

Renewable energy powers the first 5G rollout in Sierra Leone

Key Takeaways

- Zoodlabs announced that renewable energy will be the primary power source for towers, enabling the first 5G data rollout in Freetown, Sierra Leone
- CrossBoundary Energy is powering the project's first sites with solar PV, battery, and generator solutions, providing 99.9% uptime while reducing fossil fuel dependence and emissions
- The rollout of 5G will enable faster data speeds, lower latency, and greater device connectivity in Sierra Leone, enabling further economic development and digital inclusion. 5G is foundational for smart cities, remote healthcare, and IoT-reliant businesses.

04 June 2025, Freetown, Sierra Leone—Renewable energy is enabling the rollout of a mobile network that will supply some of the first 5G data connections in Sierra Leone. The announcement was made by Zoodlabs, a Sierra Leone-based telecommunications company, at the Digital Government Summit in Freetown on Wednesday.

CrossBoundary Energy, an African energy services company, is powering the project's first phase with solar PV, battery, and generator solutions that will provide 99.9% uptime whilst decreasing fossil fuel dependence and emissions. It is also providing financing for 5 of the towers to enable faster rollout.

Oliver Benham, Director of Operations for Telecom Solutions at CrossBoundary Energy, said, "Our solution is designed to maximize uptime whilst increasing renewable energy penetration and minimizing diesel generator usage. The effect is that telecom operators like Zoodlabs have a reliable, affordable, and cleaner way of powering their network that does not rely on utility energy supply or fossil fuels."

The rollout of 5G will enable faster data speeds, lower latency, and greater device connectivity in Sierra Leone, a country where broadband penetration is just 20.7%¹. The new network, leapfrogging the need for cable infrastructure, will lead to increased digital inclusion and access to quality connectivity for businesses and individuals across the capital.

David Kapkima, CEO at Zoodlabs, said, "5G is not just about faster phones—it's a foundational technology for smart cities, autonomous vehicles, remote healthcare, and businesses that rely on IoT. CrossBoundary Energy's specialized knowledge in solar energy solutions has enabled Zoodlabs to power this infrastructure sustainably."

Zoodlabs' first towers are situated in Freetown, with the intention of expanding the 5G data access throughout Sierra Leone.

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¹ <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2025-sierra-leone>

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About Zoodlabs



Zoodlabs Group is a comprehensive technology and smart utility infrastructure Company. We're on the pulse of modern technology and digital innovation and have monitored their evolution to inform our approaches—all to offer an exceptional delivery experience. Our commitment to the Continent of Africa is driven to bridge the gaps in essential utility delivery experience; this is why we aligned our business model and Africa growth strategy to build solutions that will create the launchpad in building smarter communities. <https://zoodlabs.com/>

About CrossBoundary Energy



CrossBoundary Energy develops, owns, and operates distributed renewable energy solutions for businesses, offering cheaper and cleaner energy through power purchase and lease agreements. Its diverse portfolio features large-scale renewable-led hybrid power plants for mines, rooftop and ground-mount solar PV plants for industrial clients, and distributed solar PV and battery power solutions for telecommunications sites. As a member of the CrossBoundary Group, founded in 2011, CrossBoundary Energy is dedicated to unlocking the power of capital for sustainable growth and strong returns in underserved markets. Learn more at www.crossboundaryenergy.com.