has been exploring possibilities of the country generating electricity using nuclear energy in the long term. It expects to have the first nuclear-fired electricity generation plant by around 2022. Previous estimates have put the cost of setting up a 1,000 megawatts (mw) nuclear plant at \$3.5 billion.

Nuclear energy has been marketed as cleaner and also cheaper, alongside other sources like geothermal, wind and solar. While it is capital intensive and requires high levels of technical expertise, which is currently scarce in Kenya, it is also cheaper once initial installations are in place. Kenya’s electricity infrastructure is used for the evacuation of electricity generated through hydro, geothermal, wind and diesel fired thermal sources. Coal and natural gas are expected to form part of the electricity generation mix in the coming years. “The annual demand has reached seven per cent in the past and this will progressively increase to 15 per cent as Vision 2030 projects are implemented. Demand is expected to reach 15 000mw by 2030,” said KNEB.

27. Kenya: Mini grids seen as solution to increasing electricity access for Kenya’s poor - Money Markets - [businessdailyafrica.com](http://www.businessdailyafrica.com)

Source URL: <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Mini-grids-solution-to-increasing-electricity-access-for-Kenya/-/539552/2329304/-/d2txf9/-/index.html>

Friday May 30, 2014

In Summary

- The level of electricity connectivity in Kenya is still quite low at about 18 per cent.
- Low purchasing power of Kenyans in a number of counties makes it impossible for them to get grid connection despite being within a radius of 600 meters of a power transformer.
- As Kenya strives towards an additional 5000+MW of additional power, then need to come up with innovative financing schemes or affordable charges for electricity connections will become more pressing.

A number of interrelated factors are silently and progressively pushing Kenya towards development and utilisation of mini grids. This dynamic push may catch key policy makers in the energy sector, the national government and the county governments flat footed.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) defines a mini grid as “a set of electricity generators and, possibly, energy storage systems interconnected to a distribution network that supplies the entire electricity demand of a localised group of customers. This power delivery architecture can be contrasted with single customer systems, for instance, solar home systems, where there is no distribution network interconnecting customers, and with centralised grid systems, where electrical energy is transmitted over large distances from large central generators and local generators are generally not capable of meeting local demand.”

The level of electricity connectivity in Kenya is still quite low at about 18 per cent, according to the Kenya Population and Building Census of 2009. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 divided the country into 47 counties to facilitate rapid developed, service provision and delivery to all Kenyans.

Statistics from the Kenya census of 2009 shows that Turkana at 2.45 per cent, Tana River (2.5 per cent), Mandera (2.55 per cent) and West Pokot (2.6 per cent) have the least electricity connectivity rates. Nairobi leads the counties at a connectivity rate of 72.37 per cent while Mombasa and Kiambu come second and third at 59.02 per cent and 53 per cent respectively.

Other counties like Busia, Nyamira, Samburu, Nandi, Vihiga, Elgeyo Marakwet, Marsabit, Kisii, Trans Nzoia, and Baringo have a connectivity of less than 10 per cent, according to the same census of 2009. The county governments, in close collaboration with the national government, have a daunting task to develop appropriate strategies to minimise energy poverty levels, more especially in counties with electricity connectivity of less than 10 per cent.

The electricity connection charge, that currently stands at Sh34,980 for single phase connection, is one of the factors that is contributing to low connectivity in areas that already have high electricity access. In Kenya, electricity access is said to be 100 per cent if all residences and commercial establishments are within a radius of 600 meters of a distribution power transformer; even if not connected to the grid. A number of counties with electricity connectivity above 10 per cent have been noted to have access rates of over 50 per cent, while in some access is at 100 per cent.

The low purchasing power of Kenyans in these counties makes it impossible for them to get grid connection despite being within a radius of 600 meters of a power transformer.

READ: State keeps power connection subsidy at Sh35,000[1]

A number of initiatives, both by the Kenya Power[2] and the government, for instance the electricity connection loan popularly known as “Stima Loan” and “subsidised” connection charges have not borne much fruit in catalysing electricity connectivity in these areas.

A number of sector experts have indicated *that Kenyans can afford to pay for the energy units based on the fact that they spend much more money on kerosene for lighting purchased on a daily basis.*

Connection charge

This group of Kenyans simply won't afford to raise the Sh35,000 at once but can afford Sh50 a day, an equivalent of Sh1,500 a month. The Jubilee Manifesto entitled “Transforming Kenya, Securing Kenya's Prosperity 2013 – 2017” has laid out a number of strategies to ensure power for all.

It states that “every Kenyan should have reliable electricity supply in their homes and that all businesses and industries should be able to operate safely with the knowledge that they will have access to energy they need.”

As Kenya strives towards an additional 5000+MW of additional power, then need to come up with innovative financing schemes or affordable charges for electricity connections will become more pressing. Increasing electricity connectivity has been noted as one of the enablers of the 5000+ MW power policy.

