



Kha Laing Microgrid Pilot Connects 1,200 People in Myanmar's Magway Region, Providing First-time, 24/7 Access to Electricity

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Kha Laing Village, Minhla Township, Magway Region, Myanmar

The pilot phase of the rural electrification services project aims to demonstrate the commercial viability of the Anchor-Business-Community (ABC) model, providing rural communities in Myanmar with 24/7 access to electricity. The project is being developed by the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) company InfraCo Asia – through its contracted developer team ICM, Electricité de France (EDF) and local partner SolaRiseSys.

InfraCo Asia and Electricité de France (EDF), through InfraCo Asia's contracted developer team ICM and local partner SolaRiseSys, successfully delivered the Kha Laing Microgrid project into commercial operations in January 2021 – providing approximately 1,200 people in the rural Kha Laing village of Minhla Township with first-time, 24/7 access to electricity. A small-scale ceremony was held on site, marking the local teams' success with delivering the project into operations, in spite of supply chain and movement disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Kha Laing Microgrid project is the first mini-grid in Myanmar to be funded without government subsidies, and aims to demonstrate a commercially viable Anchor-Business-Community (ABC) model of rural electrification in Myanmar. The operating project, comprising a 43kW hybrid solar-diesel microgrid with battery storage components, supplies energy to a telecommunications tower as the primary customer (Anchor), two local community centres (Businesses), and 276 households (Community). Through a dedicated e-payment system, households are able to monitor and manage their energy use, as well as purchase electricity at an affordable rate via their mobile phones.

U Htay Naing, Chairman of the Village Electrification Committee said “Kha Laing village is far from the national grid. Before this project, we relied on candles, solar home systems (SHS) and diesel generators and our nights were difficult. With this solar mini-grid system, we can switch on the light whenever we want with less cost, and without having pollution or noise.”

U Win Kying, Kha Laing's Village Administrator added “With 24/7 access to electricity, living conditions and business opportunities are improved. Women are able to set up grocery shops in their house, and sell goods that require refrigeration. Before this project, villagers had to travel to Yaynanma village, which is 5 miles away.”



“While it has been a particularly challenging time for project implementation – determination, perseverance and collaboration from all the teams prevailed in the end. I am very proud of what we have accomplished together and very happy that the village community will receive this essential service,” said Kyaw Min Tun, Managing Director and Founder of SolaRiseSys.

Yanis Boudjouher, Managing Director of ICM added “I would like to thank the Magway Region government and our teams, working across Myanmar and Singapore, for their tireless efforts and commitment towards this project, which has enabled its safe and successful implementation for the benefit of the community.”

In December 2020, PIDG company InfraCo Asia, through ICM, also made a second donation of supplies including personal protective equipment and medical equipment, to help local hospitals and villages combat the second wave of COVID-19 infections in Myanmar. Following the success of the pilot, the project’s joint venture partners are exploring plans to replicate the project’s success across other sites in rural Myanmar.

“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. By demonstrating the commercial viability of the Anchor-Business-Community (ABC) model, we hope to inspire greater private sector investment in the provision of sustainable, rural electrification services across Myanmar,” said Allard Nooy, Chief Executive Officer of InfraCo Asia, a Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) company.

“Myanmar represents many opportunities for the development of micro-grid solutions with our local partners. EDF is capitalising on its extensive expertise in rural electrification at the service of remote or isolated populations who are not connected to the grid. We are very enthusiastic about this project, which is part of EDF’s ambition to support Myanmar in the development of low carbon energy solutions, such as the Shweli 3 hydroelectric power plant project in the country,” said Jean-Philippe Buisson, Senior Vice President of EDF in Asia.

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All media enquiries to:

Nigel Choo

Marketing and Communications Associate

InfraCo Asia Development Pte. Ltd.

T +65 6321 6644

E nigel.choo@infracoasia.com



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 catalyses greater private sector investment in infrastructure across South and South East Asia by providing funding and development expertise. InfraCo Asia funds early-stage development activities to realise socially responsible and commercially viable infrastructure that contributes to sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
3. ICM Asia (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 PIDG – the governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Australia.
5. InfraCo Asia's Myanmar programme is funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), a member of the PIDG.

For more information, please visit www.infracoasia.com, www.icm-asia.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 157 infrastructure projects to financial close and provided 209 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.

PIDG Technical Assistance (TA) can provide technical assistance and capital grants to the PIDG companies to meet a range of needs associated with an infrastructure project's life-cycle. PIDG TA can also provide up-front viability gap funding grants to support PIDG projects that require concessional funding to make a project with strong development impact financeable.

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



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.

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