



PRESS RELEASE

Dolma Himalayan Climate Fund moves Nepal towards Energy Independence

**Kathmandu
20th July 2018**

Dolma Himalayan Climate Fund (DHCF) announces the investment approval from the Investment Board of Nepal (IBN) for the first phase of its proposed Peak Energy Management (PEMa) System. PEMa is a customized system that combines 150 MW of solar power with 20 MW battery storage to provide renewable electricity mostly in the dry season. Its software and batteries allows “time-shifting” of solar-generated power from daytime to evening peak time. It can also store surplus hydro-generated energy during the night for dispatch during the morning peak time.

DHCF, a UK aid funded project, is part of the Dolma Group that includes Dolma Impact Fund – the first international private equity fund for Nepal, investing international capital along with local investors. Dolma Impact Fund has invested in multiple productive sectors in Nepal, from hydropower (inc. Sanima Group’s 28.1 MW Lower Likhu project), to healthcare, agriculture and technology. Its portfolio companies provide employment for around 3,000 in Nepal. Dolma Group and Dolma Impact Fund are led by founder Tim Gocher.

DHCF’s PEMa system will fulfill the same service to the power system as seasonal hydro storage. Both are designed to dispatch power on an as-needed basis in the dry season. However, unlike hydro storage which will take many years to build, the first installation is estimated to be completed in 2 years from signing the Project Development Agreement (PDA), with possible rapid expansion up to 850MW. It provides short-term certainty of load deficit reduction in Nepal while much-needed large hydro storage projects are developed. By providing more peak power, PEMa allows development of more Run-of-River projects for base supply. It also promotes more Peaking-Run-of-River projects by enhancing their capacity to dispatch more power during peak times.

Besides mitigating the need for increased power import, the principle benefits from PEMa for Nepal include: Energy Security, Peak Supply Management, Energy Portfolio Diversification, Import Substitution, Reduced Country and Energy Sector Risk Premium, Local Industry Development, Local Employment and Skill Development, and reduction of black carbon emissions that are accelerating glacial melt.

DHCF’s team is well-equipped to execute the project and includes Managing Director Dr. Sandip Shah and Mr. Mike Winkel. Dr. Shah is an energy specialist experienced in development, management and operation of hydropower and infrastructure projects in Nepal. Mr. Winkel was formerly a board member at global energy giant E.On, where he held roles including CEO of Climate and Renewable Energy, and group COO managing a power generation portfolio of 60,000 MW.

Dr. Shah said: “Having worked in Nepal’s energy sector all my working life, I’ve wanted to solve the issues of peak and seasonal power deficits and reliance on imports. With new battery and software technology, combined with solar and hydro generation, DHCF can now move the country rapidly towards energy independence.”

Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, IBN’s CEO said: “This solar power solution is an innovative project for Nepal that would improve the energy mix and can support Nepal’s peak-time and dry season



power needs in a short time frame. IBN looks forward to facilitating the process for taking this project forward.”

Mr. Winkel added: “Making renewable energy competitive - this has driven me for many years. It is exciting to see how PEMa makes this vision reality by combining various state-of-the-art power generation and storage technologies to deliver clean, secure and competitive electricity for Nepal.”

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