ELECTRICITY CONTROL BOARD NEWSLETTER
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spark

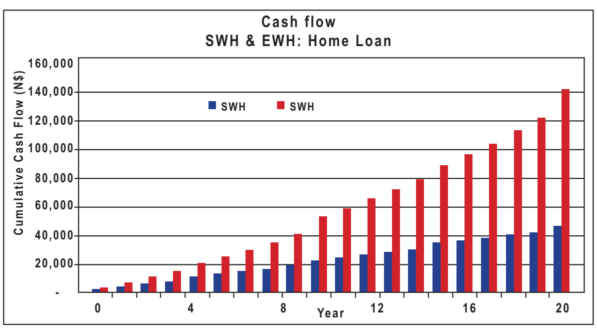
CONTENT

Solar Water Heating a Winning Technology

The use of solar energy to generate hot water is paying handsome dividends for those who have invested in it.

A study commissioned by the Ministry of Mines and Energy in 2005 showed that solar water heating was economically and technical viable, and more recent tariff increases coupled with a real reduction in cost of solar water heating systems indicates that this trend is continuing. For example, in 2005 the breakeven point between solar and electrical heating* was 4.9 years. As at June 2007 this has dropped to 4.0 years.

At present, a typical household* can expect to save around N$94 000.00 (present value) over 20 years when using a solar water heater compared to an electrical geyser. The following graph shows the relative cash flow for the two alternatives when financed through a commercial home loan. This includes the cost of finance, capital repayment, electricity consumed, maintenance and replacement costs.



Comparison of total costs for SWH and EWH financed via a home loan

Continues on page 2

Independent Power Producers

What is Independent Power Producers (IPPs)?

Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are private entrepreneurs who develop, own or operate electric power plants fueled by diversified energy sources such as biomass (organic matter that can be used as a fuel line wood, municipal, agricultural, lawn and yard waste), cogeneration, coal, small hydro, waste-to-energy and wind facilities.

The Role of Independent Power Producers in solving Namibia's Power Supply Crisis.

Recent events in the ESI can be described as quite hectic for Namibia due to regional supply (electricity generation) and transmission constraints ("bottlenecks") starting to have a profound impact on the Namibian ESI.

It all started in November 2005 when the failure of a rotor caused one of the two generators at the Koeberg Nuclear power station in the Western Cape to trip, causing widespread subsequent blackouts in the Western Cape and sometimes Namibia until the unit was successfully brought back on line in May 2006. Not for long, because the second 900 MW unit was then refueled during July 2006, the month when the electrical system peak usually occurs.

This incident demonstrated Eskom's over-reliance on the Koeberg Nuclear power station as the main power source for the Western Cape and Namibia, as well as inadequate transmission capacity to transport power from the Gauteng province where most of the coal-fired power stations are located to the Western Cape and Namibia. It also demonstrated Namibia's vulnerability as a result of its reliance on electricity imports from South Africa.

Higher than expected economic growth and a lack of past investment have left many African countries, including Namibia, in a race against time to avert widespread and damaging outages. The Graph depicts the demand and supply situation in the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). Noting that 2005 onward figures are predictions, it is clear that unexpected high economic growth will lead to supply shortages being experienced earlier than 2008. It should also be kept in mind that the graph depicts the overall situation: individual countries' situations will be fluctuating between surplus and shortage of supply.

Continues on page 3

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the last edition of the SPARK for 2007. As promised, we bring you information on Solar Water Heaters (SWH) and financing options if you are interested in installing a SWH. There is also news on Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and their role in solving the electricity crises in Namibia.

Furthermore, the Electricity Control Board (ECB) in collaboration with Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) and Insite Communications conducted a compact fluorescent light (CFL) Colouring Competition for three to five year-olds. We give you a little bit of background on this project and you can see photos of the winners inside!

We are also proud to introduce our new legal adviser, Ms Damoline Muruko. She replaces Ms Jacky Scholtz. Also note that Ms Alegra Makina, who started with us as the receptionist, has been promoted to the position of Executive Secretary. You can also read more about another bright spark at the ECB, Mrs Helene Vosloo, who was among the winners at this year's Business Women Awards.

Pleasant reading and remember to think twice before you hit that switch!

