

## PRESS RELEASE

### **SOLAR MINI-GRID PROJECT PRESENTED BY EDM AND ITS PARTNERS SAGEMCOM AND TELMA GRANTEE OF THE MOBILE FOR DEVELOPMENT UTILITIES PROGRAM INNOVATIVE FUND.**

The GSMA's Mobile for Development Utilities Program funds, since June 2013, innovative projects that are emerging in the mobile industry. The objective of this innovative fund is to support, at different stages of their development, promising and impactful projects as to scale up their deployment.

Mobile linked technologies and networks progressively place themselves as effective solutions to answer emerging countries issues. GSMA's goal is to make an opportunity out of these technologies by encouraging the creation of new innovative projects. Since its formation, GSMA's Mobile for Development Utilities Program has helped reinforce very diverse projects: from mobile data collection, mobile payments solutions, to mobile connected services.

In May 2018, Electricity of Madagascar (EDM) and its partners Sagemcom and Telma have been selected, along with 19 other project holders, as grantees to the GSMA's 2017-2018 Innovative Fund. Their solar mini-grid project presents itself as a very efficient solution to facilitate access to energy of isolated rural villages in Madagascar.

When EDM's nomination as a grantee was made public, Veronique Perdigon General Director of the company expressed her gratitude: "We are proud to be a grantee of the GSMA Mobile for Development Utilities Innovation Fund. Such a partnership is a strong signal that we are aiming in the right direction. EDM, with its partners Sagemcom and Telma, always has the ambition to be a leader in its field. This help will allow us to replicate and validate our mini-grid model we already implemented with success in two villages. This is the second step, and a major one, in our project to give access to reliable and clean energy to rural population in Madagascar, and I am convinced it will lead to scaling on a national level."

For Hassanein Hiridjee CEO Axian group (Telma and EDM) , the solar mini-grid project perfectly represents Axian group's vision ". Today, in our all of the group's activities we aim for a positive and sustainable impact on the quality of life of the malagasy people. Improving the life of isolated populations comes by facilitating the access to reliable and cheap energy."

Being an assignee, EDM will be attending, along with its partners Sagemcom and Telma, two events organized by GSMA in Kigali. **On the 15th and 16th of July, the consortium partners will participate in the Grantee Workshop** along with the other 19 grantees of the 2017-2018 class. Following up this workshop, the participants will attend **the Africa GSMA 360 Series**, an annual fair that will regroup the entire African mobile ecosystem for 3 days of lectures and networking sessions.

These two events are unique opportunities for EDM and its partners to present and publicize their solar mini-grid projects. As specified by Patrick Pisal Hamida, Telma's General Director, "They also are special occasions that should be seized to pick up the latest trends in the mobile industry sector "

A mini-grid is a very small and isolated electric network (it is not connected to a central unit). It is made of a small production unit ( that can either be solar, thermic, wind turbine or hydroelectric) and it empowers a low tension electric network that can only be a few kilometers long.



## **ABOUT AXIAN GROUP**

Established in Madagascar since 150 years, Axian has broadened its presence to the Indian Ocean and Africa. Axian is active in multiple economic sectors that are driving forces for the development and the growth of Madagascar. Many of Axian's companies are leaders in their line of business: energy for Jovena and EDM, financial services for BNI Madagascar and MVola, real estate for First Immo and Telecommunications for Telma, TOM, TRM, TELCO SA and TIGO Sénégal. With more than 800 million dollars invested in 10 years and more than 3000 employees throughout the Indian Ocean and Africa, Axian favors structuring sector and activates major transformations. Axian is highly engaged in responding to the needs and the preoccupations of Madagascar's people and companies.

## **ABOUT EDM**

Electricity of Madagascar (EDM) is a Axian's Group company specialized in the production of technical electric solutions that answer specific client's needs. EDM is an engineering office that offers its clients consulting services, exploitation solutions, and construction services. EDM is engaged in finding the most adequate and sustainable solutions, to bring energy to isolated regions. Today, EDM distinguishes itself firmly in the field of sustainable energy in Madagascar.

## **ABOUT TELMA**

Telma is a mobile operator detained by Axian group. It is Madagascar's first convergent mobile operator, with more than 4,5 million mobile subscribers in 2017. Historically, Telma is the first 4G mobile operator in the country and MVola the 1st mobile-banking solution in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean.

## **ABOUT SAGEMCOM**

Sagemcom is a French company, leader in the high value communicating terminal's sector. In 2017 the group made a 2,05-billion-euro revenue, employed more than 4000 employees in the 50 countries in which it is present.

Sagemcom has signed partnerships with different companies detained by Axian, as to pursue projects in Madagascar. Presently, it partners up with TowerCo of Madagascar in a project aiming at reinforcing mobile infrastructure's territorial grid.