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In August 2016, Sunergise announced the launch of an innovative solar power generation plant designed to collect BOTH rainwater and solar energy for the people of Majuro in The Republic of Marshall Islands.

Paul Makumbe, CEO of Sunergise International says, "The people of the Republic of Marshall Islands are amongst the first to be impacted by climate change and sea level rising. For the Marshallese, sustainability is a way of life as resources in the archipelago are scarce. Replacing fossil fuel generation makes more than just economic sense."

Mr Makumbe adds, "Fuel energy and fresh water are vital for the people of the Pacific to thrive, but they're scarce in island communities, and climate change is exacerbating the problem. The Sunergise system is designed to collect energy from the sun and as well as much needed rainwater and can be scaled to serve other islands around the South Pacific."

The 600KW solar system is equivalent in size to about 100 residential systems, stretching a kilometre around the catchment area. It will serve the 3,915 Marshalls Energy Company (MEC) customers currently connected to the grid. Located on the embankments of Majuro's water reservoirs, the plant is specially designed with weather seals between modules and aligned to also support the collection of rainwater. The rainwater is then fed into the existing reservoirs that provide much needed fresh water to sustain the atoll's population.

The solar project was financed under the UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, in a program managed by Masdar, Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company.

This TA will support the government's policy objective of increasing the share of renewable generation serving RMI's electricity demand, and is consistent with the ADB's Interim Pacific Approach, 2015. The preparation of investments in Majuro's network to allow increased renewable generation will allow RMI to program financing, including from ADB, to implement investments in clean energy.

The impact will be an increased share of renewable power generation, improved service reliability, reduced reliance on imported fossil fuels, and a reduction in cost of electricity generation.

Entura was contracted under the TA to produce a single investment project to support RMI's target of 20% renewable energy contribution by 2020. During the execution of the TA, the opportunity became apparent to process a focused investment project early as a precursor to future investments.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. It assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote

social and economic development.

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