Call for application

Micro-Grid Academy
YOUNG TALENTS OF THE YEAR 2020 AWARD

Deadline for submission of application
September 30th, 2020
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Micro-Grid Academy Young Talents of the Year 2020 Award

1. INTRODUCTION

RES4Africa Foundation believes that young people, thinking differently and innovatively, represent the backbone of a prosperous and sustainable future for Africa, where access to energy for all is a reality. What does it take to make this happen? Giving voice and opportunities to young talents, innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups.

With this aim, in the framework of the Micro-Grid Academy (MGA) project and with the support of Enel Green Power, RES4Africa Foundation is launching the MGA Young Talents of the Year 2020 Award, to support brilliant young talents, coming from the MGA alumni community, addressing major environmental and social challenges that hamper the development of African countries.

Through this initiative, young innovators are called to submit their creative concrete ideas, based on existing and on-going experiences or projects, that will be evaluated. The 3 best innovative proposal will be selected, awarded and promoted by the Micro-Grid Academy.

2. AWARD CATEGORIES

Innovative and concrete ideas, on-going experiences and projects must address major environmental and social challenges, promoting access to energy for the development of African countries. The proposed ideas and projects must come from MGA alumni and fit in at least one of the following categories:

1. Entrepreneurship: proposals that create innovation through start-ups and entrepreneurial initiatives in the renewable energy field.
2. Renewable energy solutions: proposals that create ground-breaking ideas or prototypes in the renewable energy field.
3. Leadership - For the alumnus/alumna who has contributed to raise the public interest on clean energy access, production and discussion, ensuring a lasting impact thanks to his/her leadership capacity.
4. Women empowerment: proposals that contribute to the empowerment of women and their involvement in the renewable energy sector.
5. Climate change: proposals that contribute to create awareness and win the fight against climate change, with focus on reducing emissions, waste and deforestation in rural areas.
6. Water-Energy-Food Nexus: proposals that contribute to sustainable social-economic growth thanks to the integration of renewable energy in water management, food production, processing and conservation.

3. APPLICANTS’ REQUIREMENTS

To be selected and evaluated, the applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be part of the Micro-Grid Academy Alumni having already taken part to RES4Africa Vocational and Capacity building Trainings;
Micro-Grid academy: The Young Talents of the year 2020 Award

- Demonstrate to be the owner or representative of innovative idea(s) in her/his community in the REs sector;
- Have African nationality;
- Be between 18 and 35 years old;
- Good knowledge of English.

RES4Africa Foundation promotes gender balance in the selection of participants, therefore women applicants are highly encouraged to participate. Each applicant cannot submit more than 1 application.

When the applicant is an association or other legal entities, the persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that they should be in line with all criteria mentioned in section 2,3,4,5, 6 and 7.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURES


The evaluation of applicants will be completed only for applicants providing the following documents:

1. Complete the Online Standard Application form, properly completed in all its parts, mandatory (please fill the Standard model on https://forms.gle/YFEXu6uA7bqiKQCA7). Please note that the form should contain all the following information:
   - CV (.doc or .pdf, mandatory)
   - Id document (mandatory)
   - Letter of references, desirable but not mandatory (.doc or .pdf).
2. A notification email to info@microgridacademy.org to inform on the completion of the application submission, mandatory.
3. Evidence or example of the impact of your idea (Video or slideshow (5 mins max) of description of the proposed project or innovation; pictures...).

All documents must be provided in English.

5. SELECTION PROCEDURES

All applications will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

Am administrative check of application will be carried out; if the examination of the application reveals that it does not meet the requirement stated in section 2,3,4 and 7, the application will be excluded automatically.
Applications resulted in line with basic criteria mentioned in the present call will be evaluated by a Selection Committee composed by three representatives of RES4Africa Foundation and Enel Green Power. A first round of pre-selected 6 applicants will be invited to an “innovation presentation contest” that will be organized as physical or virtual event to identify the 3 final innovative and talented applications. The final round will award the 3 final applications, selected among the 6 pre-selected ones, as indicated in the section 6.

6. AWARDS GRANTS ALLOCATIONS

On the basis of the presentations, the Selection Committee will identify up to 3 Young Talents who will be awarded with 5,000 euro and invited to significant Conference and Forum to present their ideas to a vast audience of energy experts, coming from high-level entities of the sector.

7. AWARD CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee and the steps mentioned on the section 7 and based on the following criteria:

- Applications are in line with the procedures and the documents stated in the section 3;
- Completeness of the documents required in the section 4 (first administrative check);
- Applications are in line with categories mentioned in the section 2;
- Quality of the Applications submitted;
- Creative concrete ideas, based on existing and on-going experiences or projects;
- Innovation of the proposed idea;
- Impact of the proposed idea.

8. DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

The deadline for the submission of application form and the notification e-mail (complete of all documents mentioned in section 4) is September 30th, 2020.

NOTE: all the notification email must be sent exclusively to info@microgridacedemy.org.

The applicants are advised not to wait until the last day to submit their application and proposal, in order to avoid last minutes constraint due to Internet traffic, electricity faults and others potential issues.

RES4Africa will be not responsible for any delay due to such afore-mentioned difficulties and any application received after the mentioned deadline will be automatically rejected.

9. REQUESTS OF CLARIFICATIONS:
Questions and requests of clarification may be sent by e-mail no later than 35 days before the deadline for the submission of application to the address info@microgridacademy.org indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals. RES4Africa is not obliged to give clarifications to questions received after this date, and all replies will be addressed no later than 15 days before the deadline for submission of application.

10. GENERAL TIMETABLE FOR APPLICANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication of the Call for application</td>
<td>9/07/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to request of clarifications from RES4Africa</td>
<td>26/08/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date on which clarification are issued by RES4Africa</td>
<td>10/09/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Application submission</td>
<td>30/09/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST ROUND: RES4Africa notification to pre-selected applicants</td>
<td>15/10/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST ROUND: pre-selected applications participation to the “MGA Young Innovators of the Year contest”</td>
<td>Between 20-26/10/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECOND ROUND: Notification of the Final selected applicants</td>
<td>30/10/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of Award and grant delivery</td>
<td>From November 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invitation to Conference and Forum</td>
<td>Form November 2020</td>
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