



Think Smartgrids and APUA signed a memorandum of understanding

Paris, le Wednesday, May 26th, 2021

Marianne Laigneau, President of Think Smartgrids, and Abel Tella, CEO of the Association of Power Utilities in Africa (APUA), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between their two associations aimed at accelerating the development of access to electricity, facilitating the integration of renewable energies and deploying smart meters on a large scale. The purpose of the memorandum is to enable electricity networks to achieve optimal profitability through new technologies.

Within this framework, the two organizations wish to foster interactions between their members in order to encourage the sharing of skills, cross-fertilization of expertise and systematization of best practices. APUA and Think Smartgrids will organize physical and remote exchanges between stakeholders, as well as site visits. Training will also be offered in local training centers such as the African Network of Centers of Excellence in Electricity (ANCEE), to enable the acquisition of new skills and the mastery of new tools and technologies. Think Smartgrids wishes to federate the energies of its members around the realization of this partnership.

This protocol between APUA and Think Smartgrids is the result of several meetings between the two associations, particularly during international trade shows. During the 2018 edition of CIGRE, a technical exhibition dedicated to the transport of electricity, Think Smartgrids had thus provided its support to APUA and the French Development Agency (AFD), in order to enable the holding of a conference involving all African utilities. About 200 participants attended the discussions on accelerating the transformation of African utilities through Franco-African partnerships and the financing of these new networks.

As Marianne Laigneau, President of Think Smartgrids and Chairman of the Board of Enedis, said, "We are delighted to have concluded this partnership, which is perfectly in line with the concerns of our members, and we are happy to be able to contribute to the development of the efficiency of African networks, in a context of increasing electrification of the continent. »

Abel Tella, Executive Director of APUA, said in response: "In our daily struggle to change the conventional wisdom about Africa, we need reliable partners and the conclusion of this partnership will help accelerate the improvement of the performance of African power systems."

FRENCH SOLUTIONS FOR SMARTGRIDS

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About Think Smartgrids

The association, chaired by Marianne Laigneau, chairman of the board of Enedis, federates and represents the French smart grid ecosystem, with around 100 members, from startups to major groups, including research laboratories, universities, professional associations and competitiveness clusters. Its members' activities cover the entire smart grid value chain: electronic engineering, utilities, automation, equipment and information systems, business models, training and regulation. The French Energy Regulatory Commission and the French government, through the Direction des Entreprises and the Direction Générale de l'Energie et du Climat (DGEC), are observer members. www.thinksmartgrids.fr

About APUA

Created in 2012, following a strategic transformation of the Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electrical Energy in Africa (created in 1970), and currently chaired by Papa Mademba Biteye, CEO of Senelec, APUA federates the continent's power utilities. The association aims to promote the development and integration of the African electricity sector through the interconnection of electricity networks, the exchange of experience and know-how as well as the joint exploitation of energy resources on the basis of a win-win approach for all members. <http://www.apua-asea.org>

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