

THE ALP REVIEW

ENERGY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Nigeria Invests \$2.8 Million In Clean Technology to Address Energy Poverty and Boost Economic Growth	1
Ghana Unveils Africa's Largest Rooftop Solar Plant, Boosting Renewable Energy in Greater Accra	1
TotalEnergies Exits South Africa's Gas Discoveries, Impacting Energy Diversification Plans	2
Veolia and NORFUND Partner to Drive Ecological and Energy Transformation in Africa’s Industrial Sector	2
Coral Sul FLNG Reaches 5 million Tons of LNG Production, Boosting Mozambique’s Global Energy Profile	3
Global African Hydrogen Summit to Drive Investment in Green Energy Projects Across Africa	3
Federal Government Threatens to Shut Down Independent Petrol Stations Over High Prices	4
REA'S DES Project Set to Electrify 17.5 million Nigerians, Boosting Rural Access, and Economic Growth	4
NNPC Expands LNG Shipments to Japan and China, Enhancing Global Market Presence	5
South Africa Launches Groundbreaking Carbon Capture Pilot Project to Combat Co ₂ Emissions	5
Botswana Advances Rural Electrification with New Village Connections and Infrastructure Upgrades	6
SparkMeter Partners With Somali Utilities to Modernize Electricity Grids and Boost Efficiency	6
The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Approves €12.5 Million Loan for Two Solar Power Plants in Tunisia	6
Ghana Secures \$250 Million Loan for Energy Sector Recovery and Enhanced LPG Access	7

Nigeria Invests \$2.8 Million In Clean Technology to Address Energy Poverty and Boost Economic Growth

The Federal Government of Nigeria has committed \$2.8 million to advance clean technology, receiving praise from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). At the launch of the National Cleantech Innovation Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Abuja, UNIDO's Oluyomi Banjo highlighted Nigeria's severe energy poverty, noting that 47% of its population lacks access to reliable electricity, which hampers economic development. The economic impact of unreliable power is estimated at \$28 billion as this issue particularly affects the private sector.

Minister of Innovation, Science, and Technology, Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji, emphasised the importance of supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in driving economic growth and addressing climate change. He acknowledged challenges SMEs face, such as insufficient policy support and limited financing, and indicated that the ministry aims to strengthen institutional capacities and promote collaboration.

The Permanent Secretary of Innovation, Science, and Technology, Mrs. Esuabana Nko Asanye, noted that the initiative will boost SME capacities, promote clean energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels and firewood. The Director General, National Board for Technology Incubation's, Dr. Patricia Chukwu, highlighted the board's efforts to support environmentally friendly production equipment and foster innovative entrepreneurs.

Comment: The Federal Government of Nigeria's \$2.8 million commitment to clean technology aims to address Nigeria's energy poverty, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and lower carbon emissions. By improving support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and fostering stronger institutional frameworks, the initiative could bolster economic development and innovation.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Ghana Unveils Africa's Largest Rooftop Solar Plant, Boosting Renewable Energy in Greater Accra

Ghana's renewable energy ambitions received a boost with the inauguration of a 16.82-megawatt rooftop solar plant in Tema. The plant, owned by LMI Holding Company Limited and costing \$17 million, is the largest single rooftop solar installation in Africa. Spanning 95,745 square meters, it is expected to generate 24.7 GWh of clean energy annually and will supply power to those in the Tema Free Zone Enclave.

The project, financed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), aligns with Ghana's goals for energy security and provides a sustainable power source for industries. It is also expected to create jobs, offer skills training, and enhance the green credentials of businesses in the Free Zone.

LMI Holdings has acquired 2,300 acres of land in Dawa for further solar development and aims to invest over \$1 billion in the sector toward expanding its renewable energy generation to 1,000 megawatts by 2030.

Comment: The inauguration of the 16.82-megawatt rooftop solar plant in Tema is a major step forward for Ghana's renewable energy sector, with many economic and environmental benefits.

This \$17 million project enhances the country's clean energy capacity, supports industrial competitiveness, and showcases local expertise. The planned \$1 billion investment and additional projects backed by IFC funding highlight a strong commitment to sustainable growth and could attract further investment in the sector.

For more information, please click [here](#).



