GCRF
Global Challenges Research Fund

Energy Catalyst Mission to Myanmar
Focus on developing energy technologies

Saturday 6 - Friday 12 July 2019

Funded by UK Government

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INNOVATE UK

Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency, part of United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) since April 2018, drives productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas.

It connects businesses to the partners, customers and investors that can help them turn ideas into commercially successful products, services and business growth.

Innovate UK also funds business and research collaborations to accelerate innovation and drive business investment into R&D.

THE ENERGY CATALYST (ROUND 7)

The Energy Catalyst is a collaborative research and development grant programme run by innovate UK, which aims to support highly innovative, market-focused energy solutions in any technology, sector or international market. The programme is open to any technology which meets the needs of poor households, businesses and services in Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia as well as the energy trilemma of low cost, low carbon and secure energy. Round 7 of the programme launched on 17th June and closes on 18th September 2019. This round is being funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Department for International Development (DFID).

The aim of this mission is to help organisations that are interested in applying to get a better understanding of the specific energy access issues in Myanmar as well as meet in country organisations which might be interested in partnering in an application for round 7.

MISSION MANAGERS – INNOVATE UK

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Alice is an Innovation Lead for the Energy Team at Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation.

She is responsible for running the Energy Catalyst programme which is a collaborative research and development fund for energy technologies tackling the energy trilemma, as well as the energy access needs in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Round 7 of the Energy Catalyst opened for applications on 17th June 2019 and has a total of £22m available from Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and DFID.

Alice has worked for Innovate UK for nearly four years and has run a diverse range of programmes from nuclear protective operator equipment to solar innovation as part of the European errant co-fund. Before Innovate UK, she was running a scheme buying renewable power of 800 micro generators.

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Janet is the Head of Asia and ODA Portfolio at Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation.

She is overall responsible for Innovate UK's engagement with countries in the Asia Pacific region, as well as for programmes funded through the UK Government's Aid budget, including the **Global Challenges Research Fund** (GCRF) and the **Newton Fund**.

Janet has worked for Innovate UK for over five years and has broad experience in facilitating international collaboration on business-led innovation, as well as in delivering international development. Janet lived and worked in India for over 10 years, working for KPMG as well as various non-profit organisations working at the community level on issues ranging from energy access to water and sanitation.

MISSION MANAGER – LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (LCCI)

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Vanessa Vlotides is the Head of the International Business Team and the Manager of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) at London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

She is responsible for the supervision of the EEN project and for leading the International Business Team's trade mission and event schedule. In a typical year, her team is responsible for 10–12 overseas trade delegations and the organisation of 30 international trade events to increase UK participation, especially from SMEs, in cross-border trade.

Vanessa has a broad experience in international trade obtained through her studies (tri–national Masters in International Business), her current position and previous roles which include five years as Director of International Affairs at the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece (2006 – 2011) and 12 years in International Sales in the private sector (1994 – 2006).

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

AVONWOOD DEVELOPMENTS LTD

CHARM IMPACT

DWR OFFSHORE LTD

FRONTIER TECHNICAL

GREEN FUELS RESEARCH LTD

INVESTINGREEN.ENERGY

ION VENTURES LTD

IPEC LTD

MODULARITY GRID

OAK TEC

SMARTER MICROGRID LTD

S&AO LTD

STRAW INNOVATIONS LTD

TERRA POWER LTD

ULSTER UNIVERSITY

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Avonwood Developments Ltd design and build systems targeted towards safety, security and asset management applications, across a number of industrial sectors, including the Home Office, recycling, ports, manufacturing, construction and logistics. Avonwood has strong in-house production and engineering teams which provide both development and support for the company's range of products and services.

Avonwood's bestselling ZoneSafe system, provides proximity warning alerts for the protection of people, where vehicle and pedestrian separation isn't possible. The ZoneSafe system has been enhanced over many years by the in-house engineering team at Avonwood. Always looking to new innovations, the team have also been responsible for collaborations in the rail industry, looking at innovative ways to improve the detection and monitoring of rail track defects.

