

## **A profit-driven business with a social agenda: EnergyNet wins second Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2017**

Press release: for immediate release

21/04/17

*H.R.H Queen Elizabeth II awards EnergyNet its second Queen's Award for Enterprise in the category International Trade - the highest accolade for UK commercial businesses. This year's award was made on the advice of UK Prime Minister Teresa May for EnergyNet's 'Outstanding Short Term Growth and Social Responsibility Agenda' across Africa.*

As the company behind the well regarded *Africa Energy Forum*, EnergyNet has been producing investment forums in emerging markets for the last quarter of a century in Africa, Europe, North America, China and Latin America, working to promote the world's most credible investors in complicated, rapidly changing and fast-growing economies.

This award recognises EnergyNet's outstanding short-term growth within a 3 year period as well as their social responsibility efforts within Africa and the £200,000 invested through the company's 'Not Just Talking Fund' into energy-related projects to aid the lives of Africans.

Simon Gosling, Managing Director of EnergyNet, commented, *"It was incredible to be recognised by the Prime Minister and H.R.M Queen Elizabeth ii in 2014, but to receive this recognition for a second time [by a different PM] this year is an extraordinary achievement for us, and one which I hope reflects the seriousness with which the whole EnergyNet team take our responsibilities to serve the world's leading companies and the most exciting growing economies across the world."*

Following an initial investment into a solar off grid project for a primary school in South Africa in 2016, EnergyNet's second project investment will be a microgrid in Sierra Leone. The investment will be made in partnership with Solektra International, the company co-founded by Senegalese US Hip Hop superstar Akon, Samba Bathily and Thione Niang. EnergyNet and Solektra are working with the Barefoot Woman Solar Engineer Association of Sierra Leone (BWSEASL) to appoint a female entrepreneur to take ownership of the project within the local community.

In addition to supporting off-grid projects on the ground in Africa, EnergyNet founded the Student Engagement Initiative (ESEI) 3 years' ago, flying a selection of best-in-class African law, finance and engineering students to meet sector leaders and explore future employment opportunities at conferences throughout the year. The programme has sponsored 63 African students to date, working closely with African universities and partners Aggreko and Norton Rose Fulbright to provide onsite training workshops and meeting opportunities with African Ministers of Energy.

Whilst EnergyNet is a UK based emerging market-energy focused team of researchers and business development professionals, the company is owned and supported globally by the UK's largest conference and exhibitions organisation, Clarion Events.

### **For more information about EnergyNet:**

Contact: Amy Offord - Marketing Manager

Email: [amy.offord@energynet.co.uk](mailto:amy.offord@energynet.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)20 7384 8068

Visit: [www.energynet.co.uk](http://www.energynet.co.uk)