

## **Masdar Delivers Samoa's First Wind Farm**

Project financed by Abu Dhabi Fund for Development's UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund

**Abu Dhabi, UAE – 29 August, 2014:** The Samoan Prime Minister, the Honorable Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, today inaugurated the country's first wind farm. The 550 kW<sub>e</sub> project was funded by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and delivered by Masdar, Abu Dhabi's renewable energy and clean technology company. This project is the second to be delivered under the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) \$50 million Pacific Partnership Fund. The inauguration ceremony comes just two days before the start of the United Nations' Third Conference on Small Island Developing States<sup>1</sup>, in Samoa's capital.

His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and Chairman of Masdar, explains: "This UAE supported project, and others like it underway across the Pacific, unlock significant economic and social benefits across the region. By providing local sources of renewable energy and reducing reliance on imported fuels, the UAE is helping countries like Samoa realize its development ambitions, while also delivering valuable clean energy infrastructure.

"Renewable energy has the potential to be a major contributor to the energy mix in developing countries, acting as a catalyst for greater socioeconomic opportunity well beyond the benefits of cleaner energy. Today's inauguration reinforces the UAE's commitment to advancing and deploying renewable energy globally."

Located on the Samoan island of Upolu – home to nearly 75 percent of the population – the wind farm will supply 1,500 MWh of power per year, delivering US\$475,000 in annual fuel cost savings. The innovative 'cyclone proof' project will also reduce the island's carbon footprint by more than 1,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) each year.

The Prime Minister of Samoa, the Hon Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, adds: "The new wind farm delivered by Masdar and funded by the ADFD is a significant step forward in Samoa's transition to a more sustainable energy future. This has been possible thanks to the support of Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates, and their commitment to advancing sustainable development. Access to renewable energy is vital to our long-term economic development, even beyond the substantial gains realized by cutting our dependence on imported fuel."

The UAE Pacific Partnership Fund supports the deployment of renewable energy across Pacific island states and represents one of the largest-ever investments in clean energy across the region. It is managed by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate of Energy and Climate Change with capital provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund

for Development. Masdar partners with each nation's government and leads the design and implementation process.

His Excellency Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, said: "The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development is committed to working with governments across the developing world, on projects that deliver real and tangible social and economic benefits. This innovative, bespoke project is a model for sustainable development that we believe will unlock a significant economic opportunity for the Samoan government and its people."

First announced during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in January 2014<sup>2</sup>, the Samoan wind farm is the second project to be completed under the fund. Masdar is also currently progressing solar PV projects in Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. A 512 kW<sub>e</sub> solar PV installation in Tonga, achieving nearly 70 percent grid penetration, was the first project to be completed.

The projects address the very high cost of diesel imports in Pacific countries, as well as delivering reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Research from the International Renewable Energy Agency indicates that renewable energy is now the most cost competitive source of power in the Pacific<sup>3</sup>, but deployment has been constrained by access to finance and expertise. The cumulative 2.8 MW<sub>e</sub> capacity of the six identified projects, will substitute 1.5 million litres of diesel fuel otherwise imported each year. The projects together will deliver annual savings of US\$1.87m and avoid 4,450 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The pioneering project in Samoa includes two 55 meters high turbines that can pivot at the base, and be lowered and locked in place in less than 1 hour. This collapsible design helps to avoid damage from the region's numerous cyclones.



The wind turbine can be lowered in the event of cyclones



Prime Minister of Samoa, Minister for EPC with representatives from the UAE



EPC GM speaking on the details of the Project



Prime Minister delivering his keynote address



Guests touring the work site



Inside the switchgear room



Prime Minister is led on a tour by EPC GM



Some of the guests present at the official opening



UAE Representative flanked by EPC technician Siasoi Golovale and Project Manager Andrew Revfeim with the wind turbine at the background