With InnovateUK funding from the Energy Catalyst round 4 fund, the collaboration of Avonwood Developments, Avanti Communications and the University of Portsmouth led to a ground-breaking corrosion monitoring system for the renewable energy market (iWindCr). We are now in a position to take our proven prototype design (TRL 6) to a commercial product (TRL 9). As part of the project we reviewed the renewable energy generation industry in detail, identifying the Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia regions as the biggest growing markets. With the envisaged changes to the maintenance business model that our system could bring, a reduction in operating costs can be realised, making power generation more affordable and therefore more accessible to poorer regions.

OBJECTIVES

To identify and make initial contact with companies and government bodies that can help to open market access in the renewable energy market within Myanmar and into the wider Asia area.

CHARM IMPACT

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Charm is developing a platform to facilitate investment in sustainable clean energy projects in emerging markets. Projects are identified through a partnership model between Charm and local partners. All partner companies are enabling a low cost, low carbon source of secure energy but are unable to deploy their solutions without access to working capital financing. Initial projects are small scale (between $10,000 - $30,000) with an expectation that successful project repayments will result in follow on projects of a larger ticket size.

Charm is currently researching potential use cases for capturing and disseminating operational and impact data using a blockchain based system in an off-grid environment. Additionally, work is being done to develop a foreign exchange hedging mechanism for early stage companies, to enable loans to be made in local currencies, whilst providing investor protection.

Inherent in Charm's business model is the need to understand local markets and to create partnerships for success. This enables a tailored approach across geographies that works for the local entrepreneurs operating in these markets and encourages a locally empowered bottom-up development approach that contributes to economic growth.

OBJECTIVES

To develop our network in a region where there is a great opportunity to support early stage energy access ventures, whilst learning specific challenges that local entrepreneurs and the wider industry face.

DWR OFFSHORE LTD

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DWR offers world class engineering design services, coupled with our own floating vertical axis tidal instream system. We believe harvesting hydrokinetic energy is an attractive solution to the renewable sector which guarantees predictable energy supply, unlike wind, wave or solar technologies. Our product was incepted during the first year of incorporation, when we saw opportunities to develop a low cost, low maintenance floating vertical axis instream tidal device. This device will provide clean power to off-grid communities or small villages/towns worldwide using ocean or river flow energy, thereby reducing reliance on expensive diesel fuel generators.

The founders of DWR have vast experience in offshore engineering, having delivered multi-million-dollar EPC projects within the floating oil and gas sector. This expertise, along with a passion for renewable solutions, makes DWR an ideal candidate for the Energy Catalyst Mission

OBJECTIVES

Understand power consumption for off-grid communities, towns and cities, and substantiate the costs of fossil fuels versus renewable power.

Meet government ministers and local decision makers in order to discuss their commitment to meet carbon emission reduction targets.

Meet potential partners who share our synergy and passion for implementing instream tidal energy and forge working partnerships.

Identify and gather site data on potential sites to implement our system.

FRONTIER TECHNICAL

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Frontier Technical is a micro SME that started in 2015 and developed an innovative concept for rapid construction of large floating platforms using modular inter-connectable structural sub-assemblies. The MARLIN System, Subsea Tug and Energy Transfer Shuttle will enable electrically powered remote construction and the transfer of high-density stored energy to be provided to coastal communities without the need for underwater cables. These will enable balancing of local mini-grid systems, optimise the 'Energy Mix' and address peak demand challenges. The use of the modules enables construction in remote coastal areas, and in poorer areas having limited infrastructure. With moderate investment and a system designed for operation and maintenance by local communities this will bring significant improvements to quality of life and opportunities to develop commercial enterprises in the most deprived areas.

Frontier Technical has developed a new approach to the practical and cost-effective addition of floating offshore wind to the 'Energy Mix' of mini grids enabling a reduction of reliance upon fossil fuelled power generation.

OBJECTIVES

- Better understand energy access issues in Myanmar and plans to tackle them.
- Understand the skills and capabilities of representative coastal communities in Myanmar.
- To gain an awareness of the severity of extreme weather events likely to be experienced in the waters adjacent to the coastline where floating offshore wind might be desirable.
- To meet local companies and government departments, academia relevant to the implementation of our platform.

