Somaliland energy storage for renewable energy

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The ESRES programme set out to develop an appropriate policy and regulatory framework. We were responsible for day-to-day programme management, developing regulatory standards and providing technical assistance to private operators as well as the Government of Somaliland. The programme had two phases.

In phase one we successfully ran a pilot project, creating hybrid diesel and solar PV mini grids. This gave the project team essential experience to launch the Somaliland Renewable Energy Fund, to reduce private operators’ financial risk during the construction and start-up phases of renewable power projects. We granted initial investment to six private operators. However, grants came with conditions: they had to commit to lowering their retail price to customers.

We linked the local operators with international engineering, procurement and construction contractors, who could install the PV panels and associated infrastructure, and train operatives to carry out repairs and maintenance. Creating this local-global partnership further reduced the risk profile of the programme, helping the operators move swiftly through project delivery and commissioning to operation and revenue-earning.

For a very poor country there is still a long way to go before electricity becomes widely available and affordable. However, ESRES has made a sizeable contribution. It increased renewables’ share of Somaliland’s energy mix from 1% to 15%. Providing renewable energy instead of using diesel generators is saving approximately 9000t CO2 annually.

ESRES connected 85,000 households and small businesses, and reduced the cost by more than a third, to $0.65/kWh. Bringing electricity to remote communities has improved opportunities for small businesses, education, health and safety.

ESRES has shown that implementing hybrid mini grids in fragile environments can be achieved successfully. The programme has provided valuable lessons that can be applied on projects in vulnerable and fragile locations the world-over – bringing the benefits of clean energy to government, private operators and society alike.

In 1924 Basil Mott highlighted the social progress enabled by infrastructure. His projects are still delivering value, showing why we need a long-term view of the infrastructure we build today, argues James Harris.

Mott MacDonald has been selected by Thames Water to provide multi-disciplinary engineering services under all six Lots of their AMP8 Asset, Capital and Engineering Professional Services Framework.

Mott MacDonald has been appointed by the Mayor of London’s office to deliver the Zero Carbon

Accelerator, a programme aimed at helping organisations decarbonise and achieve London’s net zero target by 2030.

Mott MacDonald, in partnership with GHD and Stantec under the Water2Wire joint venture (JV), has been selected by Queensland Hydro as the dams designer delivery partner for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project.

Thailand’s climate goals are carbon neutrality by 2050, followed by net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is one of the most promising pathways to achieving these targets.

The Asian Development Bank unveiled its energy transition mechanism (ETM) at COP26. ETM is a blended-finance approach that seeks to accelerate the retirement of existing coal-fired power plants and replace them with clean power capacity.

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Web: https://www.sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/
Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com
WhatsApp: 8613816583346