TotalEnergies Exits South Africa's Gas Discoveries

TotalEnergies SE has exited its gas-condensate discoveries off the coast of South Africa, including the Brulpadda and Luiperd fields, citing economic challenges in developing and monetizing these discoveries. This decision impacts South Africa's plans to increase gas use for power production and feedstock for PetroSA's gas-to-liquids plant.

Despite investing over \$400 million and encountering promising reserves, TotalEnergies has found the projects commercially unviable. The company is also withdrawing from an oil block off Cape Town but will retain interests in other areas, including those near Namibia.

Comment: TotalEnergies' exit from its gas-condensate discoveries off South Africa may impact the country's plans to reduce coal use and boost gas for power generation. The withdrawal could impact investor confidence, delay the development of PetroSA's gas-to-liquids plant, and necessitate a reassessment of South Africa's energy policies.

For more information, please click [here](#).



Veolia and NORFUND Partner to Drive Ecological and Energy Transformation in Africa's Industrial Sector

Veolia, a French environmental services group, has partnered with the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (NORFUND) to create an investment platform aimed at supporting ecological transitions in Africa.

This new venture will focus on industrial companies and falls within Veolia's €2 billion GreenUp program, which seeks to drive ecological transformation in the industrial sector.

The investment platform will provide integrated solutions, including design, construction, operation, and financing, to improve carbon footprint reduction, water cycle optimization, and sustainable waste management.

It will oversee projects ranging from €3 million to €50 million, offering turnkey solutions and performance-based contracts to resource-intensive industries such as food and beverage, materials, chemicals, and mining.

NORFUND, already active in renewable energy across Africa, will use this partnership to diversify into water reuse and energy efficiency projects. The fund's portfolio in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions is valued at \$3.6 billion.

Comment: The partnership between Veolia and NORFUND will accelerate ecological transformation in Africa's industrial sector by enhancing water reuse and energy efficiency. This initiative could stimulate economic growth, strengthen Veolia's regional presence, and diversify NORFUND's investment portfolio. It also sets a potential precedent for future international collaborations focused on sustainable development.

For more information, please click [here](#).



Coral Sul FLNG Reaches 5 million Tons of LNG Production, Boosting Mozambique's Global Energy Profile

Italian oil and gas giant Eni, along with its partners such as ExxonMobil, celebrated the production of 5 million tons of LNG from the Coral Sul FLNG project in Mozambique's Rovuma Basin. Since starting production in October 2022, the Coral Sul FLNG has exported several cargos of LNG and condensate, contributing to Mozambique's economic growth and positioning the country as a significant player in the global LNG market.

This project's technical success stands to play a strong role in advancing Mozambique's gas resource development and sustainable energy transition.

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For more information, please click [here](#).

Global African Hydrogen Summit to Drive Investment in Green Energy Projects Across Africa

An inaugural Global Africa Hydrogen Summit took place between 3 and 5 September 2024. The summit aimed to encourage investment in green energy projects across Africa. With over 600 million Africans lacking electricity, there is a need to double electricity generation by 2040.

The summit intends to positively contribute to efforts in meeting the growing demand by focusing on securing capital for sustainable energy initiatives, including hydrogen and renewables. Under the patronage of the Namibian government, the summit will feature project investment roundtables. The exclusive meetings will facilitate direct interactions between project developers and investors, covering sectors like hydrogen, wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, agriculture, mining, and more.

To attract investment, projects must meet specific milestones and undergo thorough risk assessments, including Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA).

The Summit aims to enhance the credibility of African green energy projects and accelerate financing and partnerships. It received project proposals from bankable African green energy projects until 12 July 2024, after which the summit's investor board will review submissions and pair developers with investors to undertake meetings toward deal signings.

Comment: The Global African Hydrogen Summit is likely to boost investment in green energy projects across Africa, addressing the continent's electricity access challenges and accelerating the development of sustainable energy infrastructure. By emphasizing bankability and thorough risk assessments, the Summit will enhance the credibility of African projects, attract global investors, and drive economic growth and job creation in the renewable energy sector.

For more information, please click [here](#).



Federal Government Threatens to Shut Down Independent Petrol Stations Over High Prices

Pump prices for Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) increased to more than ₦1,000 per litre at independent petrol stations. However, it is reported that this surge contrasted with the prices at Nigerian National Petroleum Company stations.

