

Commercial microgrids banjul

The minigrid industry is at a crossroads: either it assumes a central role in ending energy poverty, or it becomes a marginal solution. Minigrids have been identified by the World Bank as the most cost effective and quickest way to provide modern electricity to nearly 500 million people, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Yet the industry has yet to fully scale to its optimal capacity, with only 10% of the needed 200,000 microgrids currently in operation.

"Now more than ever, solar minigrids are a core solution for closing the energy access gap, and the World Bank has been scaling up its support for the industry," said Jon Exel, team lead for the World Bank ESMAP's global facility on minigrids. "The new industry roadmap clearly outlines actions needed from private sector companies to realize the full potential of solar minigrids. Policy and finance actions are also needed, such as embedding minigrids into national electrification plans and devising financing solutions more suitable for large portfolios of smaller projects."

Industry roadmaps have proven instrumental for other industries in driving targeted investment and innovation that lead to scale, but the minigrid industry has never had one to guide unified action based on a commonly agreed upon set of targets and metrics..

Scaling Solar Hybrid Minigrids: An Industry Roadmap fills that gap, and identifies the key characteristics for sustainability and scale. It also selects the appropriate metrics and timelines for scale, which if met will ensure the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) - access to modern, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all by 2030. The roadmap received input from more than a dozen leading institutions, including development banks, private sector trade groups, academics, think tanks and multilateral agencies.

"In spite of the urgent need, the minigrid industry has yet to produce a profitable company," said the roadmap's lead author Brad Mattson, who is chairman of Husk Power and board member of the Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA). "There are strong signs that the industry is maturing, but remaining barriers to sustainability and scale require a new level of ambition and clarity, and a proven formula with quantifiable metrics."

The roadmap translates the barriers to sustainability and scale into clear industry performance indicators, with a timeline that establishes a path to success. This not only provides targets for minigrid developers, but also the entire ecosystem of investors, donors, suppliers and regulators that support the minigrid sector. The roadmap lays a foundation for uniting that ecosystem around a set of common goals.

The roadmap reached several important conclusions on what actions are required by 2030 for the industry to scale and to be bankable, with a focus on cost, demand, quality of service and rate of deployment. A summary follows:



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About Husk Power Systems: Founded in 2008, Husk Power Systems is the leading net-zero energy services company operating across rural Asia and Africa. Its smart and sustainable solutions, centered around community solar microgrids, accelerate access to clean, modern and affordable electricity and catalyze socio-economic development. Husk's focus on the customer meets the growing aspirations of businesses and households, while its grid-integratable solution supports national electrification plans. For more information, visit: [huskpowersystems](https://huskpowersystems.com) .

Who Should Attend: National grid engineers and managers, microgrid engineers, minigrid engineers, minigrid project managers, minigrid developers, microgrid developers, minigrid entrepreneurs, policy and regulatory authorities

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