Microgrid economics saint vincent and the grenadines

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Economic prospects for 2023 have improved, underpinned by key public and private sector investments. Real growth is anticipated over the medium term, though downside risks abound.

Kingstown, Saint Vincent - December 21, 2017 -- Today Mr. Thornley Myers, CEO of St. Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC) and a Curacao solar energy firm, EcoEnergy, N.V. signed a contract to start the engineering, procurement, and construction for the utility"s first solar battery storage microgrid., located on the island of Mayreau in the Grenadines.

"We are extremely grateful for the role of RMI in bringing the project to this stage and look forward to the day when we could see the practical ramifications of the plans that have been developed over recent months," said Thornley Myers, CEO of VINLEC. "As a multi-island State this project takes on additional dimensions as we look to gaining greater insights on such systems with an eye on similar projects on other islands."

"The solar and storage project on Mayreau aligns well with the government"s aggressive renewable energy targets," said Ellsworth Dacon, Energy Unit Director in the Ministry of Energy, National Security, Air & Sea Port Development. "We thank the Noorda Foundation, the Global Environmental Facility, the United Nations Development Program and the PACES program [Promoting Access to Clean Energy Services] for their project donations. And we congratulate VINLEC and EcoEnergy on the contract signing. We look forward to seeing the first solar and battery project in operation at VINLEC."

"This project is a major milestone not just for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines but for the entire region. Solar and battery storage can now compete with traditional generation on levelized cost while improving energy security, sustainability and resiliency," said RMI Director of Projects Christopher Burgess.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines project support provided by RMI is made possible by the support of the Ray & Tye Noorda Foundation and the Global Environment Facility in partnership with the United Nations Development Program.

Kingstown, Saint Vincent - April 11, 2018 - On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, St. Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC), the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines" Energy Unit, and EcoEnergy, N.V., kicked off the Mayreau microgrid project during the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) meeting in Kingstown.

The meeting is the first step to constructing VINLEC"s first solar-and-battery storage project, which will provide a model for the eastern Caribbean region, where diesel-powered generators account for over 90% of electricity generation. In the wake of the 2017 hurricane season, this project will utilize advanced techniques

to protect the installation against Category 5 hurricanes.

"Mayreau is a very small island and everything you need on the island has to be transported from St. Vincent or Union Island--it"s always been our ambition to reduce the cost of operation on Mayreau," said Thornley Meyers, VINLEC"s CEO. "Three years ago, we approached our board with a project to produce renewable energy on the island, to reduce the carbon footprint and naturally to reduce our cost."

When connected to the Mayreau power system, the project will provide cost reductions, energy security, and resiliency to climate impacts. The solar and battery project will minimize the use of diesel for the generation of electricity. The project will silence the diesel generators for six to 10 hours per day. This will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and noise for the small island community and its residents.

"Most of the islands in the Grenadines are fully dependent on fossil fuel including Mayreau, Canouan, Union Island--and the broader concept was to look at these islands and see how to make them renewable with solar, wind, and battery storage," said Ellsworth Dacon, Director of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Energy Unit.

"The benefits of the Mayreau microgrid project will be felt well beyond the shores of St. Vincent and the Grenadines," said Owen Lewis, Project Manager at Mountain Institute (RMI). "RMI will leverage the success of the project for regional impact, sharing the lessons learned and experience from Mayreau to advance renewable energy implementation on other islands."