Mrs S. Felix
Editor

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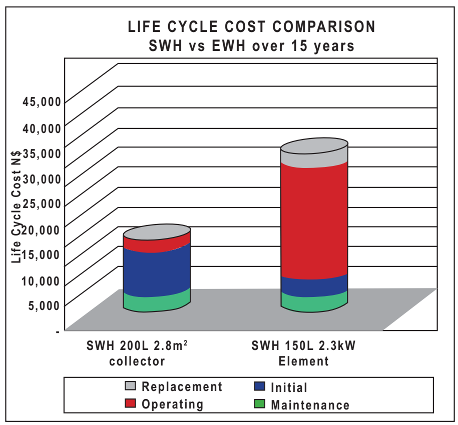
Continued from page 1

When a solar water heater is financed through a normal home loan the homeowner will experience an immediate benefit to his pocket, and no longer has the excuse that the capital cost is unaffordable. The monthly cost of finance and electricity for an electrical geyser* is N$251.00. The cost of finance for a solar water heater is N$135.00 per month. Thus the homeowner saves N$116.00 every month in the first year, and more in future years as the electricity tariffs increase.

While the technology is of benefit to the homeowner, the situation is even better for commercial and institutional facilities where large quantities of hot water are consumed. Businesses such as accommodation establishments (for example hotels, lodges, guest farms and old age homes) can achieve substantial operational cost savings by converting to solar water heating. Public institutions such as hostels and health facilities will also benefit. Many of these entities are large power consumers and they are subject to the punitive maximum demand tariffs. The additional costs imposed by this penalty tariff means that commercial entities have an excellent return on investment in solar water heating. Recently both the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia converted their student residence facilities to solar water heating after feasibility studies showed positive prognoses.

The economic benefits of solar water heating come at an opportune time, as the regional generation capacity is becoming increasingly stretched and load shedding looms in our future. The Electricity Control Board Demand Side Management (DSM) study completed in 2006 estimates that domestic electrical water heating comprises approximately 23% of winter peak demand. The use of solar water heaters can contribute substantially to peak load reduction to the benefit of Namibia as a whole.



Life Cycle Cost Comparison of Solar vs. Electrical Water Heating over 15 years.

The government has added impetus to this initiative with the recent Cabinet directive making solar water heating compulsory for all public facilities. Not only will all new public facilities be obliged to use solar water heating, but also any water heating systems requiring replacement will be solar. This bold move underlines the Namibian Government's commitment to this technology and will no doubt assist in encouraging individuals and other organisations to follow suit.

Solar water heating technology carries benefits for individual users, the electricity supply industry, financiers and the planet through the reduction of greenhouse gases, which cause global warming. Solar heating is indeed a winning technology.

Finance for Solar Water Heaters

Many people erroneously believe that they cannot afford an expensive solar water heater. The same can be said of any other high cost items, however, such as homes and cars. Most people can only acquire expensive items through finance from commercial banks. The same is true for solar water heaters. Various financing options are available to make this technology affordable for the man in the street.

Most homeowners purchase their homes using mortgage bond loans from commercial banks. Included in these home loans is the electrical geyser, which is a fixture. A solar water heater can be treated in the same way, either when a new home is being built, when purchasing a new home or even for an existing home with an access bond. Financial institutions are starting to understand that solar water heaters are a valuable asset for any home, and they are thus increasingly prepared to finance them through new or existing home loans.

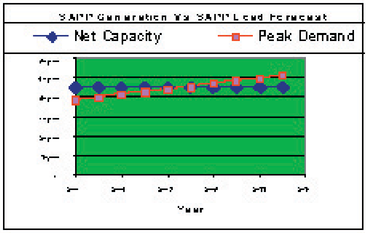
Bank Windhoek in particular has a Renewable Energy Finance scheme, where finance is available at commercial rates.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy has also made finance available for the purchase of solar systems in an effort to make renewable energy technology accessible to the public. The Solar Revolving Fund is administered on behalf of the Ministry by Konga Investments. Homeowners who wish to install a solar water heater can apply to Konga Investments for finance. There is a limit of N$30,000. The terms are a 5% deposit and monthly repayments at 5% interest over five years. The solar revolving fund can also be used for the financing of solar power systems and solar pumps.Of all of the available sources of finance, the home loan is the most favourable, as the monthly repayments over a longer loan term are lower, thus making this form of finance more affordable to most homeowners.

