



**CrossBoundary Energy finances 100% renewable energy solutions for rural, off-grid telecommunications sites in South Sudan and the DRC**

- CBE will extend the financing for the implementation of renewable energy solutions to power digital infrastructure in rural areas, bringing wireless connectivity to underserved communities
- The renewable energy-battery hybrid systems will provide a market-leading 99.97% uptime service level agreement (SLA) to iSAT's mobile network operator (MNO) clients
- Modular, decentralized energy solutions deployed by Clear Blue Technologies will provide telecom sites with renewable energy across the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan

**12 September 2024, Nairobi, Kenya** – CrossBoundary Energy (CBE) has signed an agreement with iSAT Africa to finance 100% renewable energy solutions for telecom sites providing rural connectivity services across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Sudan. iSAT is an integrated communications provider specializing in connectivity, mobile, and satellite solutions to rural and underserved markets. Access to the internet is crucial to building businesses, accessing education, and even in social movements, and expanding communications infrastructure is a core enabler to increase connectivity. The 100% renewable energy solutions will be provided by Clear Blue Technologies, a smart off-grid energy systems company.

**Rik Wuts, Head of Telecom Solutions at CrossBoundary Energy**, said “Digital infrastructure is a cornerstone of economic growth and an essential enabler of social progress in communities across the continent. Powering this infrastructure with renewable energy enables increased connectivity in underserved markets. This agreement with iSAT Africa reflects our confidence in providing reliable, cost-effective energy in the most remote and challenging locations desperate for connectivity and we look forward to expanding our collaboration rapidly.”

**Rakesh Kukreja, CEO at iSAT Africa**, said “Our mission, to offer Network as a Service to Mobile Operators that enables them to expand their network coverage to greenfield locations, is made possible through secure, reliable energy solutions. We are thrilled to be partnering with CrossBoundary Energy, whose involvement will allow us to roll out infrastructure to markets that will benefit greatly from better connectivity to bridge the digital divide.”

**Miriam Tuerk, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer at Clear Blue Technologies**, said “Our mission is to provide stable, scalable renewable energy solutions in areas that lack connectivity, so we are fully aligned to this project. Both iSAT and CrossBoundary Energy are key partners in enabling the rollout of smart energy technology to benefit these communities.”

Communications infrastructure has rapidly expanded in Africa in recent years but despite this, only 36% of its population has access to broadband internet<sup>1</sup>. South Sudan has some of the lowest internet access on the continent, with only 12% of the population reliably connected<sup>2</sup>. The DRC 's population has around 27% access<sup>3</sup>. These challenges are further exacerbated by a lack of access to reliable electricity and other crucial infrastructure. Renewable energy can power digital infrastructure on the continent as it is decentralized, long-lasting, and reduces reliance on diesel generators.

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### **About CrossBoundary Energy**

CrossBoundary Energy is a leading developer, owner, and operator of distributed renewable energy solutions for businesses, providing cheaper and cleaner energy through power purchase and lease agreements. CrossBoundary Energy is currently delivering a portfolio of over \$470 million of renewable energy and storage assets for clients including Unilever, Diageo, Rio Tinto, Heineken, and AB InBev, and was recognized by Africa Solar Industry Association as “Solar Company of the Year” in 2022. CrossBoundary Energy is a member company of the CrossBoundary Group, a mission-driven investment firm founded in 2011 and committed to unlocking the power of capital for sustainable growth and strong returns in underserved markets. Learn more at [www.crossboundaryenergy.com](http://www.crossboundaryenergy.com).

### **About iSAT Africa**

iSAT Africa is an integrated communications services provider specializing in Network as a Service (NaaS), Backhaul as a Service, and Energy as a Service. These services are transforming the connectivity landscape in Africa by offering scalable, cost-effective solutions that bridge the digital divide. iSAT Africa's NaaS model leverages cutting-edge technology and a flexible financial framework, enabling seamless network deployment across both urban and rural areas without the need for upfront investments. With support for LTE, 5G, and high-speed satellite services, NaaS enhances communication and operational efficiency even in the most underserved regions. All services are powered by renewable energy, promoting environmental sustainability while making telecom sites commercially viable.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2023/06/26/from-connectivity-to-services-digital-transformation-in-africa#:~:text=Despite%20improvements%2C%20in%202022%2C%20only,services%20still%20lag%20other%20regions>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-deep-dive-the-state-of-internet-adoption?rq=south%20sudan>

<sup>3</sup> <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2024-democratic-republic-of-the-congo?rq=democratic%20republic%20of%20congo>



**About Clear Blue Technologies**

Founded in 2011, Clear Blue Technologies was built on a vision of delivering clean, managed, wireless power to meet the global need for reliable, low-cost off-grid energy for mission-critical infrastructure. With headquarters in Toronto, Canada, Clear Blue manufactures and sells cost-efficient, remotely managed, Smart Off-Grid power technology for use in telecom, lighting, industrial controls, security, emergency power, and IoT. Clear Blue's patented technology, delivered through the Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS) model, allows systems to be installed anywhere and managed over the Internet to deliver connectivity to remote and rural areas, where a lack of reliable power infrastructure makes telecommunications cost-prohibitive. Clear Blue's technology is underpinned by Illumience, the cloud application with a built-in communications network to facilitate remote monitoring and management. Clear Blue and Illumient products are made in Canada and Sweden.