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) expressed concern over the high prices at independent stations and has warned that any station found selling at exorbitant rates will face closure. NMDPRA spokesperson, George Ene-Ita, stated that the regulator had received conflicting reports regarding depot prices, which are reportedly different from what independent marketers are charging.

He emphasized that independent marketers are expected to adhere to fair pricing principles and that stations violating these will be targeted for shutdown.

Comment: By enforcing regulations on fair pricing, the government aims to curb profiteering and reduce price discrepancies. However, this could also lead to shortages and longer queues at regulated stations. The FG's intention to shut down these stations is supported by laws such as the Petroleum Act and regulations from agencies like the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC).

For more information, please click [here](#).

REA'S DES Project Set to Electrify 17.5 million Nigerians, Boosting Rural Access, and Economic Growth

The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has announced plans for its Distributed Energy System (DES) project to bring electricity to 17.5 million Nigerians. During the presentation of the 2023 Capital Project Implementation Report by REA's Managing Director/CEO, Abba Aliyu, it was revealed that the agency's projects in 2023 have already benefited about 1.4 million underserved Nigerians.

The DES project, which is the world's largest public sector-funded off-grid initiative, has received funding of about \$550 million which is about to be fully utilised and an additional \$750 million has been secured for its implementation. The project aims to electrify Nigeria using various methods, including mini-grids and solar home systems.

Mr. Aliyu emphasized the importance of diverse funding sources, including the national budget and international agreements. The REA's approach includes community engagement to ensure sustainability and job creation.

The 2024 budget has been increased, promising even greater impacts. The agency's funding strategy also includes affordable tariff payments regulated by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to ensure long-term viability.

Comment: The DES Project is likely to improve quality of life, stimulate economic growth, and foster community development. The focus on sustainability highlights a commitment to long-term impact, while increased budget allocations promise even greater advancements. This initiative will enhance access to electricity, support local economies, and ensure affordable services for rural areas.

For more information, please click [here](#).

NNPC Expands LNG Shipments to Japan and China, Enhancing Global Market Presence

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) has expanded its global footprint by starting Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) shipments to Japan and China. This milestone, which was achieved using the Delivered Ex-Ship (DES) method, is an advancement of NNPC's position in the international energy market. The DES method, which involves the seller handling shipping and insurance until delivery, is more complex than the Free on Board (FOB) system.

The first successful DES LNG cargo was delivered to Japan on 27 June 2024, with subsequent deliveries to China. NNPC, which began LNG trading in 2021, has now traded over twenty cargoes to European and Asian markets. The DES system provides financial benefits and enhances NNPC's position in the LNG sector, helping to increase market share and build brand recognition.

Future plans include at least two more LNG deliveries to Asia by November 2024, with expectations for additional orders. The collaboration between NNPC LNG Ltd and NNPC Shipping Ltd has strengthened the company's position and improved its global shipping capabilities.

Comment: NNPC's expansion of LNG shipments to Japan and China enhances its global market presence, offering financial and strategic benefits.

The use of the DES system demonstrates increased expertise and capacity, while the collaboration with NNPC Shipping Ltd strengthens industry partnerships and sets the stage for further growth and market expansion.

For more information, please click [here](#).



South Africa Launches Groundbreaking Carbon Capture Pilot Project to Combat CO₂ Emissions

South Africa has officially launched its first pilot Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) research site in Leandra, Mpumalanga, toward implementing the country's climate strategy. The project, led by the Council for Geoscience (CGS) with support from the government and the World Bank, aims to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, especially given South Africa's heavy reliance on fossil fuels. The site, following geological studies, is capable of storing up to 34 gigatonnes of CO₂.

The initiative, inaugurated by Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Gwede Mantashe, is tied to South Africa's efforts to mitigate CO₂ emissions. Mantashe and CGS CEO Mosa Mabuza emphasized the need for collaboration between the government, industry, and local authorities to ensure the project's success.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CGS and the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development to support further CCUS research and development.

Comment: The launch of South Africa's first carbon capture pilot project is a positive step toward reducing CO₂ emissions in one of the world's highest-emitting countries.