*(Windhoek, pre-payment tariff, family of 5. Other tariffs applicable in Namibia result in varying results) Glenn Howard Emcon Consulting Group

Konga Investments can be contacted at (+ 264 61) 25 9961, Bank Windhoek RET finance at (+ 264 61) 299 0380.

Independent Power Producers - continued from page 1



Namibia's Supply and Demand Situation

Since 1990 Namibia has been importing between 29% and 68% of its annual electricity requirements from imports (mainly Eskom of South Africa). With such high reliance on imports, Namibia is being particularly hard-hit by the current electricity supply crisis. Namibia is forced to run the expensive coal-fired Van Eck power station as well as the more expensive diesel-fired Paratus power station on a regular basis. Although Namibia's Ruacana hydropower station generates at a very low cost, its maximum output is limited to 240MW (Namibia's current maximum electrical demand is just above 400MW). Furthermore, Ruacana's electrical output is limited during off-rainy periods. It can be concluded that Namibia should take drastic measures to avoid blackouts immediately as well as in the short, medium and long term.

Since Namibia's gross domestic product (GDP) is relatively low to implement many large-scale generation projects on its own, Namibia is promoting investments by Independent Power Producers (IPPs). An IPP is a special purpose company established to develop a new power station. An IPP's shareholding can be private and/or public and/or government (in Namibia most likely a combination).

Current/Most likely Projects to avoid Disaster

<u>Demand Side Management (DSM)</u>

DSM attempts to postpone new investments in generation by reducing consumers demand and consumption of electricity. It is the quickest way of averting power outages and is currently being implemented by virtually all SAPP countries facing power supply shortages. The ECB has just completed a comprehensive DSM study for Namibia and implementation has already commenced.

<u>Gas-fired Power Plant of size 22-27MW</u>

NamPower recently embarked upon this project to ensure enough electrical peaking power in the coming years. With the current gas and diesel prices at record-highs, this option is very expensive but quick to implement and with no limits as modular units can be added as required. Expensive electricity, however, is better than no electricity as shortages in electricity stifles economic investment and growth.

<u>220kV Inter-connector with Zambia and HVDC connector to Caprivi</u>

NamPower is currently implementing this option. Through this inter-connector, Namibia paves the way to transform itself into becoming a net exporter of electricity as surplus power from the northern SADC countries can then be wheeled to southern Angola, Botswana and South Africa. In addition an additional transmission line can be built to Hwange coal-fired power station in Zimbabwe at a relatively cheap cost. NamPower has invested in the refurbishing of Hwange power station and will get electricity in return.

<u>Wind Generation at the Coast and other Renewable Energy Projects</u>

With the increase in electricity prices these projects are becoming increasingly commercially attractive. Further boosting these projects is increasing carbon emissions trading that can further improve financial viability. Pre-feasibility studies and environmental impact studies for Wind Generation have already been completed.

<u>Kudu Gas to Power</u>

The Namibian Government has declared the Kudu Gas to Power project, which can inject 800 MW of electricity into the power system, a national project. The final investment decision for Kudu has not been taken yet due to on-going negotiations the final gas price and the mitigation of the foreign exchange risk.

<u>Coal-fired power station at Walvis Bay</u>

Meanwhile since Kudu is taking a long while to get off the ground, investors have been showing keen interests in building a 350-800 MW power station at Walvis Bay using imported coal. For such a project the commodity price risk (fluctuations in international coal prices) and foreign exchange risk will pose major challenges.

<u>Baines Hydropower Scheme</u>

In the long run hydropower schemes are the cheapest source of electricity. Once a hydropower scheme has been paid off, it virtually turns into a long-life (40 years plus) cash cow, water being free and renewable. However the long lead-time to build a reservoir as well as environmental considerations turns this option into the long-term arena. The full feasibility study is due to start in 2007.

<u>Inga Hydropower Stations and the Western Power Corridor</u>

The momentum of this project (a joint venture between the power utilities of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Angola, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa) is picking up with the company WesCor established and operational. The project aims to electrically interconnect all the joint venture countries and harness the 40 GW hydro potential of the Congo River at Inga in the DRC.

<u>Nuclear Power</u>

Due to the abundance of uranium in Namibia, the Government of Namibia has recently made a policy decision that nuclear power should be developed in Namibia. However, this is a medium to long-term directive because the necessary policy, legislative & regulatory frameworks need to be developed as well as capacity building.

