Nigeria energy storage for microgrids

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EDISON, NJ - July 6, 2020 - Eos Energy Storage, the leading manufacturer of safe, low-cost and long-duration zinc battery storage systems, today announced that it has partnered with EPC firm Nayo Tropical Technology Ltd. to deploy the company"s Aurora EnergyBlock(TM) battery energy storage system (BESS). Eos" EnergyBlock is part of a project to bring power to underserved areas and will integrate into rural microgrid developments beginning in the African country of Nigeria. Results from the deployment of this microgrid BESS solution will give utilities and energy providers options for the best storage technologies for rural locations and environments.

"Eos" energy storage solutions are unique as they do not require HVAC or any expensive thermal management systems to cool the storage system," commented Balki G. Iyer, Chief Commercial Officer of Eos. "The solution is a perfect fit for harsh environments and rural developments like the Nigerian microgrids as it features simple-to-deploy technology and components, delivering an affordable solution that only needs minimal operation and maintenance. This can be a big game-changer for many parts of the world with similar needs and we are quite excited about solving the larger energy problems for many rural communities."

Eos is accelerating the shift to clean energy with positively ingenious solutions that transform how the world stores power.

Eos positively ingenious solutions are designed and manufactured in the U.S.A.

In 2020, when Ashipa Electric installed a solar + storage-based minigrid in an agrarian community in Nigeria, team leaders expected the system to lower power costs and reduce carbon emissions. But by offering residents access to clean, cost-effective energy, the hybrid system also revitalized the economy, elevated quality of life, and produced environmental benefits beyond all expectations.

A forest of palm trees extends beyond the horizon. Birds dart from tree to tree, rustling the fronds. Soft murmurs and chopping sounds emanate from a group of women gathered under the shade of a thatched roof to cut away the exterior of cassava roots. Beyond this, it is silent.

Instead of noisy diesel-powered generators running as in years past, homes and businesses are now powered by a 15 kWp solar array.

Lomiro, an off-grid community of 600 residents in Ogun State, South West Nigeria, is a peaceful place known for palm-oil production and cassava cultivation. For decades, residents and businesses in Lomiro relied on diesel or gas-powered generators.

Over the years, the high cost of power--about 45 cents a kWh--coupled with ever-increasing fuel prices in

Nigeria, made it difficult for businesses to succeed. This drove many entrepreneurs to seek opportunities elsewhere and prevented Lomiro from reaching its full economic potential.

"The lack of electricity in the community has tremendously reduced the commercial impact of Lomiro," explains Olugbenga Ajala, P.E., founder and CEO of Ashipa Electric. "Farm produce like cassava and oil-palm are usually processed using locally invented machines, which reduces the quality and quantity, and increases both the production time and health risks. We hope our installed minigrid will be able to change how processing machines are used eventually."

Some farmers who stayed in Lomiro chose to process their products by hand. However, manually processed products are often below quality standards, making them less desirable for export or foreign trade. Other small businesses were limited as well, since electricity plays a major role in the sustainable operations for food preparation, water and beverage cooling, shop-keeping, hair styling and powering electronics.

In 2020 Ajala and the Ashipa Electric team identified Lomiro and several other communities as potential energy system recipients on a scouting trip to Ogun state, Southwest Nigeria. Ashipa Electric develops renewables-based power solutions for communities across Africa. The company hopes to help support universal electrification with clean technologies to encourage growth and protect the environment.

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