Currently, Kenya does not have a clear policy framework for development of mini grids to facilitate participation of the private sector. The current frameworks are suitable for development of national or regional electricity grids and government funded or supported mini grids.

As a result, this has given way to haphazard development of community initiated mini grids and to large extent private and commercially driven mini grids.

The government and other related agencies have adopted a silent policy of non interference with community initiated mini grids. The government has not intentions to shut down these mini grids despite the fact that they are operating outside the legal and regulatory frameworks because they provide the much needed electricity in these areas.

Community initiated mini grids have inherent characteristics of charging unsustainable (very low) tariffs, little or no connection charges and the grids do not meet the minimum standards for healthy and safety. Private and commercially driven mini grids have sprung up in a number of areas to also provide the much needed electricity, but just like the community initiated mini grids, they do not also operate with the legal and regulatory frameworks.

Private and commercially driven mini grids have inherent characteristics of charging high tariffs, little or no connection charges and the mini grids not meeting the minimum standards for healthy and safety. Despite the high tariffs charged, which have been estimated to be more than three times the current average Kenya Power tariffs for domestic consumers' category, communities are comfortable and willing to pay these high charges to enjoy electricity connectivity.

These factors; low electricity connectivity rates, high electricity connection charges, lack of clear and suitable policy, legal and regulatory frameworks will continue to create a dynamic and unstoppable push towards development of mini grids.

Time will tell whether these mini grids are sustainable in the long term, but the positive side is that most of these mini grids will continue utilising renewable energy sources and contribute towards reducing energy poverty in the country.

The writer is a director of Renewable Energy at the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). Views expressed herein are his and do not represent views of any organisation.

28. Kenya: US' Ormat among firms chosen to build Kenya power project | African Review of Business and Technology

Source URL: <http://www.africanreview.com/energy-a-power/us-ormat-among-firms-chosen-to-build-kenya-power-project>

Thursday, 15 May 2014

In the Menengai field, Geothermal Development Company is drilling Phase I of their estimated 400MW project. (Image source: Geothermal Development Company)Ormat Technologies announced that it has been awarded its first well head power plant project by Kenya's Geothermal Development Company (GDC) in the Menengai geothermal field in Kenya on a Build-Own-Transfer (BOT) basis

The other companies, apart from the US-based Ormat, picked by GDC include Quantum Power and local firm Sosian Energy.

The award is the result of an international tender for the design, manufacturing, procurement, construction and commissioning of the six-megawatt geothermal well head power plant.

Geothermal resources in Kenya, within the Rift Valley, have an estimated potential over 10,000MW spread across 14 prospective sites. GDC was created in 2008 for the specific purpose of accelerating the development of geothermal in Kenya. In the Menengai field, GDC is drilling Phase I of their estimated 400MW project, with a plan to start generating electricity with well head power plants as drilling progresses. The advantage of the concept to be implemented in the Menengai field is that revenues are generated early and in parallel to the continued development and testing of the geothermal field.

Following GDC's successful drilling of the first well (MW-01) in Menengai, GDC selected Ormat to build the first geothermal power plant included in GDC's geothermal development plan. GDC will supply the steam for conversion to electricity by Ormat's power plant.

"This award both reinforces Ormat's position as a leader in the geothermal industry, as well as demonstrates our strong commitment to the development of geothermal projects throughout the world using our technology to match specific local resource conditions.

"We are happy to be part of the future geothermal development in Kenya as we continue to increase our activities as owner of power plants in the area," said Dita Bronicki, CEO of Ormat.

According to GDC, the three independent power producers (IPP) were selected from the 12 bids submitted last September at the close of the tendering process. Ormat, chosen through its subsidiary OrPower 4, and the other power companies are to build 35MW steam power plant each under a build-own-operate model, starting this December.

29. Liberia: LEC Insists On Quality Performance | New Democrat (Monrovia)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405270973.html>

27 May 2014

An executive of the Liberia Electricity Corporation has emphasized that quality performances and meeting deliverables will be the hallmark of the entity. The Deputy CEO for Planning, Joseph Mayah stressed that distinction must be given to top performers during training exercises aimed at scaling the performances of employees and the LEC to new heights.

Mr. Mayah made the statement Wednesday in Monrovia when 41 plant and substation engineers and technicians received certificates after completing phase one of an 18-month in-house training course. The course focused on electric distribution design and planning, line construction as well as the basic requirements for setting up electric poles among others. The Deputy CEO said that every staff will be evaluated based on the performances of the tasked assigned them and not time the number of hours they stayed on the job or reported for work. He called on the honorees to exhibit the skills they have acquired in order to improve their standard and raise the profile of the LEC. He thanked the Canadian-based management team, Manitoba Hydro International for the training and called for more to sharpen the skills of the engineers and technicians.

