



ENERGY ACCESS  
**PRACTITIONER  
NETWORK**

**ACUMEN**



### **SPOTLIGHT**

#### **The Practitioner Network Chats with Leslie Labruto, Global Energy Lead, Acumen**

In this issue's interview Spotlight, Acumen's Leslie Labruto and UN Foundation's Jem Porcaro discuss Acumen's newly released Energy Impact Report and the lessons learned from their growing energy portfolio.

**[Watch the Interview](#)**

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **USADF -- All On Nigeria Off-Grid Energy Challenge Call for Proposals |**  
Deadline: 1 March 2018  
The US-African Development Foundation and All On invites proposals for off-grid solutions to “power up” underserved areas of Nigeria. The Off-Grid Energy Challenge was launched in 2013 to bring affordable and renewable energy to rural communities across Africa. The maximum award is US\$ 100,000.
- **WISONS -- Sustainable Energy Project Support Call for Applications |**  
Deadline: 26 February 2018  
Through the supporting scheme SEPS - Sustainable Energy Project Support - WISONS nurtures innovative energy projects that are environmentally, economically and socially sound and fosters knowledge exchanges between practitioners. To date, SEPS has supported 122 projects and exchange activities across the world, illustrating the lessons learned in the field.
- **Sixth Funding Cycle of IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) Project Facility Now Open |** Deadline: 15 February 2018  
The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), is inviting applications for renewable energy projects in developing countries. The current funding cycle offers US\$50 million in concessional loans.  
[Read More](#)



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### **Efficiency for Access Coalition Re-launched to Accelerate Energy Access Through Efficient Appliances**

UK aid, USAID/Power Africa, Rockefeller Foundation, Shell Foundation, Good Energies Foundation, and more join together to promote energy efficient appliances as a powerful catalyst to clean energy access.

### **Azuri Technologies Set for Growth with Innovative \$20M Debt Financing**

Azuri Technologies, a leading provider of PayGo solar products and services across sub-Saharan Africa, announced the launch of its innovative \$20 million off-balance-sheet debt financing program to provide working capital for the expansion of off-grid energy and service provision in East Africa.

### **MPOWERD Hits Major Impact Milestones**

In 2012, the company created their first product: an inflatable solar light called Luci. Since then, they have impacted over 2.6 million lives and averted over 250,000 tones of CO<sub>2</sub>, as well as creating a unique program through which customers can sponsor lights directly to NGO partners called [Give Luci](#).

### **Church Pension Fund Invests \$17 million in SIMA Off-Grid Solar and Financial Access Senior Debt Fund**

The Church Pension Fund invested \$17 million in the Social Investment Managers & Advisors (SIMA) Off-Grid Solar and Financial Access Senior Debt Fund. The \$75 million fund will provide loans to microfinance institutions, distribution companies, and manufacturers in the off-grid solar sector in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

### **Orb Energy Raises More Than \$15 Million USD from FMO and OPIC**

Orb Energy has raised more than \$15 million USD in equity and debt to grown in-house finance facility for rooftop solar for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in India and expand its Kenya operations.

[More Member Highlights](#)



**Featured Resource:**

**"Off-Grid Solar Market Trends Report 2018" released at Global Off-Grid Solar Forum**

The new report by the World Bank Group's Lighting Global Program, Dalberg Advisors and GOGLA finds that the global off-grid solar industry has taken a leap in the past year to help developing countries reach their energy access goals, with off-grid solar providing improved electrification to as many as 360 million people to date. [Read More](#)



**From the Network:**

**Updates from Energy for Displaced People Conference and Other EAPN Updates**

Updates from the Energy for Displaced People Conference in Berlin, February Webinar on Mobilizing Finance, and more. [Read More](#)

## NEW PRACTITIONER NETWORK MEMBERS

Navjivan Foundation · University of Sussex · Brucken Bauen mit der Sonne · APERAS - Association for Promotion of Renewables and Sustainable Environment of Sao Tome and Principe · Brightmerge · FOT-K Consortium · Eureka ESCO · GrunSpider Design Group

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