**IEC, World Bank and UN Foundation announce rural electrification support for developing countries**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 2013-07-26 –** *To help bring electrical energy to some of the 1,3 billion people without access or with only limited energy access, the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission), World Bank Group and United Nations Foundation have announced a new cooperative agreement to provide developing countries with access to important technical documents that support rural electrification, at a specially discounted price.*

The IEC Technical Specification 62257 series *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification* outlines international best practice solutions to support energy access in developing countries across a range of technologies. The three organizations are cooperating to offer discounts to qualified stakeholders purchasing documents in the IEC TS 62257 series.

Electrification is one of the key drivers facilitating economic and socio-cultural development.  While it is easier to connect cities to the electric grid, rural areas are often too remote. In developing countries renewable energy off-grid applications are often the most suitable for rural electrification. This often means decentralized solutions such as individual electricity generation systems covering basic energy needs or minigrids – larger systems providing electricity to several households.

When developing countries use internationally recognized technical specifications it allows them to secure long-term sustainability of their investments, as well as interoperability and safety of the products they are installing. It also helps to ensure that their investments will be worthwhile and that components will work together as they should, when they should.

In offering this package the IEC has responded positively to a request from the UN Foundation to have the IEC 62257 technical specifications more easily available to key stakeholders in developing countries. This request was reinforced by the conclusions of a 2012 workshop on rural electrification held by AFSEC (African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission) with experts from IEC TC (Technical Committee) 82: *Solar photovoltaic energy systems.* As result of that workshop, AFSEC is developing a technical guide for sustainable off-grid electrification, with reference to IEC 62257 series.

The IEC now participates in the UN Foundation Practitioner Network, part of the SE4All (Sustainable Energy for All) initiative, and it has shared its expertise in Universal Energy Access Workshops held in Cambodia and India in 2013.

The IEC 62257 series contains numerous technical specifications which address three main topics – introduction to rural electrification; project management and implementation guidelines; and technical specifications for components and systems. The IEC TS 62257 series also provides assistance to the project implementer, with information on how to select the right product based on what is available in their local market, product tests to be performed under the local future field conditions, and technical and economic aspects of equipment, skills required etc.

The details of the available discounts are:

75 % discount on IEC TS 62257-9-5 (with or without all normative references)

58% discount on entire IEC TS 62257 series + all normative references

50% discount on any other individual documents in the IEC/TS 62257 series (with or without normative references)

More information is available on the IEC Webstore [http://webstore.iec.ch/](http://webstore.iec.ch/?ref=menu)

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Background information for editors

**About the IEC TS 62257 series**

The IEC TS 62257 series *Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification* is comprised of almost 20 individual documents which cover:

* The range of electrification systems
* Project development and management
* System selection and design
* Protection against electrical hazards
* Acceptance, operation, maintenance and replacement
* Photovoltaic generators
* Generator sets
* Selection of batteries and battery management systems for stand-alone electrification systems (specific case of automotive flooded lead-acid batteries available in developing countries)
* Micropower systems
* Microgrids
* Integrated system - User interface and installation, Selection of stand-alone lighting kits for rural electrification
* Selection of Photovoltaic Individual Electrification Systems (PV-IES)
* Selection of self-ballasted lamps (CFL) for rural electrification systems and recommendations for household lighting equipment

More information on the IEC/TS 62257 series can be found [here](http://webstore.iec.ch/webstore/webstore.nsf/mysearchajax?Openform&key=62257&sorting=&start=1&onglet=1)

**About the IEC**

The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) brings together 165 countries, and nearly 13 000 experts cooperate on the global IEC platform to ensure that products work everywhere safely with each other. The IEC is the world's leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies and administers Conformity Assessment Systems that certify that components, equipment and systems conform to them.

IEC work covers a vast range of technologies: power generation (including all renewable energy sources), transmission, distribution, Smart Grid, batteries, home appliances, office and medical equipment, all public and private transportation, semiconductors, fibre optics, nanotechnology, multimedia, information technology, and more. It also addresses safety, EMC, performance and the environment. [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

**About the World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group is one of the world’s largest sources of funding and development expertise for developing countries. It comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Each institution plays a distinct role in pursuing the World Bank Group’s mission to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world. For more information, please visit [www.worldbank.org](file:///C:\Users\wb386333\AppData\Local\Temp\notesE243E2\www.worldbank.org), [www.miga.org](file:///C:\Users\wb386333\AppData\Local\Temp\notesE243E2\www.miga.org), and [www.ifc.org](file:///C:\Users\wb386333\AppData\Local\Temp\notesE243E2\www.ifc.org).

**About the United Nations Foundation**

The United Nations Foundation builds public-private partnerships to address the world’s most pressing problems, and broadens support for the United Nations through advocacy and public outreach. Through innovative campaigns and initiatives, the Foundation connects people, ideas, and resources to help the UN solve global problems. The Foundation was created in 1998 as a U.S. public charity by entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner and now is supported by global corporations, foundations, governments, and individuals. [www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org/)