Conclusions

The major challenge that Namibia faces is to attract IPPs to realise the above projects. To this effect the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) granted Namibia, through the ECB, funds to develop an IPP and Investment Market Framework for Namibia. The study was completed in December 2006 and is available on the ECB website.

The USTDA has also recently provided a further grant to assist with the implementation of the IPP & Investment Market Framework. The grant will cover assistance with support for ECB Review and Due Diligence of Current and Potential IPP Projects; Development of IPP Framework Implementation Instruments and Capacity Building of the ECB for IPP Implementation; Development of an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the Distribution Grid Code; Development of a Methodology for Economic and Financial Analysis of IPP Projects; Development of Guidelines for Environmental Analysis of IPP Projects; and an Analysis of IPP Developmental Impacts.

Without sufficient, reliable and affordable energy supply, it will be impossible to realise Namibia's Vision 2030.

The bright spark at the ECB

The country's most prestigious award for businesswomen was held recently at a gala event dinner at Safari Hotel on the 12 of October 2007. The event, held for the 13th year, was attended by over 500 guests, including some of Namibia's most well known celebrities, politicians and businessmen and women. Its primary objective is to recognise the success of women leaders in business, to create role models while celebrating women's contribution to the economy.

Helene Vosloo was chosen for the Best Achiever in the category of Government and Community, which was a fiercely contested battle. She was chosen by the esteem panel of judges consisting captains of industries in recognition of her achievements to date

Continues on page 7

Information on Regional Electricity Distributors (REDs) Overview of REDs: FAQ Part 2

Who are the actual shareholders of the existing REDs?
The owners/shareholders of the RED are the distributors in the RED's geographic area. The various distributors undertake to transfer their electricity networks and customers to the RED. In exchange for such transfer they receive shares in the RED. Thus, apart from mines and farmer schemes, the REDs are predominantly owned by public entities (LAs, RCs and NamPower).

Is a RED just another structure added to the industry at additional cost?
No. The RED is the consolidated business of existing licensees. Once all anticipated five REDs have been established the number of distribution licensees in Namibia will be reduced from approximately 70 to 5. In fact, due to its very nature (economies of scale and sharing of resource), it saves cost and does not add cost.

How does the establishment of REDs impact on electricity prices - i.e. will customers pay more for electricity once the RED is established?
Electricity in Namibia has historically been cheap due to the following factors:
(1) Eskom of South Africa had a surplus of generation capacity and Namibia could import (up to 60%) electricity at very low prices;
(2) the loans of Namibia's main power station, the Ruacana hydropower station was paid off in the 1980s and could supplement imports also at a very low price; and
(3) many distributors were not charging cost-reflective tariffs notably distribution tariffs did not include provision for future investment in infrastructure when the existing infrastructure becomes outdated.

Currently there is a generation capacity shortage in South Africa and in the whole Southern Africa region. To counter this South Africa, Namibia and the region are scrambling to build new power stations, which cost considerably more than the current old, loans-paid-off power stations.

In addition most of Namibia's distribution infrastructure is reaching the end of its lifetime as it was built in the 1960s and replacements and refurbishments are required urgently (most current distributors do not have the financial resources for replacements/refurbishments as these costs have not been included in the historic prices of electricity).

Thus the price of electricity is currently not cost reflective and cannot sustain the electricity industry in the long-term. Therefore a Cabinet decision (part of Vision 2030) was taken that electricity prices must be cost reflective by 2011. Until 2011, a premium will be added every year above inflation to reach cost-reflective electricity to avoid a sudden price shock.

In addition, the LA Surcharges are also added to the RED's tariff which, when collected, are paid over to the LAs. Thus, although the RED (in real terms) can and will provide electricity to its customers at lower prices than the LAs and RCs could, it appears to customers that the establishment of REDs result in increased electricity prices. As explained before, these increases must be seen against their correct background and cannot be attributed to the establishment of REDs.

What benefits are there for LAs or RCs to join a RED?
If the RED is a success, it reflects positively on its shareholders, its customers are satisfied and, once the RED shows a profit, its shareholders share in its declared dividends. For LAs and RCs it further means that they can be assured that their electricity functions are performed by a competent entity, which can provide good electricity services and standards to their residents. LAs and RCs are major participants in REDs resulting in them being major owners (i.e. shareholders) of the RED, which they joined.

