

## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE REXEL FOUNDATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION TEAM UP TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR ENERGY ACCESS

The Rexel Foundation will be presenting today at a webinar entitled *Energy Efficiency for Energy Access: Appliance Efficiency in Resource-Constrained Settings*, initiated by the United Nations Foundation. As part of a series of three webinars, this session aims to debate the importance of appliance efficiency as a key driver of energy access. It results from a partnership between the Rexel Foundation for a better energy future, the United Nations Foundation's Energy Access Practitioner Network and the Clean Energy Solutions Center.

Today, energy efficiency is widely recognized as the world's "first fuel" for its proven ability to avoid energy use, allowing us not only to improve our energy security globally, but also supporting improved access to energy for disadvantaged populations, helping us to lower our energy bills and giving us the means to meet the climate goals set at the recent COP21 conference in Paris this past December.

Pascale Giet, Vice-Chairman of the Rexel Foundation for a better energy future said: *"More than 1.1 billion people around the world still don't have access to electricity. With this in mind, Rexel and its Foundation for a Better Energy Future work day in day out to bring concrete responses to these challenges. In particular, we believe that energy efficiency is a major opportunity to eliminate energy waste, lower energy bills, and rethink practices."*

*"Appliance efficiency is key to optimize global energy consumption as users have a direct grasp on them. Widespread efficient appliances can have a strong positive impact on the entire electricity value chain by reducing demand or demand growth"*, also commented Franck Legardeur, Rexel Group Energy Efficiency Marketing Director.

By attending the webinar, participants will learn how energy efficient appliances drive better access to energy based on the shared experiences of the Rexel Group and the Rexel Foundation in Asia.

#### About the Rexel Foundation

The Rexel Foundation for a better energy future was founded in May 2013 by the Rexel Group, a global leader in the professional distribution of products and services for the energy world, under the aegis of the Fondation de France. The Rexel Foundation's mission is to promote access to energy efficiency for all based on three key pillars: to improve understanding and raise awareness of energy efficiency; to encourage innovation through research and education, and to support community projects across the world in partnership with NGOs, social entrepreneurs and other key stakeholders. Since its inception it has positively impacted over 100,000 people through 40 initiatives.

#### About Rexel Group

Rexel, a global leader in the professional distribution of products and services for the energy world, addresses three main markets - residential, commercial and industrial. The Group supports its customers to be at their best in running their business, by providing a broad range of sustainable and innovative products, services and solutions in the field of technical supply, automation and energy management. Rexel operates through a network of some 2,100 branches in 35 countries, with c. 28,000 employees. The Group's sales were €13.5 billion in 2015.

Rexel is listed on the Eurolist market of Euronext Paris (compartment A, ticker RXL, ISIN code FR0010451203). It is included in the following indices: SBF 120, CAC Mid 100, CAC AllTrade, CAC AllShares, FTSE EuroMid, STOXX600. Rexel is also part of the following SRI indices: DJSI Europe,

FTSE4Good Europe & Global, EURO STOXX Sustainability, Euronext Vigeo Europe 120 and ESI Excellence Europe. Finally, Rexel is included on the Ethibel EXCELLENCE Investment Register in recognition of its performance in corporate social responsibility (CSR). For more information, visit Rexel's web site at [www.rexel.com](http://www.rexel.com)

#### **About the United Nations Foundation**

The United Nations Foundation builds public-private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems, and broadens support for the United Nations through advocacy and public outreach. Through innovative campaigns and initiatives, the Foundation connects people, ideas, and resources to help the UN solve global problems. The Foundation was created in 1998 as a U.S. public charity by entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner and now is supported by global corporations, foundations, governments, and individuals.

#### **About the Energy Access Practitioner Network**

As a part of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the UN Foundation-led Energy Access Practitioner Network promotes universal access to modern energy services. With more than 2,000 members, the Network focuses on decentralized low-carbon household and community-level electrification. It supports innovative financial and business models in predominantly market-based applications that also help address development issues related to income generation, health, agriculture, education, small business, and telecommunications. For more information, visit [www.energyaccess.org](http://www.energyaccess.org).

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