NEXT ROUND OF INVESTMENT TO SCALE ABSOLUTE ENERGY: SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SERVICES FOR KITOBO ISLAND

BACKGROUND

THE COMPANY:
Absolute Energy (AE) is a private company established in 2009 in Italy by Alberto

PROBLEM VS SOLUTION:
Kitobo is a remote island in Lake Victoria that enjoys vibrant economic activity, mainly driven by the fish-related value chain, serving both the local and the national markets.

Kitobo has no electricity supply and its population is paying the price of its isolation.

TARGET POPULATION:

1. 1500
2. 555 rural households
3. 50 small & medium businesses
4. 1 primary school
5. 1 fish processing plant

1. The use of diesel/petrol generators and kerosene implying relevant expenditures and CO2 emissions.
2. Reliable, affordable and green electricity supporting the sustainable economic growth of the community.
BUSINESS MODEL:

Facing the rural electrification challenge with an innovative business model based on investing in the final off-taker:

Our customers’ growth is our growth, since we do believe that supporting the development of local business boosts the growth in energy demand.

Applying a holistic approach based on:

1. community’s inclusion.
2. productive use of electricity.
3. long-term sustainability.

Operations Model:

1. Generation
2. Distribution
3. Sales

PARTNERS:

1. AVSI Foundation, International NGO, active since 1974.
2. CIRPS, Interuniversity Research Centre on Sustainable Development, active since 1988.

LOCATION:

Kitobo Island, Kalangala District Central Region, Uganda.

CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS

REDDUCING FOSSIL FUELS:

1. Installed capacity: 228.8 kWp solar PV + 70 kW diesel backup + 520 kWh batteries.
2. Energy generated: at least 394.7 MWh/year.
3. Annual CO₂ emission reductions: 78.9 t CO₂eq only at the first year.

TARGETS ACHIEVED:

Promotion of climate change strategies:

70% of local population sensitised on safe and efficient use of electricity.

18 temporary staff involved during the construction phase with a total of 453 mandays.

AE employes 8 permanent staff in Kitobo island.

AE employs 8 permanent staff in Kitobo island.
MARKET PENETRATION:

543 customers connected, representing 89.8% of the potential market.

PROJECT RESULTS:

Construction of infrastructures to generate & distribute electricity through a **stand-alone smart mini-grid** Solar PV power plant.

- Promotion of climate change mitigation strategies.
- Economic empowerment of local community.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

INFRASTRUCTURE:

To date, Absolute Energy is actively present in Uganda, Kenya & Rwanda and is currently designing their next projects in Mozambique and Tanzania.

SCALE UP STRATEGY:

With the Kitobo “pilot” project, AE developed a best-practice model to be replicated all across sub-Saharan Africa in a cohesive and efficient manner.
Innovative business model able to face the electrification challenge through a focus on community empowerment to assure the business profitability.

Cutting-edge technologies and customized engineering design makes Kitobo plant the most advanced off-grid mini-plant in sub-Saharan Africa.

High impact & community inclusion in productive businesses and women empowerment.

High replicability and scalability of the business model.

Reliable and experienced Consortium, able to effectively face the different tasks and risks of the project implementation.

CONTACTS

www.ae-capital.com
info@ae-capital.com
+39 06 8676 5686