
Global Lighting and Energy Access Program (Global LEAP) LAUNCH ANNOUNCEMENT

Partners aim to reach millions with solar lanterns and other energy access solutions through commercial markets

LONDON, 26 April 2012 – Ten partners launched the Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership, or Global LEAP, a transformative new collaboration to catalyze markets for off-grid energy products and services. Global LEAP is a voluntary partnership that includes regional market development efforts, a global quality assurance framework, global awards to spur product development, and a set of commonly agreed guiding principles.

The ten partners include the U.S. Department of Energy, Italy's Ministry of Land and Sea, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the UN Foundation, the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the African Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility, the UN Development Program, and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry. In addition, over 100 private sector and civil society organizations affirmed support for Global LEAP, and its guiding principles.

As a key next step to bolster regional market development, representatives from the Italian and U.S. governments also announced today that they would put \$4.5 million USD to work to launch "Lighting India". Under this effort, funded through the Solar LED lighting initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial, at least two million people in India will benefit from modern, clean lighting by 2015.

The Lighting India initiative will be implemented by the IFC and is an expansion of the successful Lighting Africa program, which has already enabled the sale of 500,000 affordable, quality-assured off-grid lighting systems benefiting an estimated 2.5 million people without access to electricity.

"Global LEAP is helping bring a basic energy service to people who need it – providing affordable efficient lighting for homes that aren't connected to a power grid. Off-grid consumers in developing countries deserve the same performance that we expect from grid-connected appliances." said U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu.

"IFC is committed to working with our partners to increase energy access to provide clean lighting to India's rural population," said IFC Director Thomas Davenport said. IFC is an implementation partner for the Lighting India program, helping address market barriers to scaling up clean energy access.

The program's expansion to India is one of the commitments made to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Sustainable Energy for All initiative (SE4All). SE4All has three interlinked

objectives – improve global energy efficiency, double the share of renewable energy in the global mix, and ensure universal access to energy by 2030. Modern LED lighting as a substitute for kerosene-based lighting is an integral part of the initiative. It also complements other efforts for grid-extension by leveraging the private sector to enter commercially attractive market segments, thereby offering the poor immediate improvements in their living standards and a first step towards full electrification.

In the past three years, the cost for an equivalent LED lantern has dropped from \$80 to \$30. While costs have decreased, quality issues with LED lighting are hurting consumers and slowing market development. To date, 29 products have been quality assured based on results from the Lighting Africa Quality Test Method. Lighting India will have a similarly strong focus on quality assurance. Several solar powered LED lights made by India-based companies have already been tested under the Lighting Africa program.

In addition to Lighting India's launch, Global LEAP partners have announced a new product awards competition for low-cost super-efficient off-grid appliances (e.g. DC-powered light bulbs and televisions). Entry rules for manufacturers will be available later this year with awards to be given to winners in 2013.

Given the rapid increase of off-grid lighting solutions in the market, Clean Energy Ministerial partners are working with the International Electrotechnical Commission in Geneva to turn a revised version of test methods developed initially under the Lighting Africa program into the foundation for a sustainable international quality assurance framework. Governments and program implementers can use this method to establish minimum quality and performance requirements of solar and LED products.

These Global LEAP programs signal the momentum the Sustainable Energy for All initiative has gained since it launched in January. Earlier this month, the European Commission, the European Union's executive branch of government, announced an Energizing Development Initiative (EDI) to assist developing countries in providing access to energy services for 500 million people by 2030. EDI will also create a world-leading Technical Assistance Facility worth 50 million euros, drawing upon EU experts to develop technical expertise in developing countries.

For information on the Clean Energy Ministerial, visit: www.cleanenergyministerial.org

For information on the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, visit: www.sustainableenergyforall.org

For information on Lighting Africa, visit: www.lightingafrica.org

About IFC : IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector. We help developing countries achieve sustainable growth by financing investment, providing advisory services to businesses and governments, and mobilizing capital in the international financial markets. In fiscal 2011, amid economic uncertainty across the globe, we helped our clients create jobs, strengthen environmental performance, and contribute to their local communities—all while driving our investments to an all-time high of nearly \$19 billion. For more information, visit www.ifc.org

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