GREEN FUELS RESEARCH LTD

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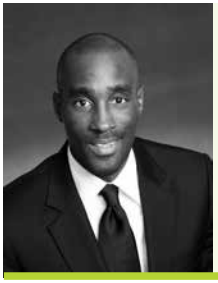
The GF Group is engaged in the fight against climate change. We aim to have a disproportionate impact on greenhouse gas reduction through the projects we operate, the technologies we develop and the equipment that we sell, without harm to the environment. We will make money as we do so, and create shareholder value, but we will measure our success by the carbon we save. Green Fuels Research (GFR) is the innovation arm of the group, carrying out translational research in renewable fuels and bioenergy.

Green Fuels supplies high-quality biorefineries sized to be located near the feedstock source, allowing for the production of sustainable biodiesel in local markets with a focus on waste-derived fuels. This decentralized approach gives our customers cost and logistical advantages over traditional large centralized biodiesel plants. Customers use their waste-derived fuel for a variety of purposes, including power generation, road and rail transport. Green Fuels Research has engaged in more than 20 research projects from feedstock development (novel crops for developing markets) and agricultural waste valorisation to novel fuel chemistries and sustainable fuels for aviation and marine transport. We are engaged in projects in Latin America to sustainably reforest degraded land and introduce circular-economy energy systems.

OBJECTIVES

To understand the needs and opportunities in Myanmar; to identify potential partners for an EC7 project.



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InvestinGreen.Energy is a socially responsible renewable energy project developer which creates infrastructure and access to energy for developing nations and communities.

We work with an established network of family offices, infrastructure funds and institutional investors to arrange finance solutions to develop renewable energy projects which act as a catalyst for social development.

InvestinGreen.Energy delivers sustainable renewable energy projects which support the development needs of local communities. We leverage renewable energy production and technologies to deliver community infrastructure and empower local communities to implement sustainable renewable energy solutions.

We bring together a multidisciplinary team of experts from across 3 continents to meet the specific requirements of each renewable energy project. We combine local knowledge and technological expertise with access to a network of family offices, infrastructure funds and institutional investors to ensure renewable energy projects are both sustainable and act as a catalyst for social development.

OBJECTIVES

InvestinGreen.Energy is seeking to expand its operations into Asia. This mission gives us a direct path to do this by being able to forge relationships with government officials, local partners and communities. It allows us to gain insight and feedback from relevant counterparties and to quickly ascertain where InvestinGreen.Energy can add long-term value to the government's energy vision.

ION VENTURES LTD

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ion Ventures is a renewable microgrid and electrification business, developing existing on and off grid schemes to enable clean technology to reach the masses. Our core business focus is twofold: electrification in our main business territory of South East Asia, and the development of our own patented product to create hydro based dispatchable renewable energy. At present we are working in 3 neighbouring countries, with our 4th being Myanmar.

We deliver small to medium size on or off grid renewable microgrid systems, including legacy systems using solar + battery, plus our partner software systems that enable payments, where un-subsidised schemes are available. By doing this we deliver a cost-effective customer focussed scheme to relieve the utility of capex burdens, and the end user of capex burdens.

Our customers are either utilities or smaller island-controlled distribution networks (which can be as low as 100kVa or as high as 50MW groups).

OBJECTIVES

- Identify public and semi public utilities, regulators and ministries that could value JVs
- Identify partners for collaboration in deployment of clean renewable energy generation
- Identify partners for transfer of skills to enable a potential national workforce to maintain and operate our systems
- Identify finance and funding risks of deploying external capital into an emerging market
- Identify either Burmese or ADB linked financial partners.

IPEC LTD

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IPEC are experts in On-line Partial Discharge (PD) testing of MV and HV plants. We develop world leading technology in the detection and location of PD in cables, switchgear and accessories. The ASM, our PD monitor for permanent installation, is used on over 3,500 HV assets around the world; by both utilities and industrial.

Based in Manchester in the UK, IPEC offer turnkey solutions for asset monitoring and testing. Our products range from simple to use instruments for routine spot testing, to sophisticated permanently installed systems that can, for instance, be used to monitor every joint and termination on a 20km long EHV cable.

IPEC propose applying their established PD Alarm data acquisition and communication platform to permanent monitoring of induced currents and voltages in high voltage power cables that are the cause of significant power loss and waste. This technology will enable cable asset operators manage cable operating conditions, health and lifetime of the assets.

