



1st Newsletter – EDF Project - Prepaid Energy. Rent to Own Solar Home Systems -

Dear Sir or Madam,

First of all, Mobisol Rwanda Ltd. would like to wish you a pleasant and successful year 2015. We are very thankful for your support and are happy to address you with our first bi-annual newsletter.

In July 2014, Mobisol and Energy Development Corporation Ltd. (EDCL) signed the Grant Contract under the 11th European Development Fund for the Action ‘Prepaid Energy. Rent to Own Solar Home Systems’, which aims at electrifying 49,000 rural households and 1,000 schools in the Republic of Rwanda until July 2018.

This first newsletter provides you with all recent information on the Project and on the first developments that have taken place in the past six months.

The Project

In early 2014, Mobisol and EDCL were awarded a grant under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). The EDF is the main source of EU development aid for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the overseas territories. The grants are awarded to projects aiming to promote economic, cultural and social development in the ACP and the overseas territories, to strengthen peace and security and to promote a stable and democratic political environment.

Mobisol and the Rwandan Government have formed a partnership to increase the access to modern and sustainable electricity for people living in rural and off-grid areas. The Prepaid Energy – Rent to Own Solar Home Systems Project aims at alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life of the rural poor by offering a clean and sustainable energy supply alternative, which is affordable and supports economic activity. *Read more.*



Our new project headquarters in Rwamagana town. For more impressions click [here](#).



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Summary of the Achievements to date

During the reporting period, the Beneficiaries have been involved in extensive preparatory activities, setting up the infrastructure and processes to facilitate the implementation of the Action. After signing the contract, the parties were engaged in agreeing on internal structures and assignment of tasks and responsibilities, thus improving efficiency and benefitting from specialisation and a better usage of expertise. In the first half year of the project, EDCL and Mobisol have made possible the set-up and start-up of the headquarters of the project in Rwamagana where operations are managed centrally from the co-applicants' teams that have been assigned to the Action. For more information, see next section.

Setup of the Project Infrastructure

The Mobisol team assigned to the EU Project has been leading the set-up of the headquarters in the Project region. The former National Bank Offices in Rwamagana Town have been renovated, painted, and adapted to the Mobisol Corporate Design. The Communication Tools have been brought up to the standards set by the visibility manual of the EU, including stickers on the road sign, display panels with the EU flag and stickers for the products. Four Market Hubs have been opened in order to be able to provide a large part of the Eastern Province with our off-grid electrification option. Responses to the presence of the Project partners in the Eastern Province have been very positive. The Marketing activities in the region have been initiated, including various village presentations and activations per week in order to increase awareness amongst the population.

EU Inauguration Event



From left to right: Mobisol CEO Thomas Gottschalk, Minister of State Germaine Kamayirese, EU Ambassador Michael Ryan, and Mayor of Rwamagana Uwimana Néhémie



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Mobisol, the European Union and EDCL officially launched the Project on 11 November 2014. The ceremony celebrating the official launch of the project was inaugurated by EU Ambassador Michael Ryan, Head of the EU Delegation to Rwanda and Minister of State in Charge of Energy and Water, Mrs Germaine Kamayirese. “The commendable achievements of the Government in reducing poverty and improving the lives of citizens can be consolidated and expanded through increased access to sustainable and affordable sources of energy. The goal of this initiative is just that and the EU is proud to be associated with such an innovative project”, commented Ambassador Ryan. [Read more.](#)

Visit from Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander De Croo

On 5 January 2015, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo, accompanied by Rwandan Honorable Governor Odette Uwamariya and Minister of State Germaine Kamayirese, paid a visit to a Mobisol customer in Musenyi, Bugesera.

The customer, Mr Ndagijimana Damascene, owns a small shop in the center of Musenyi electrified by a 200Wp Mobisol system. With his system, Mr Damascene powers a multiple phone charger, a laptop, a TV and a sound system for his shop.



Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander De Croo (second from left) is shown our Solar Home Systems on his visit to Rwanda.

For further information, please contact
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