Responding on behalf of the honorees, New Services Manager, Victor Gray reiterated that management must enforce the performance-based appraisal system so that top performers will receive the due recognition and reward they deserve.

30. Nigeria: 'Lagos Loses N31 Billion Annually to Energy Wastage' | Leadership (Abuja)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405211014.html>

By George Okojie, 21 May 2014

Lagos — Energy audit conducted in Lagos state has revealed that estimated N31 billion is lost annually to energy wastage in the state. The General Manager, Lagos State Electricity Board (LSEB), Mrs Damilola Ogunbiyi, who disclosed this at a briefing on Tuesday in Lagos said the state got the statistics from a power audit conducted by the Lagos Government through the state electricity board.

She said audit showed that private individuals and organisations generated far more than their energy needs through power generators, with the excess wasted on a daily basis. According to her, the figure also forms part of what is wasted through lack of energy conservation by residents, businesses premises, markets among other electricity consumers, who leave electrical appliances and light bulbs on when they are not needed.

Also speaking, the state commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Taofiq Tijani, said the state government would soon unfold its energy policy and master plan that would guide operations in the sector in the state. He said the energy master plan which had been presented to the state executive council upon approval would facilitate further developments in the sector in Lagos.

31. Nigeria: Eko Disco to Roll Out 360,000 Electricity Meters | This Day

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405200451.html>

By Ejiofor Alike, 20 May 2014

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC), Mr. Oladele Amoda, has stated that the company has concluded plans to roll out a total of 360,000 electricity meters to customers under the distribution network. The customers are presently being billed without meters in their premises.

Speaking to journalists yesterday during the oversight visit of the Senate Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation Amoda said a whopping sum of N1.3 billion would be expended on the project.

The first phase of the project, he further disclosed, would start with about 5,000 meters for all high voltage or maximum demand customers of the company who, he said, were responsible for about 70 per cent of the company's revenue profile.

Amoda further hinted that under the scheme, apart from those not having meters, customers having obsolete and malfunctioning meters would also have their meters replaced.

Earlier in his post privatisation update report to the committee, the EKEDC boss disclosed that the company had embarked on a number of measures to engender a total turn-around in the company's services to its customers.

These he said, included the embedded generation project, evolvement of a new human resource policy with emphasis on workers' safety, training and improvement of general working condition.

Speaking further, he added that another sum of N2.3 billion would be spent on network rehabilitation, system upgrade and reinforcement, with a view to drastically reducing equipment downtime and enhancing customer satisfaction and service delivery.

Responding, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation, Senator Gbenga Obadara, said the Senate would always be ready to work with the newly privatised electricity distribution companies and other stakeholders in the electricity sector for the purpose of jointly finding a lasting solution to the problems militating against regular power supply in the country.

According to him, the Senate was aware of both the expectations of Nigerians from the newly privatised electricity companies as well as the constraints still bedevilling the sector. He said energy theft and vandalism still constitutes one of the major challenges facing the companies.

Speaking further, Obadara said while the senate would always want to protect the interest of Nigerians to ensure that they are not exploited by the new companies, it would also facilitate the existence of a conducive atmosphere for the new companies to operate without any hindrance. Also speaking at the occasion, a Director of the company, Dr. Tunji Olowolafe, said customer satisfaction, rather than profit making, has always been the main focus of the company. He said the new owners believed that the customer needs to be satisfied first so that he can pay for service rendered.

Olowolafe said \$150 million out of the \$250 million the company plans to invest on the improvement of its services to customers has been secured. The impact of this, he said, on the general service delivery of the company would be manifest for all to see soon. He also said the company had started employing the best available technology in all areas of its operations.

32. Nigeria: FG Earmarks U.S.\$4 Billion for Power Construction, Transmission | This Day

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405210418.html?viewall=1>

By Jaiyeola Andrews and Chineme Okafor, 21 May 2014

In its quest to provide adequate power supply the federal government has earmarked \$4billion for the construction and rehabilitation of transmission infrastructure in the country. Also, some of the major power projects that attracted transmission such as the Mambila Hydro Power project, are to be executed under a public private partnership (PPP) arrangement.

Both the transmission and project consultancy would cost \$6.4billion, the counterpart fund of \$1.6billion had already been provided by the government.

This was as the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) yesterday said it would continue to kick and push electricity distribution companies (DISCOS) in Nigeria's Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) to improve on services to eligible customers within their distribution networks until such a time that it was satisfied with the condition of their service delivery in the industry.

