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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kha Laing Village, Minhla Township, Magway Region, Myanmar

1,100 PEOPLE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FIRST-TIME, 24/7 ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

THROUGH THE KHA LAING MICROGRID PILOT PROJECT IN MYANMAR'S MAGWAY REGION

The project is part of the pilot phase of the rural electrification services project that InfraCo Asia and Electricite de France (EDF) are developing with local partner SolaRiseSys. Prioritising commercial viability, the pilot project will utilise the Anchor-Business-Community (ABC) model to provide first-time, affordable and reliable access to energy to approximately 1,100 people in Kha Laing village.

InfraCo Asia – part of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), EDF and local partner SolaRiseSys, with the support of developer team ICM, held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the future Kha Laing Microgrid project on 27 November 2019.

The Kha Laing Microgrid project is part of the pilot phase to develop and build hybrid solar microgrids in rural Myanmar as announced at the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony between partners, EDF, ICM – as InfraCo Asia's developer team, and SolaRiseSys, held on 7 October 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. The pilot project in Kha Laing village will comprise the construction of approximately 43kW hybrid solar-diesel microgrid with battery storage components which is expected to give first-time, 24/7 access to clean energy to 276 households or 1,100 people.

The project will not be government-subsidised, unlike the majority of off-grid solar projects in Myanmar which are facing challenges of long-term profitability. Through their partnership, InfraCo Asia, EDF and SolaRiseSys aim to establish a commercially viable model of rural electrification using the Anchor-Business-Community (ABC) model whereby the project will supply energy to a telecom tower (Anchor), local businesses (Business), as well as for community use and public utilities (Community). If the ABC model is proven commercially viable in the pilot phase, the partners look to replicate it by rolling out microgrids across multiple sites in rural Myanmar.

The project builds on InfraCo Asia and ICM's positive working relationship with the Magway government and Myanmar's Department for Rural Development (DRD). InfraCo Asia and its developer team, ICM, with the support of the Magway government, are pioneering the development of Myanmar's first utility-scale wind power project in Magway region with the aim of deploying wind power as a viable energy source for sustaining the country's long-term growth.

InfraCo Asia CEO Allard Nooy said, "InfraCo Asia aims to serve as a catalyst for future development in Myanmar's rural electrification sector through its involvement in the Kha Laing Microgrid pilot project."



“Working collaboratively with InfraCo Asia’s developer team, ICM, the partnership that we have established with EDF and local partner SolaRiseSys puts us well on our way to achieving this goal. With EDF’s extensive portfolio of decentralised electricity generation systems and SolaRiseSys’s experience with the implementation and operation of existing rural, microgrid projects in Myanmar, we are well-positioned to demonstrate the commercial viability of the Anchor-Business-Model (ABC) model, which will inspire other firms to invest in the development of the country’s rural electrification services.”

ICM Managing Director Yanis Boudjouher added, “Through the Kha Laing Microgrid pilot project, we have brought together the expertise and willpower needed to create a replicable model that is designed to create sustained, long-term benefit for the people of Myanmar. As InfraCo Asia’s contracted developer for Myanmar, ICM is grateful for the trust and support from our local partner, SolaRiseSys, and international partner, EDF, together with the Magway Chief Minister and his government.”

As a global utility company and a leader in low-carbon electricity solutions, EDF’s ties to Myanmar include the ongoing development of the 670 MW Shweli-3 hydropower project in the northern Shan state.

EDF Director of Business Development (Asia) Yacine Chouabia said, “EDF wants to contribute to the electrification of Myanmar and microgrids are one affordable and sustainable way to give its remote villages reliable access to electricity. As a major global player in decentralised electricity generation systems, our experience and expertise in developing and operating microgrids will be beneficial to Myanmar.”

A well-established player in Myanmar’s solar microgrid industry, SolaRiseSys (SRS) has built and operated dozens of solar microgrid projects in Myanmar to date.

SolaRiseSys Managing Director U Kyaw Min Tun added, “We are excited to mark the beginning of our partnership, as we are making a very positive step that will strengthen the rural electrification programme in Myanmar”.