Why are REDs not regulated through a specific Act?
REDs are established through private companies with all initial shareholding by Government-owned or public entities. The stakeholders' view (consultations during the Electricity Restructuring Study) was capturing the efficiency of the private sector while public sector retains ownership. As private companies, the REDs are thoroughly regulated by the provisions of the Companies Act, 1973. In addition, the Electricity Act regulates electricity licensees (that includes REDs).

The Electricity Bill also provides ample for subordinate rules and regulations, which will further regulate REDs. Thus the ECB and the MME are confident that there are sufficient legal instruments available to allow for the effective regulation of REDs but, should a need for more specific regulation in future be identified, further legislation on the REDs can be drafted at that stage.

Why are some LAs and RCs opposing the establishment of REDs?
The policy of Government is that LAs and RCs should conduct electricity supply based on commercial principles, which conflicts with the traditional uses of electricity sales. It is difficult for LAs and RCs to overnight transform to such

Continues on page 6

ECB Licensees' Performance Framework Project

Background
In carrying out its mandate under the Electricity Act of ensuring sustainability in the ESI through performance compliance; the ECB has decided to conduct a performance framework study for the Namibian electricity industry. The contract for this work has been awarded to a consortium of consultants lead by EMCON.

The study seeks to establish Key Performance Indicators for all Licensee segments and establish suitable benchmarks within identified key performance areas, which will assist the ECB in evaluating and monitoring the performance of Licensees.

This is a summary of findings as recommended in the first draft of the project that was presented at a stakeholders' workshop held on 23rd October 2007.

Introduction
The ECB's mandate as contained in the Electricity Act of 2000 is to manage the performance of industry participants (Licensees) in a manner conducive to achieving the Government's energy policy goals. These goals are expressed formally in the White Paper on Energy Policy of 1998. The energy policy goals as identified by the paper are as follows: Effective Energy Sector Governance, Security of Supply, Social upliftment, Investment and Growth, Economic competitiveness and efficiency, and Sustainability.

A performance management system has been proposed based on the commonly used structure of key performance areas covered by key performance indicators which can be used to assess the performance of Licensees in relation to identified key performance areas. Such a system seeks to focus performance management on issues of real importance to the industry.

The following four energy policy goals are recommended as performance areas for the Licensees:

Efficiency (minimising cost)

Security of Supply (effectiveness, adequate Capacity)

Investment and Growth (Financial health, innovation)

Sustainablility (resource use, resource development)

These four areas are seen as being primarily in the hands of the Licensees, and should therefore drive their performance.

The following table depicts the license types in existence and as envisaged in the Electricity Bill 2007:

License Type (Symbol)	License Category	Remarks	Key Product(s)
Generation (G)	Generation		Energy conversion (energy carrier conversion)
Transmission (T)	Wires		Connectivity provision Energy conversion (voltage level conversion)
Distribution (D)	Wires	Envisaged only 5 REDs	Connectivity provision Energy conversion (voltage level)
Supply (S)	Supply	Only issued with wires license	Customer Services
Import (X)	Trading	Usually issued with wires license	Energy acquisition
Export (X)	Trading	Usually issued with wires license	Surplus energy sales
Trading (X)	Trading	Envisaged in future	Energy security

At this time a supply license is always issued in conjunction with a wires business license, i.e. with a transmission of distribution license. Licensed entities are not required to ring fence the wires business from the supply business. Separate results and data are therefore not available for these license types and they need to be viewed together (although some indicators will shed more light on the supply or wires aspect of the business).

Continues on page 6

Continued from page 4

Overview of REDs: FAQ - continue

commercial principles. Traditionally LAs have been using electricity sales for their daily cashflow needs and balancing any deficits on their budgets. The latter is not anymore compatible to the policy of Government in view of the principle of cost-reflective electricity prices.

The financial needs of LAs and RCs to provide non-profitable services cannot be ignored and therefore the LA Surcharge on electricity cannot be removed. Hence the ECB developed a methodology for calculating the LA Surcharge over years including extensive consultations with LAs and RCs. However, there remain many LAs and RCs that are in disagreement with the LA Surcharge methodology and hence they are opposed to the establishment of REDs. To address these concerns as well as the overall sustainable income of LAs and RCs a national dialogue is currently taking place, which includes investigations into manners in which the principle of cost-reflectivity, on the one hand, and the sustainability of LAs and RCs, on the other hand, can be accommodated.