The Vice-President, Namadi Sambo, disclosed this yesterday, when he received the Vice-President of the State Grid Corporation of China, Mr. Cheng Wei, at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

He assured the corporation of fair competition in the planned transmission projects in the country. He said he was impressed with the experience, capacity and the capability of the company and noted that the company was coming at the right time when the transformation agenda was set to provide adequate power supply to the country. According to a statement issued by his Senior Special Adviser and Publicity, Umar Sani, "he (Sambo) stated that the sum of \$4billion has been earmarked for the construction/rehabilitation of transmission infrastructure in the countrys adding that very recently vacancy for consultancy services was advertised and the company was advised to participate by responding to the advertisement

"The vice-president said the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and the Niger Delta Power Holding Company were the two companies that would implement the projects with the active participation and supervision of the ministry of power.

"Sambo added that some of the major power projects that would attract transmission include the Mambila Hydro Power project to be executed under a PPP arrangement and that both the transmission and project consultancy would cost \$6.4billion and that the counterpart fund of \$1.6billion had already been provided by the government for such an important project."

The statement further noted that the vice-president "catalogued other projects that would have transmission which include; the Zungeru 700mw hydro power project, the Gurara Phase II Hydro power project due to be completed at the end of the year and the Itisi Hydropower project, adding that government planned to generate 20,000mw by 2018 on completion of these and other projects."

Earlier, the group, which was chaperoned by the Chairman Integrated Energy Mr. Olatunde Ayeni, invited the Vice President of the SGCC for Powerpoint presentation on the capacity, asset, revenue base and accumulated experiences of the company.

"State Grid of China Corporation has an annual revenue base of about \$300billion they intended to set up a company that would fabricate and eventually manufacture electrical equipment as well as provide training for staff on manufacture and installation of electrical equipments.

"The company was proud of its place in the provision of ultra high voltage technology, Power Grid Construction Field and Transmission," Ayeni said in the statement.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of NERC, Dr. Sam Amadi, disclosed in Abuja that the commission had instituted a regular peer review mechanism to monitor, report and compare the operational activities of the distribution companies, vis-à-vis electricity distribution services within the various distribution networks. Amadi who spoke with journalists at the inauguration of officials of electricity customers' forum offices of Jos, Yola and Benin distribution networks that part of the review mechanism for the distribution companies includes periodic mandatory reports on recorded level and number of power outages, service providers' response to such outages and consumer complaints among others, explained that the performance of each of the distribution networks was reviewed based on the report and with which the commission employs in getting the service provider's commitment to improved service delivery.

The commission had in March this year written to the distribution companies to improve on service delivery to electricity consumers in view of the expiration of the three-month initial grace period granted them to settle in from the power privatisation exercise.

But when queried on their response to the directive so far, Amadi said: "Improvement grows up, our job as a regulator is to keep on pushing the utilities to higher level of service delivery and so when we say improve and they give us feedback that they have improved but the consumers come back to complain, we need to go back to ask them to improve.

"When we say they should improve and they report that they have improved, we carry out our monitoring and discover that they have not met up with their obligations or improved marginally, then we come back and score them.

We have started a peer review mechanism in the commission with our meetings with the CEOs; we try to see what they have done and say yes, you have tried but it is not good enough, you need to improve in certain areas and this is not because they are not obeying but because they are working with constraints that we need to recognise," Amadi added.

He further stated: "What we are trying to do is that while we improve the environment within which they work with better regulation, more gas supply and helping them recover their investments, we also want to push them to do better in those areas and so as we are improving their operational environments, we are also pushing them to benchmark their performance."

Similarly, the chairman noted that the commission's recent regulations on enforcement now grants it the power to legally penalise errant behaviours brought to it by electricity forum offices in each of the distribution networks. He explained that the commission would within the regulation act on any judgment delivered by the forum offices which stand as appellate courts for settlement of disputes between service providers and customers.

On irregularities in metering of electricity consumers, Amadi said: "NERC's position on metering has not changed even before the conclusion of privatisation. We had emphasised in MYTO-2 the responsibilities of discos to meter customers which is world best practices and we also recognise that metering is capital intensive and there be will financial issues around metering.

33. Nigeria: FG Targets 30,000MW of Renewable Electricity in 10 Years | This Day

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405200484.html>

By Chineme Okafor, 20 May 2014

The federal government has disclosed a grand plan to supplement on-grid electricity generation and distribution across Nigeria with renewable energy sources like solar, hydro, wind and biomass. Minister of State for Power, Mohammed Wakil, disclosed this to visiting Vice- President of China Hydro International, Mr. Han Yang, recently in his office in Abuja. He said that government's plan to boost on-grid electricity was intended to ensure an in-country generation of 30,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity across Nigeria in next 10 years.

The Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, had earlier hinted that the ministry was ready to tap into the expertise developed by the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) in the design and production of renewable energy components.

Wakil noted that Nigeria has opted to swiftly join the worldwide trend of harnessing clean energy from her wind, solar and hydro resources and that President Goodluck Jonathan was determined to explore all means to address the power challenges of the country.