The project will have particular applications in countries such as Myanmar where there is significant investment in power infrastructure. IPEC currently have partnerships of varying degrees in neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Thailand.

OBJECTIVES

Our primary objective is familiarisation with the Myanmar market, including energy network structure, organisation, state, reliability, and needs. This will enable IPEC to confirm the best route to market, and more importantly the best products and innovation requirements to ensure we can deliver to the growing reliability needs.

MODULARITY GRID

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Modularity Grid is a deep tech startup, developing a digital platform that makes standalone electrical power systems scalable and cost-effective, for various terrestrial and aerospace applications.

Using our platform, companies that are setting up mini-grids In low-income communities can deliver low carbon electricity that is reliable in a cost-effective manner.

Modularity Grid is funded by Airbus, Climate KIC, and Wayra (Telefonica) among others.

OBJECTIVES

- Identifying local partners engaged in developing or operating solar or biomass mini-grids in low-income communities in Myanmar
- Getting insight into the policy and regulatory environment for off-grid electrification

OAK TEC

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OakTec is a power system innovation business focused on the technical and commercial development of clean, fuel efficient, small and medium size gas engines and in particular the novel Pulse-R internal combustion technology. The technology is designed for low cost, high volume manufacture of robust, long life engines that are optimised to combust gas fuels ranging from LPG to bio-gasses and hydrogen produced from renewable sources. OakTec's vision is to see its Pulse-R technology deployed globally to provide clean efficient power and to enable access to energy in regions where current solutions are unsuitable or uneconomic.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of taking part in the mission for OakTec are twofold. Firstly, to seek wider markets for biogas fuelled power equipment and to build the relationships necessary to make deployment feasible and, secondly, to seek partners who can work with OakTec to build a sustainable business model in a new territory. This may be related to manufacture, installation, service and support or to finance.

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At Smarter Microgrid Ltd (SML) we have developed and production prototyped an innovative IP protected solution to some of the core challenges posed by the energy trilemma, a next generation Smart Microgrid Controller (SMC). Our particular focus has been to develop a product that is affordable to purchase, install and operate by all because in order for any product to have an impact you have to be able to afford to buy it. It is also designed to maximise the effective ROI of the distributed generation resources it controls as this is a key attribute of overall microgrid and therefore electricity affordability. At the same time, we are determined that no sacrifice to functionality is incurred because we have made it affordable.

Future access to electricity in rural areas of developing countries with dispersed populations will require some form of microgrid. At the heart of every one of these microgrids there will need to be a Smart Microgrid Controller (SMC), intelligently balancing the different generators (solar, wind, energy storage,diesel etc), with energy demands (homes, schools, business etc). The functionality provided by this SMC will be a critical factor in how effective each of these grids are at providing access to low cost, low emissions energy, whilst ensuring security of supply for its users – the functionality of our SMC product is at the very core of the energy trilemma (Security-Equity-Sustainability).

OBJECTIVES

SML's objective for participating are twofold: Firstly, to collaborate with potential local partners to gain a detailed understanding of energy access issues and work with them to validate our techni-cal/product developments for the Burmese market. Secondly, to begin to establish the necessary relationships and local partnerships that are clearly vital to operating a successful and long-term commercial enterprise in Myanmar.

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S&AO Ltd is a start-up business offering solutions that deal with known shortcomings and capability gaps of existing technology in the sectors Atmospheric Observations, Climate Change Monitoring and Environmental Technologies. The business is inventing solutions based on state-of-the-art components, and on utilising their capabilities. S&AO Ltd works with academia and research institutions to incorporate the latest progress into its products.

S&AO Ltd initially focused its business operation around the development of ground based remote sensing systems for monitoring the atmosphere, including protecting the IP originating from these activities. These can be applied for monitoring the Weather, Climate Change and Environmental Parameters (e.g. pollution), but also in the Renewable Energies Sector. The contact with the latter, and the growing connections into it, lead to the development of an idea for a Hydrogen based storage system for Energy from fluctuating renewable or unreliable sources. Systems like this currently exist on 'industrial' scale and are used for producing Hydrogen from renewable Energy for intermittent storage and subsequent mixing into the Natural Gas grid. However, no system for domestic or light industrial / small business application exists to date.

