Rural microgrids south africa

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Microgrids are used by Eskom as a solution to supplying green power where there are constrained networks, in rural and remote areas, to improve reliability, or as an alternative to avoid costly infrastructure. Microgrids can be a customer owned, partnership owned, or an Eskom owned site.

Microgrids are defined as: a collection of interconnected loads & distributed energy resources (DER) within clear electrical boundaries acting as a single controllable entity with respect to the utility grid. The grid can be operated in an islanded mode maintaining the relevant quality of supply parameters independent of any technical grid and it can be grid-tied.

Customers who can benefit from microgrids:communities who are too far from the Eskom grid to be connected efficiently are perfect for a microgrid solution. Also small, far-flung communities with terrain that is mountainous or difficult to traverse. Communities in areas that have Eskom network capacity constraints can be assisted with electricity using a microgrids installation.

Nature Conservation facilities such as SANPARKS and Provincial Nature Conservation organisations are a suitable market for microgrids solution. . Not only may these sites be remote, but overhead power lines built in conservation areas are prone to damage by mammals and then cause an electrocution hazard to wildlife. Using a renewable, clean energy with back up just makes sense in pristine nature conservancy areas.

Eskom is interested in supplying dependable electricity to everyone and improve universal access. Electrification of communities has a positive trickle effect on socio-economic status of those communities.. Providing electricity to small, remote communities for the first time creates schooling, jobs, social and economic upliftment, and advancement.. Eskom sees microgrids as an opportunity to contribute to social upliftment.

Together with supplying green energy to uplift a community, Eskom also takes the energy education of the residents very seriously. Residents are briefed on the safe use of electricity, what to do in case of a contact incident and how to use microgrid electricity sparingly to avoid overloading the system by using too much at one time. Click here to learn about electricity safety and click here to learn about energy efficiency.

Microgrid technology enables universal access to electricity by deploying modular, containerized, off-grid renewable power plants in outlying areas. Schools, small villages, and medical clinics all benefit and flourish once they are powered up. Microgrids are helping Eskom to strengthen its existing and sometimes constrained infrastructure.

Where has microgrid technology been proven?Two pilot sites, namely Ficksburg and Lyndoch, have been established by Eskom to provide research and development opportunities to study the effectiveness of this

type of power supply solution.

Rural community leaders are invited to contact Eskom, so that their community may be considered for a microgrid installation. Any commercial or agricultural concern who want addition power on an existing line or any nature conservation facility is encouraged to make contact.

Contact us for free full report

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