

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

World Bank project offers funds for lighting programs in Africa

307 words

15 October 2007

Renewable Energy Report

Issue 140

English

Copyright 2007 McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Renewable energy systems are among the technologies eligible for funding under a new program recently launched by the World Bank Group to provide modern lighting to the 250 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa who have no access to electricity.

The World Bank and its private-sector arm, the International Finance Corp, have started the **Lighting Africa** program "to develop market conditions for the supply and distribution of new, non-fossil fuel lighting products, such as fluorescent light bulbs and light emitting diodes, in rural and urban areas of the region that are not connected to the electricity grid," project co-sponsor the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership said. Other co-sponsors include the European Union, Global Environment Facility and Good Energies Inc.

The program includes a grant competition titled Innovations in Off-Grid Lighting Products and Services for Africa that will reward project ideas that address the various off-grid lighting needs of Sub-Saharan Africa, "including alternative distribution models, new clean lighting technology, stronger production chains, and improvement of the policy environment," REEEP said. "Energy for these lighting products and services could be from renewable energy, mechanical, or other non-fossil fuel sources." Among the expected outcomes of the program are substituting fossil-fuel based lighting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by replacement of fossils fuels.

The program will select 10-20 winners that will receive grant funding up to \$200,000 each. The competition is open to a broad range of innovators, including private businesses, nongovernmental organizations, universities, government agencies and individuals. More than 350 companies have expressed interest in the program, World Bank officials report.

Proposals must be received by October 31. For more information on how to apply, visit the **Lighting Africa** Web site at: www.lightingafrica.org .

Document REENRE0020071029e3af0001n