



Rahimafrooz Solar paving way to renewable energy

Hasibul Aman Renewable energies now feature prominently in policy decisions in power hungry nations, including Bangladesh, as policy makers are seriously thinking of alternatives to conventional power sources that involve big financing against the backdrop of a volatile global energy scenario.

Overlooking initial installation cost and at the same time taking into accounts the long-term benefits of solar power, the country in its ambitious power generation master plan seeks to have 5 percent of its total power generation from solar energy by 2020 along with spurring solar home systems, creating a big scope for local companies.

Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd (RREL), a subsidiary of Rahimafrooz Group, will be and is a force to reckon with in the country's search for sustainable solar power in the coming days.

Rahimafrooz Solar has played a major role in pioneering and popularizing solar power in the domestic circuit by providing renewable energy solutions since 1985.

Besides popularizing solar energy usage in the domestic scene, it proactively got involved in piloting diversified solutions along with advocating required policy framework needed for ensuring sustainable energy security in the country.

RREL has so far successfully supplied solar systems totaling more than 14MWp including the single largest solar power solution of 50.4 KWp installed at a private university.

The company is a key partner of Infrastructure Development Company (IDCOL), a non-banking FI, to install more than 1.3 billion subsidized off-grid SHS across the country till date, supported by the World Bank.

The state-owned IDCOL has set a target of installing 1.25 million SHSs along with 1.25 million installations already in place. The WB has recently struck a financing deal of US\$172 million with the IDCOL to set up 6, 30,000 solar home systems in rural areas by the year end.

Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd, emerged as a subsidiary of Rahimafrooz Group in 2006. RREL specializes as a systems integrator and installer of solar solutions and one-stop service provider for carbon project development. The company very recently inaugurated its state of the art manufacturing facility for solar PV module at Ashulia. With a capacity of 18MW per year, the plant is the only automated manufacturing facility in the country and has been set up with a vision to serve both local and global markets.

RREL provides high performance solar modules, highly reliable Rahimafrooz solar battery from Rahimafrooz Accumulator's Ltd, the country's largest battery manufacturing plant from Rahimafrooz Group.

In addition, RREL has a strong team of qualified professionals, along with credible after sales services.

With its long experience and unique expertise, RRE has gone beyond the boundary to export and install solar street lights in refugee camps of 10 African countries, maintained by UNHCR.

The company now sees enormous market potentials for the 1.5 GW of SHS globally, especially for around 40 million households in Asia, Africa and South America which are left out of power connectivity.

With its growing strengths in SHS manufacturing, the country could fetch around \$25 million in next three years, if it can export at least 0.1 million units of SHS to tap the opportunities from a \$8 billion global market in the segment, the company people say.

Apart from SHS, their mainstream venture, the company's successes varied from giant commercial rooftop units to customised units for off-grid telecom BTSs, solar drinking solutions and solar irrigation systems.

The renewable energy company successfully demonstrated solar irrigation pump in 2009 which was later commercialized in 2010, transforming the project into a programme.

Commercial rooftop solar units, installed by Rahimafrooz Solar, include those at Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh Bank, Rural Electrification Board office, RAJUK, BPDB, amongst others.

The solar power company went for solar powered base transmission stations in 2007 as a pilot project, triggering most telecom operators now switching to solar powered BTSs in off-grid areas.

The company now focuses on rooftop solar systems and solar irrigation systems which are going to emerge as most important promising areas in the domestic market soon. Capability of designing and integrating robust, diversified product and service range has made Rahimafrooz Solar a unique Brand.

http://www.daily-sun.com/details_yes_22-03-2012_Rahimafrooz-Solar-paving-way-to-renewable-energy_92_5_41_1_4.html