This development could drive technological innovation, attract public-private partnerships, and position South Africa as a leader in climate solutions in Africa. If successful, it will reduce reliance on fossil fuels while enhancing the country's climate strategy and fostering local and global collaboration.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Botswana Advances Rural Electrification with New Village Connections and Infrastructure Upgrades

Botswana has made progress in its village electrification efforts under the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP), with 447 of 565 gazetted villages now connected to the national grid. Minister Lefoko Moagi reported that the country has achieved 81.9% electrification and aims to reach 86% by the end of the financial year. 19 additional villages are set to be connected by the end of the month and efforts will focus on areas like Mokubilo and Mmatshumo, though some projects may face delays due to resource constraints. The need for additional transformers in several villages has been highlighted, and slower progress in remote regions is being addressed with off-grid solutions.

Comment: The progress in Botswana's electrification efforts, with a current achievement of 81.9% and a goal of 86% by year's end, indicates a substantial advancement in national development. The planned addition of 19 more villages to the grid and ongoing infrastructure improvements, despite challenges in remote areas, reflect a commitment to enhancing energy access.

The focus on off-grid solutions in slower-progress areas highlights a strategic shift to address geographical and financial limitations, potentially influencing future development plans and resource allocation.

For more information, please click [here](#).

SparkMeter Partners With Somali Utilities to Modernize Electricity Grids and Boost Efficiency

SparkMeter has partnered with two Somali utilities providers to modernize the country's electricity grids, addressing high costs and revenue losses. In Galmudug State, SparkMeter's digital solutions have already reduced system-wide losses and improved revenue collection for Caabudwaq Electric Company (CECO), which is now seeking investment for new clean energy projects.

A pilot program with Blue Sky Energy and a broader rollout with the National Energy Corporation of Somalia (NEC-SOM) are also underway, aiming to further reduce losses, improve billing accuracy, and enhance financial stability. SparkMeter's technology supports smart grid management, flexible billing, and efficient operations, with a goal to close the energy access gap in emerging markets.

Comment: The partnership between SparkMeter and Somali utilities is a major step towards modernizing Somalia's electricity infrastructure. By addressing high costs and inefficiencies, SparkMeter's digital solutions are expected to reduce system losses, enhance revenue collection, and improve billing accuracy. This modernization will likely boost financial stability for utilities, support clean energy initiatives, and potentially lower electricity prices.

The successful implementation of these technologies may also set a precedent for further advancements in energy management across the region.

For more information, please click [here](#).

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Approves €12.5 Million Loan for Two Solar Power Plants in Tunisia

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has approved a €12.5 million (\$13.7 million) loan to fund the construction of 260 MW solar power plants in Tozeur and Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. Developed by Scatec and Aeolus, these projects will enhance Tunisia's energy security, support its green transition, and reduce annual carbon emissions by up to 108,000 tons.

The financing package also included contributions from the Clean Technology Fund and the Global Environment Facility.

This initiative is part of EBRD's broader support for Tunisia's renewable energy sector, reflecting ongoing investments and partnerships to boost the country's solar energy capacity.

Comment: The EBRD's financing of solar power plants in Tunisia likely indicates a major boost to the country's renewable energy sector, enhancing energy security and contributing to its green transition. This investment will not only reduce carbon emissions but also demonstrate international support for Tunisia's sustainable development goals.

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For more information, please click [here](#).

Ghana Secures \$250 Million Loan for Energy Sector Recovery and Enhanced LPG Access

Ghana's Parliament has approved a \$250 million loan from the World Bank's International Development Association for the Energy Sector Recovery Programme (ESRP). The funding aims to reduce electricity costs, improve financial management at the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), and enhance access to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The loan will support the National LPG Promotion Programme, targeting a 50% LPG access rate by 2030.

Initially rejected due to concerns about consultancy costs, the loan was revisited after clarification on the consultancy costs. The ESRP will fund two main components: Programme for Results, and Investment Project Financing. The program will focus on reducing power system costs, improving ECG's performance, and expanding clean cooking solutions.

Comment: The approval of the \$250 million loan for Ghana's Energy Sector Recovery Programme is likely to have a strong impact on both the energy and LPG sectors. It will help reduce electricity costs, improve the financial health of the Electricity Company of Ghana, and advance access to LPG, supporting Ghana's goal of 50% LPG access by 2030.

This funding will also bolster efforts to enhance clean cooking solutions and strengthen the overall energy sector, promoting sustainable development and improving energy accessibility in the country.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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