Together with the Energy Research Unit and the Hydrogen Group in the Technology Department of STFC, S&AO Ltd has designed a system for a Proof of Concept project. Initially this aims at providing reliable energy for cooking, hot water generation and providing Electricity in developing and bordering countries.

OBJECTIVES

The consortium led by S&AO Ltd intends to apply for Proof of Concept funding from the GCRF / Energy Catalyst for the system concept described above. The mission to Myanmar would provide an excellent opportunity for formally connecting to partners and potential collaborators in a country with the right conditions. S&AO Ltd hopes to connect to government institutions, research partners and businesses, which would be interested to collaborate with testing the proposed system in the Proof of Concept project. Subsequently, these partners could become involved in rolling out the proposed system in Myanmar.

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Straw Innovations has set up a pilot plant in the Philippines to demonstrate energy conversion using waste rice straw. Currently 200 million tonnes of rice straw are burned as waste each year in Asia.

We produce methane gas as a fuel for electricity/ CHP, cooking and powering machinery. The company sprang out of international research on the subject, funded by the UK Government. Myanmar is 7th largest rice producer in the world and we would benefit from a trip there as we are currently looking to scale up and scale out our successful pilot plant.

OBJECTIVES

To better understand the energy situation in Myanmar, its rice straw waste issue and opportunities for setting up there, including potential commercial or research partners.

TERRA POWER LTD

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Terra Power was established to develop and commercialise a technology that enables clean energy production using plants grown on contaminated land, whilst simultaneously remediating the land over time. We use the power of plants to remediate mercury-contaminated soils (a process called phytoremediation) then use innovative technology to decontaminate the resulting biomass and transform it into biogas through anaerobic digestion (AD). Terra Power's founders are experts in renewable energy, toxics, climate policy and entrepreneurship.

Our target market includes Myanmar among the 70+ countries suffering both from energy poverty and major mercury contamination. Miners, and especially the 4.5 million women working in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) and their children, suffer neurotoxic levels of mercury exposure (UNEP 2018). ASGM communities are the primary target for this energy-plus-remediation initiative. Terra Power aims to:

- Enable local, rural, renewable biogas production
- Leverage national and multilateral funding earmarked for mercury remediation to make biogas production more cost-effective
- Avoid the food-versus-fuel debate by using land that is unsafe for agriculture
- Mitigate negative health impacts
- Produce valuable bioenergy to transform remediation from a high-cost intervention into an income-generating activity

OBJECTIVES

- Meet potential research collaborators with expertise in anaerobic digestion (AD), plant sciences, and community resource mapping
- Test the project's fit with Burmese and UK government stakeholders
- Forge partnerships and gather information to submit a compelling, fundable Energy Catalyst proposal

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The Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST) at Ulster University is recognised as a leading aca-demic centre and draws upon over 40 years of energy research. The CST is one of the five research centres within the Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment which offers industry-led, professionally recognised courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. CST is a world-leading and internationally excellent, multidisciplinary energy research centre specialising in the development and assessment of solar technologies, Advanced Glazing, Low Energy Building Systems, Energy Storage, Energy System Techno-Economic and Market Modelling, Heat Pumps and Passive Building designs. CST has extensive laboratory and computer simulation facilities available for numerical and experimental analysis of energy systems. CST is currently at the forefront of developing technologies that will operate successfully under market conditions. The Centre focuses on an all-encompassing approach of energy supply, energy performance, energy costs and system costs driven by market operations to develop relevant energy solutions.

The CST research team has successfully led and delivered 'SolaFin2Go'project funded by Innovate UK under Energy Catalyst Round 5 and secured funding for the mid-stage 'SolaNetwork' project under Energy Catalyst Round 6.

OBJECTIVES

- To seek opportunities for partnership and collaboration that enables the long-term market deploy-ment and penetration of the SolaFin2Go technology in South Asia.
- To provide a packaged affordable clean solar energy solution for rural off-grid communities in South Asia.
- To develop and build a platform for a mid-stage Energy Catalyst application and GCRF project.
- To address the energy trilemma (cost, emissions and security of supply) for South Asia and maintain the UK's continued involvement in international support programmes in developing countries.

NOTES