

# I&P Digital Energy

I&P Digital Energy is dedicated to financing and supporting start-ups and small businesses that provide digital energy access solutions. This acceleration program will empower these companies with crucial financing and strategic support.



## Overview

Calendar	2022 - 2028
Size	€4 millions (2,6 million FCFA)
Geography	Sub-Saharan Africa
Sector	Digital, Energy, Tech
Portfolio (target)	10 to 15 startups and SMEs
Sponsor	European Commission, through AFD
Partner	Gaïa Impact Fund

I&P Digital Energy is the seed financing component of the Digital Energy Facility program, funded by the **European Union** and implemented by the **French Development Agency**.

I&P deploys I&P Digital Energy on a local level across 10 African countries. **Gaïa Impact Fund**, a venture capital firm with expertise in renewable energy in Africa and Asia, is also a key partner in the program's implementation.



## Financing and supporting the energy transition

The energy sector is undergoing **profound transformations** that are reshaping the network's structure, with the transition from a centralized to a decentralized power grid, from an unidirectional to a multidirectional flow of energy, and transitioning away from carbon-based sources to decarbonized alternatives. This evolution is also changing the focus from production-centered to a more consumer-centric network. In this context, digitalization plays a pivotal role in optimizing and enhancing the flexibility of this newly decentralized energy system.

I&P Digital Energy accelerates growth and fosters innovation **for energy sector start-ups and SMEs**. Its ultimate goal is to create a financial leverage effect for these companies, providing access to energy for an additional 150,000 people and promoting the adoption of new energy consumption patterns.

I&P Digital Energy is designed around **two complementary components**:



### Seed funding

Seed financing, ranging from **€100,000 to €500,000 (60 million to 300 million FCFA) per company**, is provided in the form of repayable loans to address their financial requirements during the acceleration phase.



### Technical support

**Strategic support and capacity building** provided by the I&P team, through training, expert missions, and technical assistance resources.

# Target companies

I&P Digital Energy targets companies meeting the following criteria:

- Start-ups and small businesses seeking support and financing **ranging from €100,000 to €500,000 (60 to 300 million FCFA)**
- Providing **innovative energy access solutions** (SHS, nano-grids, mini-grids, renewable energy for productive use, smart grid, etc.)
- Led by individuals, both men or women, who are **permanently based in Sub-Saharan Africa**, and fully committed to their businesses
- Operating in **the formal economy** (legal structure recognized and registered in one of the countries of intervention) or in the process of formalization
- Committed to **maximizing their positive impacts** (on access to energy, the environment, and the social aspect), through their activities and/or the improvement of their practices

## Example of companies

### INNOVEX

Uganda

Entrepreneur : Douglas Baguma



Innovex specializes in the production, distribution and installation of smart meters for remote monitoring of off-grid solar energy systems in Uganda.

To discover : [Douglas Baguma interview](#)

### COGELEC ENERGY

Senegal

Promoteur : Abdou Wahab Kane



Cogelec Energy specializes in electrical works, rural electrification and the supply, installation and maintenance of electrical and hydraulic equipment throughout Senegal.

## Submit your project

To submit your project and for further information, please visit the [page dedicated to the program](#).



## About us

For over 20 years, Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P) has been committed to providing financing and support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa, firmly believing in their pivotal role in the continent's development.

I&P has supported over 250 companies operating in various sectors and based in sub-Saharan Africa, and finances around fifty additional SMEs each year. The team is present in 10 locations across Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Uganda), as well as in France and the United States.


### Contacts

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