"As we are conversing now, we have concluded work on the National Policy on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. The policy will harness and provide focal point for all national efforts on renewable energy.

This is in line with the commitment of the president to the Economic Community for West Africa (ECOWAS) as well as the need for us as a nation to diversify our sources of power supply," Wakil said. He further stated: "We are committed to driving the president's agenda, his vision of a Nigeria where in the next one decade, more than 30,000MW of electricity will be generated from renewable sources. It is to that end that we are also working on the presidential initiative on renewable energy for power generation. This is to provide the needed political support at the highest level of government for local and foreign investment and drive in solar, wind, small hydro and bio mass power."

He explained that the government's policy thrust on renewable energy generation was aimed at displacing Morocco which is the leading country with wind power generation in Africa.

"As at today, Morocco is the leading wind power country in Africa. Nigeria hopes to surpass that North African country before long. We are at an advance stage on the Katsina wind farm which will soon be completed.

Other parts of the country are great areas for wind and solar power. The draft renewable energy policy that we just finalised when finally approved will provide an integrated framework for all stakeholders especially investors in clean energy power generation."

Meanwhile, Nebo who visited two of the project locations of NASENI in Karshi, Abuja, and Gada-Mada in Nasarawa State stated that the agency has grown its expertise in the development of renewable energy sources like solar and small hydro.

He explained that with NASENI's strides in renewable energy generation, the government was confident of attaining a 10 per cent renewable energy generation target set for year 2020.

While observing that that NASENI has an impressive due diligence methodology and quality control mechanism to limit the use of sub-standard solar powered facilities in the country, Nebo said: "NASENI should be given all it takes for it to harness its potentials for solar and small hydro, as a way of growing the nation's renewable energy mix, adding that such off-grid energy could be deployed to provide power to the rural areas."

34. Nigeria: FG to Attract Investments in Power Sector - - Nebo | Vanguard

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405230268.html>

23 May 2014

The Federal Government will continue to create the enabling environment to attract investment in the power sector for efficient generation and distribution, the Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, has said.

Nebo said in Awka that there has been a lot of improvement in power generation despite the challenges in the sector. He said this was as a result of the successful privatisation programme in the sector which was concluded about six months ago.

Nebo said that vandalism and poor gas supply remained a big challenge to growth in the sector.

The federal government, he said, is already applying effective measures to check the menace, and assured that all would soon be a thing of the past. The minister said he was certain that power generation and distribution companies could drive the sector without financial constraints as they had the resources to do so. He further called for equal emphasis on distribution as against generation where most investment interest had been directed.

"The federal government is already tackling the challenges of vandalism which is actually shutting out gas supply with the deployment of high-tech protection systems. We are also trying to stabilise the market as well as the national grid itself. The Gencos and Discos cannot say they do not have the finance to drive the power sector because they promised they could do so.

"What the government is doing now, is to create enabling environment by attracting financial institutions from all over the world and multinational development partners to come to their aid. The major trend is that these investors prefer to fund Gencos as opposed to Discos, and in a matter of time both would be getting fair share," he said.

35. Nigeria: FG Upbeat On Good Power Supply As June Supply Deadline Nears | This Day

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405200488.html>

By Chineme Okafor, 20 May 2014

The federal government has said that it will live up to its pledge to improve on-grid power supply to Nigerians before the end of the first quarter of 2014. The government had shortly after privatising successor generation and distribution companies created from the unbundling of defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), set a June deadline for new investors to improve supply of generated electricity across Nigeria.

Speaking on the possibility or otherwise of meeting government's electricity supply deadline come June ending, Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo stated recently in Abuja that the stakeholders in the power were determined to deliver on the presidential directive.

Nebo to this end stated at a meeting with operators in Nigeria's Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) that such plans to meet up with June deadline was designed to ensure that no eligible electricity consumer in Nigeria is left in darkness by the expiration of the deadline.

At the meeting held at the headquarters of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) in Abuja, Nebo tasked NERC as the standard bearer in the new electricity regime to provide the lead in revamping Nigeria's rural electrification policy framework to allow private sector player to participate in providing off-grid electricity to far-flung rural communities in the country.

While speaking on measure that have been taken to meet up with the June deadline, the minister said on gas-to-power that: "The June deadline is by the corner, Mr. President's word is a bond, we must generate more power, we are prepared to assist all our agencies in making sure that the ball keeps rolling. We can't afford to fail in our duties.

I have firm commitment from my colleague, Minister of Petroleum, Diezani Allison-Madueke that gas would be available, we must ensure synergy in all our operations, all in the three electricity value chains must be happy including our esteemed customers. She has even assured on gas for power that if need be, she will order that gas meant for export is diverted to power."

He added: "On the issue of over-lapping function with sister agencies in the sector, the ministry will leave no stone unturned in filling any gap that is noticed. If there are areas we see that there are obvious gaps, we must close those gaps."

