



11 December 2017

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **NEW AFRICA POWER TO DEVELOP HYDRO PROJECTS IN ZAMBIA**

**Norfund together with a responsAbility-managed energy holding company and Vineyard have teamed up to incorporate New Africa Power. This new joint venture plans to develop a 65 MW portfolio of small-scale run-of-the-river hydropower projects in Zambia.**

Zambia is among the least developed countries in the world when it comes to electricity supply: Currently, only 25% of the urban and 3% of the rural population have access to electricity.

The Zambian government is committed to improve energy access for the Zambian population while at the same time ensuring the sustainable supply of affordable electricity to power its economy, especially the mining sector. A recently announced renewable energy feed in tariff (REFIT) programme is designed to help achieve this objective.

A Nairobi-based responsAbility-managed energy holding company has teamed up with international finance institution Norfund and investment company Vineyard to create a new joint venture company, New Africa Power. Jointly managed by responsAbility and South Africa-based REH Project Development, the company plans to exploit the country's significant untapped hydropower resources by developing a 65 MW portfolio of small-scale run-of-the-river hydropower projects in Zambia.

New Africa Power has committed USD 4.6 million for the feasibility phase of the development, which is expected to be completed by the 3rd quarter of 2018. New Power Africa has already finalized an intensive site reconnaissance, hydrological assessments as well as initial socio and environmental impact assessments.

In a next step, New Power Africa will develop the projects for submission under the renewable energy feed in tariff programme, thereby ensuring alignment with the government's economic and social development programmes.



The development activities will be implemented by contracted specialist service providers including REH Project Development (South Africa) and the responsAbility-managed energy holding as project managers and Aurecon Consulting Engineers as technical consultants. Construction on the first power plant is expected to start from 2020.

Kjell Roland, CEO at Norfund, said: "Increased access to energy is crucial for development and poverty reduction. Investing in clean energy projects is therefore of high priority for Norfund. Our experience is that successful clean energy projects are depended on well-prepared and agreed private public partnership. We appreciate that this is now in place for this project on hydropower generation in Zambia."

Speaking on behalf of responsAbility, Joseph Nganga, Executive Director of the responsAbility-managed renewable energy company for Africa, explained: "This is a perfect example of how we are working closely with experienced developers such as REH and like-minded investors such as Norfund to support governments in Africa to meet their countries' energy needs."

**Contacts:**

Norfund  
Inge Stolen, Senior Investment Manager, Clean Energy  
[Inge.Stolen@norfund.no](mailto:Inge.Stolen@norfund.no)

responsAbility Investments AG  
Ulli Janett, Media Relations  
[ulli.janett@responsAbility.com](mailto:ulli.janett@responsAbility.com)

REH  
Eben de Vos, Project Manager, Zambia  
[eben@rehgroup.co.za](mailto:eben@rehgroup.co.za)



### **Norfund**

The Norwegian Fund for Investment in Developing Countries (Norfund) is Norway's Development Finance Institution and has a mandate to support the building of sustainable businesses in developing countries and thereby contribute to economic and social development.

Norfund is a strategic minority investor that is wholly owned and funded by the Norwegian Government. It has a committed portfolio of USD 2.1 billion. Clean energy is one of the three investment sectors with its geographical focus primarily in sub-Saharan Africa.

[www.norfund.no](http://www.norfund.no)

### **About responsAbility Investments AG**

responsAbility Investments AG is a leading asset manager in the field of development investments that offers professionally managed investment solutions to private, institutional and public investors. The company supplies debt and equity financing to firms in emerging economies and developing countries. responsAbility currently has USD 3.3 billion of assets under management invested in over 550 companies in 97 countries.

The responsAbility-managed energy holding company for Africa aims to increase the renewable energy supply in sub-Saharan Africa at reasonable tariffs. The company invests in and co-develops small and medium sized renewable energy projects up to 50 MW at various stages of the project life cycle with particular focus on the development stage.

[www.responsAbility.com](http://www.responsAbility.com)

### **Vineyard**

Vineyard is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) investment holding company registered in the Isle of Man. Vineyard will invest in the development and ownership of energy projects in sub Sahara Africa.

**End**



**Disclaimer:**

This information was produced by responsAbility Investments AG together with its partners with the greatest of care and to the best of its knowledge and belief. However, responsAbility Investments AG provides no guarantee with regard to its content and completeness and does not accept any liability for losses which might arise from making use of this information. The opinions expressed in this information material are those of responsAbility Investments AG at the time of writing and are subject to change at any time without notice. If nothing is indicated to the contrary, all figures are unaudited. This material is provided for information purposes only. It does not constitute an offer or a recommendation to buy or sell financial instruments or services and does not release the recipient from exercising his/her own judgment. It is expressly not intended for persons who, due to their nationality or place of residence, are not permitted access to such information under local law. Neither this information material nor any copy thereof may be sent, taken into or distributed in the United States or to any U. S. person. responsAbility Investments AG is not an investor and does neither provide direct nor indirect financing. The mentioned investments in the specific markets, countries, companies, institutions, instruments, or sectors are exclusively transacted by the investment vehicles managed or advised by responsAbility Investments AG. Every investment involves risk, especially with regard to fluctuations in value and return. Investments in foreign currencies involve the additional risk that the foreign currency might lose value against the investor's reference currency. It should be noted that historical returns and financial market scenarios are no guarantee of future performance.

Copyright © 2017 responsAbility Investments AG. All rights reserved.