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Notes on 'Electrification in Myanmar and the Magway Region'

Myanmar is a populous country of over 52 million people. Currently, just over a third of Myanmar's total population is connected to the grid, with 80% of the rural populace lacking access due to their distance from national gridlines and the costliness of grid expansion in these hard-to-access regions.

The Magway region, in particular, presents an optimal location for InfraCo Asia to host its first pilot and test the ABC model of rural electrification. The Magway region experiences the 5th lowest electrification rate in Myanmar, with a population of over 4 million, 85% of which are living in rural areas, and just 25.4% of households connected to the grid. The overall lack of access to electricity in this region presents a clear need to catalyse further development of its energy infrastructure. The roll-out of microgrids in rural villages like Kha Laing village, is expected to improve quality of life for the community and catalyse additional opportunities for economic development.

The Kha Laing Microgrid pilot aims to demonstrate a sustainable and commercially viable solution to the growing rural-urban gap in electrification. This complements the national programme focused on grid expansion and is aligned with Myanmar's target of reaching 100% electrification by 2030.

About InfraCo Asia and ICM

1. InfraCo Asia Development Pte Ltd (InfraCo Asia) is a commercially managed infrastructure development and investment company of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG).
2. Headquartered in Singapore, InfraCo Asia stimulates greater private sector investment in infrastructure in south and south east Asia. InfraCo Asia funds high-risk infrastructure development activities by taking an equity stake with a focus on socially responsible and commercially viable infrastructure projects that contribute to economic growth, social development and poverty reduction. At the appropriate time, either as close as possible to financial close and/or commercial operation, InfraCo Asia aims to (partially or fully, as appropriate) exit each project. It does this through the sale of its stake to the private sector in order to catalyse private sector investment and participation into the projects and countries it is engaged with.
3. Infra Capital Myanmar – ReEx (ICM) is mandated to provide development services for originating, developing and financing highly developmental and commercially viable infrastructure projects in Myanmar, in an exclusive contract under InfraCo Asia’s Developer Services Programme. ICM is headquartered in Singapore and operates out of Yangon where the main office and majority of the team is located. The ICM team is staffed with talents in engineering, project development, financial structuring and capital-raising with local stakeholder engagement expertise.
4. InfraCo Asia is currently funded by four members of the PIDG – the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS), the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
5. InfraCo Asia’s Myanmar programme is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), a member of the PIDG.

For more information, please visit www.infracoasia.com, www.infracapmyanmar-reex.com.

About PIDG

The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) is an innovative infrastructure development and finance organisation which encourages and mobilises private investment in pioneering infrastructure in the frontier markets of sub-Saharan Africa and south and south-east Asia to promote economic development and combat poverty. PIDG delivers its ambition in line with its values of opportunity, accountability, safety, integrity and impact. Since 2002, PIDG has supported 183 infrastructure projects to financial close and provided 243 million people with access to new or improved infrastructure. PIDG is funded by six governments (the UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, Sweden, Germany) and the IFC.

For more information, please visit www.pidg.org.



About EDF

A key player in energy transition, the EDF Group is an integrated electricity company, active in all areas of the business: generation, transmission, distribution, energy supply and trading, energy services. A global leader in low-carbon energies, the Group has developed a diversified generation mix based on nuclear power, hydropower, new renewable energies and thermal energy. The Group is involved in supplying energy and services to approximately 39.8 million customers⁽¹⁾, 29.7 million of which are in France. It generated consolidated sales of €69 billion in 2018. EDF is listed on the Paris Stock Exchange.

(1) The customers were counted at the end of 2018 per delivery site; a customer can have two delivery points: one for electricity and another for gas

About SolaRiseSys

Founded in 2010, SolaRiseSys (SRS) designs, manufactures and installs a complete line of solar power generating systems. As a provider of turnkey solutions, SRS is one of the leading renewable energy companies in Myanmar.

SRS is well-established in Myanmar's solar microgrid industry, having built and operated dozens of solar microgrid projects in Myanmar to date. SRS is also a long-term partner of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as the World Bank programs for rural electrification in Myanmar. SRS also has relevant experience in the telecommunications sector where they have energized more than 150 MPT towers in Myanmar.