Nebo further assured that so much work has been put in to make gas available to power plants in the country, adding that in a few weeks time, the major pipelines will be able to make enough gas available for use by our plants.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Power, Mohammed Wakil has asked host communities of gas pipelines to collectively provide security for gas pipelines passing through their communities.

Wakil told a steering committee meeting on the Escravos-Lagos Pipeline System (ELPS) that the government will on its part deliver the proposed 14 to 20 megawatts (MW) gas-fired power plant promised to the area while it expects the communities to live out their own part of the bargain.

While enticing the communities with planned project, the minister explained that the ministry will diligently perform its over-sight function in making sure that the project enjoys adequate budgetary provision and political will and that the government will leave no stone un-turned in ensuring speedy completion of the project.

He however reminded that any infraction in the agreement with the government to secure the pipelines will equally affect the project considering that gas to fire the plant will come from the same source and pipeline.

36. Nigeria: Honeywell Partners USTDA on N31 Billion Sagamu IPP | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405300201.html>

May 29, 2014

The Honeywell Group and United States Trade Development Agency (USTDA) have signed a Grant Agreement for a feasibility study on Honeywell's N31 billion Sagamu Independent Power Plant (IPP) project.

The grant was signed by USTDA Director Leocadia Zak and Honeywell Group's Head of Corporate Development and Investment, Dr. Teddy Ngu.

The Sagamu IPP is a phased power plant development intended to address the power needs and in turn stimulate the economic development of the South-western region of Nigeria, with emphasis on Sagamu, Abeokuta and the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway industrial clusters by supplying a mix of captive, embedded and on-grid power generation to provide continuous and reliable power supply in those areas.

The study will also investigate the viability of providing embedded generation capacity to the Ibadan Distribution Company and power evacuation to the National Grid from the Sagamu IPP and would provide a formidable platform to access international finance, world-class technology and service providers.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Dr. Ngu stated that: "Honeywell thanks USTDA for the collaboration, which is coming on the heels of the successful implementation of a similar venture to jointly fund a study for the development of a multi-billion Dollar gas-based industrial complex. This partnership on power is expected to provide substantial support to the development of the Sagamu IPP."

He said the project has a potential to supply up to 140MW of power over the next 5-7 years as the demand for electricity increases in these areas; some of which Honeywell will use in its Foods & Agro-allied Industrial Complex that is being built on 63 hectares of land at the Flowergate Industrial Scheme in Sagamu.

He said the Honeywell Group currently owns and operates a 15MW gas-fired power plant in Apapa and is developing a 500MW Independent Power Plant at Akute Esorun, Ifo LGA, in Ogun State, adding that the Sagamu IPP project is in line with the Honeywell Group's strategic plans to generate 1,000MW of power through a mixed portfolio of captive, embedded and on-grid power generation projects by 2020 and an affirmation of the Group's reputation for engaging in well-meaning, mutually beneficial global partnerships.

37. Nigeria: NERC Tells DISCOs to Close the Metering Gap | Daily Trust

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405210598.html>

By Simon Echewofun Sunday, 20 May 2014

The Chairman/CEO of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, Dr. Sam Amadi, has reiterated the urgency and need to close the metering gap; and at the same time urged for standardization of customer estimation, avoidance of extortion and exploitation by both the utility companies and the customers. "With the wide gap in metering, which was put at 54.8% in 2012, resulting in very high estimation, it became necessary to introduce a temporary measure for billing customers who are not effectively metered."

According to him, Customer Service Standard Regulation on meters stipulates that, "if there is no electricity meter to record electricity usage at a customer's supply address, the Disco must base customer's bill on estimated energy consumption, which is calculated in accordance with a method approved by the Commission."

Basically, estimation should be on verifiable scientific method for monitoring and dispute resolution purpose. It must also be reflective of local consumption pattern and close to an actual reading previously obtained. The Commission's Chairman stated that other basis for consideration in estimation is power availability and issues associated with system losses; that is, commercial losses.

Dr. Sam Amadi enjoined the Discos to intensify metering programs to reduce estimation over medium to long-term. He also warned against the practice by some Discos who apply the unapproved estimation method that is based on averaging billed energy.

On Generation Companies, Dr. Amadi said that amendments were made to the capacity charge after it discovered errors in the generation tariff order, and thereby directed Gencos to recalculate their projected revenues based on the correct figures.

Dr. Amadi said, "Both the capacity and energy payments that were received by the hydro generation plants prior to the correction were inflated," and the correction will not affect their regulated revenue but would rather ensure that tariff falls in line with energy payments.

38. Nigeria: Power - 52 Percent Generation Loss Triggers Tariff Increase in 2014 | Daily Trust

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405280622.html>

By Simon Echewofun Sunday, 28 May 2014

The nation's protracted power generation loss is responsible for a tariff increase in the Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO) from June 2014, records have shown.

