

## Microgrid control congo

The latest BGFA agreement has been signed with Nuru Soci?t? par Actions Simplif?e Unipersonnelle (Nuru SASU) to scale up the development of new mini-grids, or metro-grids as Nuru refers to them. In total, up to EUR 5 million in results-based financing will be provided from BGFA to the project. It is expected that the investment will mobilise EUR 28 million in additional co-financing over the coming four years.

Nuru SASU, which means light in Swahili, is a company focused on providing clean energy solutions in underserved peri-urban and urban communities in the DRC. The company deployed the country's first commercial solar-based mini-grid in 2017. To date, Nuru has delivered over 7,700 MWh of energy through the deployment of four metro-grids.

"BGFA's results-based financing has been instrumental in securing new equity and project financing to develop our new metro-grid in Bunia. Together, we will bring power to over 125,000 people and reduce CO2 emissions by up to 8,000 metric tonnes by the end of the project implementation. We are grateful to partner with BGFA, which recognises the significant energy gap in the DRC and the multi-decade transformation that Nuru's renewable energy infrastructure can bring to the country in cities like Bunia," says Jonathan E. Shaw, Co-Founder and CEO of Nuru

"By supporting Nuru to further develop and deploy mini-grids in the DRC, we are able to support the scale-up of electricity access to people living in peri-urban areas, thereby supporting social development, economic growth and the green transition in Northern DRC," comments Aleksandra Reskalenko, Programme Officer at Nefco.

The Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa has so far contracted three companies in the DRC. In total, it has contracted 29 companies across Burkina Faso, the DRC, Liberia, Uganda and Zambia. Once implemented, the current programme portfolio will have the potential to reach more than 8.6 million people across these five countries. The BGFA funding window in the DRC is funded by Sweden.

Nuru, which means "light" in Kiswahili, seeks to provide energy to unlock the incredible human potential in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. By delivering world-class energy services, Nuru aims to empower 10 million Congolese people. Headquartered in Goma, Nuru has been at the forefront of transforming the DRC's energy landscape since it was founded in 2015. Read more at [nuru.cd](http://nuru.cd)

The current EUR 126 million BGFA programme was established in 2019 on Sweden's initiative through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). It has since been developed by Nefco into a multi-donor programme funded by Denmark through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany through its development bank KfW, Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation Norad and Sweden. Power Africa, an initiative administered by USAID, is providing an in-kind technical assistance



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contribution. Read more at

NovoMoto, an award-winning startup, has plans to provide remote-controlled energy kiosks and microgrids in the Congo of Africa, supplying electricity that's 40 to 60 percent lower than the cost of kerosene.

NovoMoto's founders, Mehrdad Arjmand and Aaron Olson -- Ph.D candidates in the college of engineering and physics at the university -- say their goal is to empower communities in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing renewable, sustainable electricity with their MicroPlant technology as an alternative to kerosene.

The company will begin with an energy kiosk and then add microgrids to its offerings in Congo, says Olson. It has developed a small energy kiosk prototype that will allow NovoMoto to work with local partners and control the kiosk remotely.

Under the energy kiosk model, the company sets up a kiosk consisting of a few solar panels and a battery bank. The customers take a fully charged battery home, use it to charge lights and cell phones and other equipment, and return it for another when it's fully discharged. Under the microgrid model, the company will run wires from the kiosk to people's homes.

"Our software has the capability of remote control," says Arjmand. "At the first level, local operators work with the software and manage the day-to-day battery kiosk. The software can manage how batteries are being charged and the performance of the batteries."

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