Philippines bin microgrid operation

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The Philippine Department of Energy (DOE) has released an invitation to bid on the construction, installation, and maintenance and operations of microgrids in support of its 2023-2032 National Total Electrification Roadmap (NTER).

The NTER, which was released at the same time as the invitation to bid, outlines how electrification efforts, including the construction of microgrids, will deliver reliable, secure electricity at reasonable rates to all Filipino households by 2028.

The Republic of the Philippines is an archipelago made up of 7,461 islands. The nation"s physical landscape presents significant electrification challenges, especially when it comes to connecting remote communities to the national grid.

Currently, nearly 4 million Filipino households are deemed either unserved or underserved by the nation"s power infrastructure, and many of them are in remote rural areas.

According to the DOE, more than 1.2 million households are unserved, or in locations with no electricity access, including access to distribution lines, individual home systems or a connection to a microgrid.

The remaining 2.7 million live in underserved areas, and while they do have access to electricity services, it"s not on a 24/7 basis.

The government created the NTER because it recognized that improving access to reliable electricity will not only reduce poverty and increase quality of life in these areas, it will have a positive effect on the country as a whole.

A microgrid is a smaller version of the electric power grid that serves a defined area like a neighborhood or a remote area. Microgrids typically utilize multiple distributed energy sources such as solar, energy storage batteries, gas or diesel generators or even the grid.

Every microgrid has a controller that optimizes how the connected power sources are used based on the operator"s goals - typically a combination of increasing electric reliability and resilience, decreasing emissions and reducing energy costs.

Because microgrids can be designed to be either grid-connected or operate completely off grid, the technology is well-suited to meet the electricity needs of both the unserved and underserved communities.

Remote microgrids, or those used in areas without access to a central grid, are popular in difficult to electrify

areas, such as rural communities in Africa.

In the Philippines, the Microgrid Systems Act (MGSA), more formally known as Republic Act No. 11646 or The Act of Promoting the Use of Microgrid Systems to Accelerate the Total Electrification of Unserved and Underserved Areas Nationwide, was signed into law in early 2022.

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