Available statistics from the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) on MYTO revealed that a total of 9,061 megawatts was intended to be on the nation's grid by 2014, especially with stable gas supply to generation plants and the 10 National Integrated Power Projects (NIPP) plants coming up on stream. However, NERC Chairman, Dr. Sam Amadi, speaking, Monday, on the current tariff structure effective from Sunday, June 1st said the huge loss in projected 'available generation capacity' caused a further reduction in the reviewed 2014 tariff.

He said: "The well known fact today is that gross availability capacity from the grid as of 31st March review date is 4,306 mw. This is below the 9, 061mw that NERC had, on the basis of all information available to it, projected when MYTO II was set in June 2012.

"This is a 52 percent reduction on projected capacity... The consequence of this loss of available capacity completely outweighs the benefits that were gained from the positive macro-economic indices."

Earlier in his presentation, he stated that, for instance, fixed cost was to be N1,500 for the 2014 MYTO but will still be at N750 from June 1st due to the review, while the Energy Cost will increase by N1 or more for mostly Residential 2 (R2) customers in various Distribution companies (Discos).

39. Nigeria: Senate to Partner DISCOs for Improved Power Supply | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405210981.html>

By Anayo Korie, 21 May 2014

Lagos — The Senate has said that it was ready to work with the newly privatised Electricity Distribution Companies (Discos) and others in the electricity sector to ensure that the privatisation of the sector meets expectation of majority of Nigerians for a much improved and affordable electricity power supply in the country.

Senator Gbenga Obadara, Chairman, Senate Committee on Privatisation and commercialisation, dropped the hint in Lagos Tuesday during an oversight visit of the committee to Eko Electricity Distribution Company. He said the Senate was aware of both the expectations of Nigerians from the newly privatised electricity companies as well as the constraints still bedevilling the sector.

Obadara also said energy theft and vandalism still constituted one of the major challenges facing the companies.

Furthermore, he said while the Senate would always want to protect the interest of Nigerians to ensure that they are not exploited by the new companies, the Upper Chamber would also facilitate the existence of a conducive atmosphere for the new companies to operate without any hindrance.

The Senator said the new companies could not be left alone to tackle the problems they were facing considering the pervasive influence of electricity in the socio-economic life of the nation.

Also speaking during the visit, a member of the committee, Senator Atai Aidoko Alli called for a partnership between the Distribution Companies, security agencies and state ministries of justice for the setting of anti -vandalism/energy theft task force and mobile courts that would mete out instant trial and justice to those caught in the illegal act of energy theft and vandalism of power facilities.

Earlier, a director of the company, Dr. Tunji olowolafe, admitted that there is a lot of work to be done to meet the power needs of Nigerians.

He commended Federal State, local governments including the host communities for the cooperation by allowing private sector involvement in the development of the power sector.

He said that the company has deployed about \$150 million from core investors fund to strengthen power infrastructure in the company.

40. Tanzania: 2nd Round of Off-Grid Energy Challenge Finally Takes Off | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405270194.html?viewall=1>

27 May 2014

EIGHTEEN grants of up to USD \$100,000 each will be awarded to companies, organisations and individuals providing off-grid solutions which deploy renewable resources and power economic activities in their respective communities.

Earlier this month, GE Africa, teamed up with the US African Development Foundation (USADF) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to launch the Second Round of the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge.

The three-year initiative will award 25 or more grants of up to \$100,000 each to African companies and organisations providing off-grid solutions that deploy renewable resources and power economic activities. This increases by 18 the number of grant recipients and expands the countries in scope to 6. The first six grants, totalling \$600,000, were awarded in the Challenge's first round in 2013; five companies and one university already are expanding their operations and testing the feasibility of new models for delivering power to under served communities.

3 Kenyan winners: Solar World (EA) Limited, Afrisol Energy Limited and Mibawa Suppliers each received \$ 100,000 in the first round of the Off-Grid Challenge in November last year. Solar World (EA) Limited submitted a proposal to construct 5 solar powered water points in Samburu County in Northern Kenya. Afrisol Energy Limited's entry was a proposal for the construction of a biodigester to produce electricity and biogas in the slums of Nairobi, while Mibawa Suppliers Limited proposal was to distribute IndiGo lights to replace kerosene lamps for low-income households in rural areas.

Trans Africa Gas and Electric, PLC, GVE Projects Limited Afe Babalola University emerged winners In Nigeria. The Off-Grid Challenge is part of Power Africa, President Obama's initiative to increase access to reliable, affordable, cleaner and more sustainable power in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Power Africa is also helping ensure responsible, transparent and effective management of energy resources in Sub-Saharan Africa. The challenge aims to benefit rural and urban populations currently under served by existing utility companies in the six Power Africa countries consisting of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

It will be happening for the first time in Ethiopia and Tanzania. Speaking at a news briefing in Abuja to announce the call for proposals, President and CEO of GE Africa Jay Ireland said "GE is working with public and private sector stakeholders to provide sustainable, decentralised ways to power more of Africa," said Mr Ireland.

