

Press Release

Lisbon, 15 March 2017

Lisbon to host ARE Energy Access Investment Forum

Lisbon, 15 March 2017 – The Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), in partnership with Energias de Portugal (EDP) and the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP), is delighted to welcome over 200 participants to the [ARE Energy Access Investment Forum](#) in Lisbon, Portugal from 22-23 March 2017.

With a diverse programme, the **ARE Energy Access Investment Summit** on **22 March 2017** aims to deepen participants' understanding of policy and finance trends for existing and upcoming rural electrification business and engagement opportunities in developing and emerging markets. It also helps participants to understand the financial and technical support tools available for project developers and how to take advantage of them. With representatives from the international and European public and private sector, high-level institutions as well as investors, financiers and technical support providers, the Summit is a unique networking opportunity for companies, public institutions and NGOs working in off-grid renewable energy markets.

The **B2B Off-grid Matchmaking** on **23 March 2017** will also feature presentations from selected African off-grid markets, including a presentation of key initiatives from the African Development Bank to boost rural electrification projects and tear down remaining barriers. During the afternoon, through face-to-face B2B and B2Finance meetings, participants are offered the chance to meet their next business partner or financier and to advance existing projects at different stages of maturity. Furthermore, as a result of a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between ARE and the Vlerick Business School, Vlerick students will offer free consulting to six pre-selected companies in parallel with the B2B.

Finally, the Forum will celebrate the energy access work done and results achieved by the most passionate and innovative players through the [ARE Awards 2017](#) and the [Young Leaders in Energy Access Awards](#) – an initiative of the Energy Access work stream of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership.

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Note to the editor

The [Alliance for Rural Electrification](#) (ARE) is an international business association representing the decentralised energy sector working towards the integration of renewables into rural electrification markets in developing and emerging countries. We enable improved energy access through business development support for more than 100 members along the whole value chain for off-grid technologies.

[Energias de Portugal](#) (EDP) is the largest generator, distributor and supplier of electricity in Portugal and has significant operations in electricity and gas in Spain. EDP is one of the major electricity generation companies and one of the largest distributors of gas in the Iberian Peninsula. It has wind energy parks in the Iberian Peninsula, United States, Canada, Brazil, France, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Romania and Mexico, and is developing new projects in the United Kingdom. Additionally, EDP produces photovoltaic solar energy in Portugal, Romania and in the United States. In Brazil, EDP is the fifth largest private generator of electric energy, with two concessions for electricity distribution, and is the third biggest private supplier in the liberalised market. Nowadays, EDP has a strong presence in the energy market worldwide, operating in 14 countries, with more than 10 million electricity customers, 1.4 million gas supply points and more than 12,000 employees all over the world. As a reference power utility pursuing a policy of openness to the world, the EDP Group is committed to promote Access to Energy (A2E) in developing countries, focusing on remote rural regions and areas which have no connection to the main power grid, contributing in this way to break their cycle of poverty.

The [Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme](#) (RECP) is a multi-donor platform for promoting renewable energy market development and investment in Africa. It thereby contributes to growth and development in both continents, and to addressing national and global energy access as well as climate change objectives (AEEP / SE4All / SDG / COP targets and objectives). Focusing on small- and medium scale renewable energy markets, it provides a set of support services to private sector and policymakers, including policy advisory, market information and match-making, access-to-finance advisory as well as support to skills development and innovation. The RECP is supported by the European Commission, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Finland.

