CLEAN ENERGY MINI-GRIDS NEWSLETTER

July 2017 Edition

FEATURES

Providing Electricity to Myanmar's Communities Away from the Grid

By: Ruchi Soni, Energy Specialist, The World Bank

Ma Khine, a mother of four, talks about how the installed solar mini-grids in the Myin Chi Naing village in Myanmar electrify the streetlight that make her feel safer. Her friends excitedly share how the electricity powered pesticide sprays save them time and effort in their farms. Another villager in the Ton Lon Village proudly displays how the diesel mini-grid powers a submersible water pump from a 200-foot well. These are just some of the stories that were shared with the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) during a jointly organized event on 'Upscaling Mini-Grids for Least-Cost and Timely Access to Electricity Services', held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Read more

Microgrids, Mini-grids, and Nanogrids: An Emerging Access Solution Ecosystem

By: Peter Asmus, Principal Research Analyst, Navigant Research
Adam Wilson, Research Analyst, Navigant Research

Navigant Research has been tracking the microgrid market since 2009, publishing its first Microgrid Deployment Tracker in 2011. While a dynamic process - due to the lack of reporting requirements for microgrids of any kind and the lingering ambiguity of what is and is not a microgrid - this is the only tally of globally deployed microgrids published by any research or government organization. The data collected during this process provides insights into the most common application segments, regional differences, preferred resource mixes, and emerging company partnerships.

Now in its 12th edition, Navigant's Microgrid Deployment Tracker 2Q17 covers seven microgrid segments and six principal geographies. As of this update, some 1,842 projects (some of which represent country or company portfolios of projects) are listed in the Tracker, with a total capacity of 19,279.4 MW and covering 135 countries.

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POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

India: New National Energy Policy Redefines Rural "Electrification", Sees States Taking Lead
By: Aditya Ramji and William Brent, Power for All

India has put forward a sweeping roadmap for its energy future, including the role it foresees for distributed renewables as it moves to create universal electricity access by 2022 and an energy revolution by 2040, by which time India's population will be about 1.6 billion, with electricity demand expected to increase 4.5 fold from 2012 levels. The draft National Energy Policy (NEP) has said that 100% electrification is a "main plank" of the policy, acknowledging that "lack of access to electricity in homes marks a failure of the country's energy policies and impacts education, health and economic development, especially in rural India."

Philippines: Draft Licensing Rules for Microgrid Systems
The Energy Regulatory Commission issued the first draft of the "Licensing Rules for Distributed Energy Resources (DER) and Microgrid Systems" as an addendum to the "2014 Certificate of Compliance Rules for Generation Companies, Qualifed End-Users and Entities with Self-Generation Facilities."

Nigeria: Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) Regulations for Mini-Grids Approved
The Nigerian parliament has approved guidelines for how its national electricity regulator, NERC, should regulate mini-grids. According to the BNEF Frontier Power Market Outlook Q2, Sierra Leone is considering similar regulations.

TOOLS & RESOURCES

(Webinar) Tools and Resources for Scaling-up Mini/Micro-Grids in Tanzania

The United Nations Foundation (UNF) Energy Access Practitioner Network (EAPN), in partnership with the Clean Energy Solutions Center, hosted this webinar on July 17th to highlight new tools and resources available to mini-grid developers in Tanzania. The webinar featured tutorials on the Mini-Grid Information Portal launched by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Tanzania Energy Access Mapping soon to be launched by the World Resources Institute (WRI).

AfDB Green Mini-Grid Market Development Programme - Mini-Grid Market Opportunity Assessments

The first phase of the Green Mini-Grid Market Development Programme (GMG MDP) included the creation of a mini-grid market opportunity assessment methodology to generate comparable data across countries, guiding GMG developers geographically and to where resources, markets and policies are most beneficial. An initial inventory and analysis of currently existing assessment methodologies was conducted and built upon, and four countries' market assessments are now available:

- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- Mozambique

New Open-Source Analytics Tool From the World Bank to Support Electrification Planning

A new open-source web-based application has been launched to support the efforts of governments, investors, companies, development organizations, and others planning to bring electricity to more households and to accelerate affordable, reliable, sustainable energy for all. The open data and analytics resource called ENERGYDATA.INFO was developed by the World Bank, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

NEWS

AfDB Approves SEFA Contribution for Phase 2 of the Green Mini-Grid Market Development Program to Scale-up Energy Access in Africa

The African Development Bank's Board of Directors approved a US $3-million grant of the Bank's Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) for Phase 2 of the Green Mini-Grid Market Development Programme (GMG MDP). Implemented by the Bank-hosted SEforALL Africa Hub, the GMG MDP's objective is to support the scale-up of investments in commercially viable projects, seeks to remove or reduce market barriers at regional scale, and strengthen the ecosystem for the emergence of a thriving GMG sector in Sub-Sharan Africa - contributing significantly to the objectives of SEforALL and the New Deal on Energy for Africa.

Engie Invests in Off-Grid Solar Specialists in Guatemala and India

French utility and renewable energy developer, Engie, is investing in Kingo Energy, a provider of clean energy in Latin America and Africa. Engie's investment aims to bring renewable energy to over 1.5 million people who are currently off-grid in Latin America by 2020. Kingo delivers off-grid solar solutions to people in Guatemala offering 'pay as you go' payment options. In the second of a three-part investment, Engie will also join ElectriFi and Insitor in a new round of fundraising for Mera Gao Power (MGP), which builds solar microgrids in off-grid communities in the state of Uttar Pradesh in Nothern India.

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EVENTS

Myanmar Green Energy Summit 2017
August 14-15
Yangon, Myanmar

Intersolar South America
August 22-24
São Paulo, Brazil

5th Microgrid Global Innovation Forum
September 5-6
Barcelona, Spain

2017 International Renewable Energy Conference
September 11-13
Mexico City, Mexico

Unlocking Business Opportunities for Solar Energy in Senegal
September 25-28
Dakar, Senegal

Off-Grid Experts Workshop
September 27-29
Memmingen, Germany

CONTACT US

Send us your suggestions of news, events and updates for the newsletter at minigridnews@unfoundation.org.

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