"Africans know what works in their communities and this competition encourages these local solutions to power challenges." Shari Berenbach, President and CEO of the US African Development Foundation, commended the business leadership of African companies and organisations that are getting power into areas not reached by the traditional grid.

"USADF and Power Africa are looking to tap innovative business models to increase access to reliable, affordable energy for more Africans.



USADF, with its focus on economic development from the grassroots level and African-led and managed projects, is pleased to lead this initiative to help reach these communities who need power as much as anyone else," Ms Berenbach stated.

USAID is working to pool and leverage commitments of governments and private sector partners and is providing the tools needed to overcome the barriers that have constrained Africa's power sector and its economic growth and development.

USAID's Andrew Herscowitz who serves as President Obama's Coordinator for Power Africa and Trade Africa, said "Through this grant challenge, we are pleased to be impacting Africans directly, so more people can be powering their enterprises and lighting up their shops, offices, schools, health clinics and homes.

With these mini- and off-grid solutions, Power Africa continues to leverage the possibilities and know-how on the ground with US government and private sector resources to truly grow African communities, cities and the continent."

The Off-Grid Challenge, funded by GE Africa, USADF and USAID, will promote innovative solutions that further develop, scale-up or extend the use of proven technologies for off-grid renewable energy. The focus is on delivering power for productive and commercial activities.

When the programme was initially announced in 2013, six winners were selected - three each from Nigeria and Kenya. One of last year's winners, Green Village Electricity (GVE), has started its solar-powered generation plant, which is providing electricity for 1,500 members of Egbeke Community in Rivers state, Nigeria.

African-owned and -operated businesses or organisations that are developing their own technologies and/or acquiring and installing technology developed elsewhere, are eligible to apply. Initiatives from energy service providers, community associations and private companies that are developing energy enabling technology will be strongly considered.

41. Tanzania: Gas Policy Highlights Transparency | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405190519.html>

May 17, 2014

Dodoma — THE 2013 Natural Gas Policy states that the formation and implementation of the Natural Gas Fund will highlight transparency, distribution consumption and good governance in funds collected from sales.

This was said by the Deputy Minister of Energy and Minerals, Stephen Masele, when he was responding to a question from Igagula Member of Parliament Engineer, Rashid Mfutakamba (CCM).

The legislator wanted to know what plans government has in managing the sale of natural gas through the formation of Sovereign Wealth Fund.

"To ensure total transparency, operational principals will be passed through national dialogue on the use and control on the funds," said the deputy minister. Mr Masele said that the fund will have operational principles will take into consideration needs of the country, adding that it will ensure it involves plans and development

activities. The deputy minister said that one of the targets of the fund is to ensure that the natural resources benefit current and future generations.

He further said that because natural gas does not last forever, the 2003 Natural Gas Policy has ensured that the controlling principles include transparency and national dialogue, adding that it will fall under the Bank of Tanzania.

42. Tanzania: TPSF forms firm to take part in oil, gas economy

The Guardian Reporter

Source URL: <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=68030>

May 20, 2014

In efforts to increase the participation of local people in the country's economy, particularly oil and natural gas, a new company has been formed.

Known as the Tanzania Oil and Gas Corporation PLC, it is the brainchild of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), according to a statement availed to The Guardian yesterday and signed by the TPSF Chairman, Dr Reginald Mengi.

Dr Mengi said the aim is to ensure that Tanzanians get the opportunity to participate, own and invest in all fields of mining, oil and natural gas, from upstream to downstream, through the company.

He said in order to ensure that most Tanzanians own shares in the company one of the conditions set out is to restrict an individual, group of people, company or related companies to own more than five percent of all its shares.

He said Tanzania Oil and Gas Corporation PLC will inform the public on how the shares can be obtained once it is ready to start work.

"We hope that this company will invest in capacity building, value and supply chain in oil as well as natural gas. The company is for Tanzanians; thus it is free to partner with foreign companies whenever necessary," Dr Mengi said, adding:

"We believe that by doing so we will increase opportunities, the capacity and participation of Tanzanians in oil and natural gas."

He explained that the TPSF made efforts to meet with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Parliamentary Committee on Energy and Minerals and the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Industry and Trade on possibilities of the company to collaborate with the Tanzania Petroleum Corporation (TPDC).

He explained that the aim was for them to invest in natural gas exploration on plots set aside to be developed in future, such as plots number 4/1B and 4/1C.

Mengi noted that the objective of the company is not to take over the role of TPDC, but to collaborate with it as it works with foreign investors.