

## EDF announces the prize-winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EDF Pulse Africa competition

On the 23rd of November 2018, a prize-giving ceremony was held in Paris to reward the four winners of the second EDF Pulse Africa competition, the purpose of which is to identify and support African innovators committed to growing the continent's energy sector. Having attracted 4 times more entries than last year, EDF Pulse Africa has confirmed the momentum of African start-ups and their interest in EDF's support.

EDF Pulse Africa 2018 attracted 432 projects from 24 African countries, most of them English-speaking, compared with 103 projects from 17 countries last year. From among the 10 finalists, the multi-disciplinary Grand Jury awarded prizes to the following:

**1<sup>st</sup> prize: SAVANNA CIRCUIT TECH** ("Electricity uses & services" category; Kenya)

Savanna Circuit Tech Ltd. submitted a solar-powered portable milk-cooling system. This system reduces milk losses, which are highly detrimental for small-holder farmers and which are due to transportation distances and the absence of preservation infrastructures. The system also helps to combat food insecurity by eliminating the risk of bacteria proliferation. In addition, the solution comprises a platform which can be accessed by smartphone and which enables milk producers to maximise their profits.

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize: BLACK STAR ENERGY LTD** ("Off-grid power generation" category; Ghana)

This start-up from Ghana specializes in the development of mini-grids. The company already operates 15 of them in Ghana and aims to connect more than 12 000 Ghanaians to the grid by the end of the year. The system has a very high capability factor (over 98%) and allows clients to track their energy usage and pay their bills via smartphone. The customer relation platform is flexible enough to meet a wide range of customer needs and apply customized time-of-use tariffs.

**3rd prize: SOLARCREED** ("Off-grid power" category; Nigeria)

SolarCreed provides Nigerian poultry farmers with solar-powered lighting systems as a replacement for fossil-fuelled lighting systems which accounts for 30% of farmers' operation costs. Using solar panels, long-life lithium-ion batteries and LED lamps, this system provides up to 10 hours of lighting.

**Joint 3rd prize: WATER ACCESS RWANDA** ("Access to water" category; Rwanda)

Water Access Rwanda has developed a solar-powered kiosk for the distribution of drinking water. It comprises a water treatment and distribution device called "INUMA", powered by solar energy and equipped with a powerful filtration system. One INUMA kiosk can provide 2 500 people with purified drinking water. In addition, the INUMA kiosk also serves as a sales outlet for sanitation products, filters, chlorine tablets and telecommunication services, as well as savings and micro-finance systems.

**Special prize: SAVE OUR AGRICULTURE** ("Access to water" category; Cameroon)

Specializing in aquaponics (a food production system that combines aquaculture with agriculture) this start-up designs kits, for individual and professional clients, that use fish waste as fertilizer to grow organic food. The product is powered by solar panels ; it requires 10% of the amount of water used by traditional farming methods, reduces the amount of impurities in fish water tanks by 90% and eliminates the use of chemical fertilizers.

## Supporting growth

The four prize-winners were awarded endowments ranging from 5 000 to 15 000 Euros. They have also been given a comprehensive support package including:

- Operational and financial advice;
- Project development partnerships with local players such as Energy Generation (a Togo-based incubator and training centre dedicated to start-ups in the energy sector) and with EDF experts, including its subsidiary EDF Pulse Croissance;
- Access to EDF's innovation ecosystem: EDF's R&D function and creativity labs.

## EDF Pulse Africa: a unique initiative

EDF is actively developing low-carbon energy solutions in Africa while continuing to provide the continent with access to electricity. With its EDF Pulse Africa awards, EDF is seeking to drive entrepreneurship in Africa and achieve two goals:

- Identifying potential partners by unearthing the continent's technological talents;
- Supporting innovation by involving local businesses in the development of innovative offerings.

The EDF Pulse Africa initiative follows on from the EDF Pulse awards which, since they were launched in 2012, have already helped to spotlight and support 1500 innovative projects developed by start-ups in France, the UK and Italy.

Marianne Laigneau, Senior Executive Vice-President in charge of EDF's International Division and Chair of the EDF Pulse Africa jury: *The success of this second EDF Pulse Africa competition confirms the appeal of EDF's support programme. The incredible wealth of submitted projects reveals the entrepreneurial potential of Africa's youth, who are bold, innovative and perfectly attuned to the continent's challenges. We are proud to be encouraging these particularly inspiring initiatives, which will form an integral part of tomorrow's energy solutions and which match the momentum of our business portfolio in Africa.*

## Focus on Lono, prize-winner in 2017

**LONO** project: A start-up based in Côte d'Ivoire, which converts organic waste into biogas for cooking fuel, and into biomethane for electrical power.

With support from EDF Pulse Africa, LONO was able to complete a first operational version of its Kubeko product, a micro-scale anaerobic digester intended for use by rural communities. The company is now getting ready for commercial launch of the product in 6 locations (pilot phase). Supported by new partnerships and diversified activities, the founding team has managed to put together an operational team of 9 people. It will soon include a consultant, financed by EDF and coordinated by Energy Generation, in order to stabilize the legal scope of LONO's business, a real challenge for the large-scale deployment of its products and services.

## Partnership with Energy Generation

A partner of EDF Pulse Africa, the pan-African Energy Generation organisation provides prize-winning projects with long-term support by offering training and essential tools to develop their business projects. Founded in 2016 by the African businesswoman Astria Fataki, Energy Generation is working to provide rural areas in sub-Saharan Africa with access to electrical power by training young people in business management and energy solutions.

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 37.1 million customers, of which 26.2 million in France. The Group generated consolidated sales of €71 billion in 2016. EDF is listed on the Paris Stock Exchange.

N'imprimez ce message que si vous en avez l'utilité.

EDF SA  
22-30, avenue de Wagram  
75382 Paris cedex 08  
Capital de 1 505 133 838 euros  
552 081 317 R.C.S. Paris

## CONTACTS

Press: 01 40 42 46 37

Analysts et Investors: 01 40 42 40 38