

Beat: News

Unlocking Solar Capital Africa conference features first Solar Power Incubator

to Unlock Potential of Energy in Abidjan

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USPA NEWS - Solaplaza's "Unlocking Solar Capital Africa" conference, an event focused on connecting solar project development and finance & investment, will be the first African event featuring a Solar Incubator program, aimed at identifying PV projects of potential in sub-Saharan Africa by providing access to funding, and commercial and technical knowledge. "The initiative, "The PV Solar Incubator, Your Project, Our Expertise, For a Sustainable Future," will be launched by Phanes Group in partnership with Solarplaza, Hogan Lovells, responsAbility, and Proparco, and invites PV developers to submit proposals for projects that are based in sub-Saharan Africa, and have a clear CSR component."

Solaplaza's (www.Solarplaza.com) "Unlocking Solar Capital Africa" conference, an event focused on connecting solar project development and finance & investment, will be the first African event featuring a Solar Incubator program, aimed at identifying PV projects of potential in sub-Saharan Africa by providing access to funding, and commercial and technical knowledge. "The initiative, "The PV Solar Incubator, Your Project, Our Expertise, For a Sustainable Future," will be launched by Phanes Group in partnership with Solarplaza, Hogan Lovells, responsAbility, and Proparco, and invites PV developers to submit proposals for projects that are based in sub-Saharan Africa, and have a clear CSR component. "Candidates are asked to submit their proposals before October 1, 2017, via Phanes Group's website or through the conference website. Shortlistees will be invited to pitch their projects to an expert panel at Solarplaza's "Unlocking Solar Capital Africa" conference in Ivory Coast, October 25 - 26, where the industry's biggest players will hold extensive discussions about solutions for Africa's solar energy funding gap. "It comes as part of Unlocking Solar Capital Africa's goal to solve Africa's solar energy funding gap and Phanes Group's core strategy to collaborate with Africa-focused counterparties, such as local project owners, governments, and developers on projects that seek to create a sustainable future for urban and rural communities across the sub-Saharan region. "Clean energy has the potential to transform sub-Saharan Africa for years to come, but successfully implemented PV solar projects require a diverse mix of expertise and knowledge to bring them to financial close," said Martin Haupts, CEO, Phanes Group. "We believe the Phanes Group Solar Incubator will leverage untapped local PV potential, and create more opportunities for local projects. Combined with our strengths in developing bankable solutions for clean, affordable energy and efforts in CSR, the incubator initiative can help to address local needs that haven't yet been met."

There are currently more than 620 million people in sub-Saharan Africa (www.WorldEnergyOutlook.org/africa) living without electricity, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), which works to ensure global access to reliable, affordable and clean energy. "This initiative aims to support developers not just in the funding phase, but throughout the project development and delivery phases, to ensure important, CSR-focused projects are brought to financial close. Phanes Group, along with its partners, will provide PV developers with access to a reliable partner that will support them in reaching bankability. Through an initial incubator phase, extensive mentorship, and access to the right network, this year's candidate will have an opportunity to roll-out a sustainable energy solution in their community, as well as develop a lasting relationship with an end-to-end, integrated solar expert. "After the winning project has been announced at the "Unlocking Solar Capital Africa" event, the developers will be invited to join Phanes Group for an intensive 4-day workshop at its headquarters in Dubai, UAE. This will help lay the foundations for delivering a bankable and sustainable project. "As dreamers of a future where everybody can have access to electricity for a fair price, initiatives focused on long-term success like the Phanes Group's Solar Incubator are always dear to our hearts," said Edwin Koot, Solarplaza. "Renewable energy infrastructure projects result in myriad benefits. We wish participants the best in bringing forth this ripple effect to their communities, and look forward to meeting them at the "Unlocking Solar Capital Africa" conference this October," said Edwin Koot. "More about the Solar Power Incubator "The inaugural Solar Incubator, held under the theme of "Your Project, Our Expertise, For a Sustainable Future," will be supported by Solarplaza, Hogan Lovells, responsAbility, and Proparco. "The initiative aims to select and develop PV project opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa that haven't been able to gain access to funding and necessary know-how. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is an integral part of this initiative; along with the project details a solid CSR concept must be submitted and will be further developed during the incubator phase, and implemented in parallel with execution of the PV project. "The candidate of the winning project will enter a partnership with Phanes Group and hold a long-term stake in the project, collaboratively bringing it to financial close. With the incubator, Phanes Group and its partners will provide the winner with extensive mentorship and knowledge transfer throughout the project. "The deadline to submit projects for evaluation and shortlisting ends on October 1, 2017. The final selection process will take place during a live panel session in the "Unlocking Solar Capital Africa" conference in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, October 25-26, 2017, where the winner will be announced. Interested candidates can

submit directly on the PV Solar Incubator Competition website at www.PhanesGroup.com/incubator or on the “Unlocking Solar Capital Africa” conference website at <http://Africa.unlockingsolarcapital.com/solar-incubator>. With apo, source Solar Capital

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