Another reason for opposition to REDs is that some large LAs view the assistance to struggling LAs and RCs, especially in rural areas, as subsidisation. Even if this is true, the subsidisation will be minimal due to the small size of the electricity industry in rural areas. Also, this is ultimately in the interest of the whole industry and in line with Vision 2030. The refusal to accommodate struggling LAs and RCs is in conflict of Government policy to uplift the socio-economic standards in rural areas.

ECB Licensees' Performance Framework Project - continued from page 5

Proposed KPI shortlist for Namibia

The indicator evaluation criteria and research into international practices have led to the proposed Allocation of Indicators to License Segments as indicated in the following table:

Indicator	Type	GX	TX & Supply	DX & Supply	Trading
		Generating License	Transmission & Supply License, incl import & export	Distribution & Supply License, incl import & export	Trading License
Financial Indicators					
Return on revalued assets	Benchmark	x	x	x	
EBIT margin	Benchmark	x	x	x	
Administrative Indicators					
Compliance with License Conditions	Track	x	x	x	x
Compliance with QOSS standards	Track	x	x	x	
Compliance with environmental laws	Track	x	x	x	
Technical Indicators					
kWh Loss [%]	Benchmark		x	x	
availability [%]	Benchmark	x			
SAIDI index [minutes]	Track		x	o	
SAIFI index [outages]	Track		x	o	
Load Factor [%]	Track/Context	x	x	x	
Annual MWh load shed [MWh]	Track				x
Energy conversion efficiency [%]	Benchmark	x			
Plant utilisation [%]	Track	x			
Commercial Indicators					
Debtor days [days]	Benchmark		x	x	
Annual MWH / customer [MWh/customer]	Track/Context		x	x	
Annual MWh / employee [MWh]	Benchmark		x	x	
Efficiency Indicators					
Customers / employee [number]	Benchmark		x	x	
km network / employee [km]	Track/Context		x	x	
Annual MWh / km network [MWh/km]	Track/Context		x	x	
employees / MW capacity [employees/MW]	Benchmark	x			
Transformer utilisation factor (actual MWH / Trfr Capacity)	Track/Context		x	x	
Power purchase costs (average c/kWh)	Track			x	
Social Indicators					
Population / connection	Track			x	
% Households electrified	Track			x	

The following types of indicators are proposed: Benchmarking: Performance indicators which can be benchmarked; Tracking: Performance indicators that may be difficult to benchmark, but should be tracked over time; and Context: Indicators which give critical information about the operating environment of the Licensee.

Proposed benchmarks for Namibian Licensees

The benchmarking KPIs proposed herein had been found to be the most appropriate for application towards the Namibian ESI at this moment in time. In the context of lacking historical data on ring-fenced ESI participants in Namibia, the approach was to analyse operational and financial information from electrical utilities around the world to establish a statistical reference for potential benchmarks that can be applied to Namibian licensees in the Namibian context. The main performance areas of benchmarking Licensees had been defined as follows: economical value, Investment and growth (Financial returns, Profit margins); efficiency (Energy conversion, utilisation of resources, costs); system performance and quality of service, (Power quality, Outages, Security of Supply and quality of service); sustainability (Customers, Employees, Costs, Environmental).

Continues on page 8

The criteria used for benchmarking: In order to develop appropriate benchmarking tools for the identified performance areas, comparable operational data is required, either from a local group of peers or from samples world-wide. The problem however is that not all indicators are suitable to be used as a benchmark, but rather as "tracking indicators". The approach used was to identify the indicators displaying a reasonable tendency to fall within a range, and displaying a reasonable central tendency. In addition, the indicator should also display either independence or clear trending from "modifying factors" such as network size, customer density (customers per km line), customer class (average MWh/customer) and others. The approach for determining the statistical value of the indicator the following criteria was applied: Median and Mean values should be as close to each other as possible; the Standard Deviation was also considered as an indication of data spread; extreme data values or "outliners" were identified, and excluded from the computation; and reasonable independence from size and contextual factors.

Benchmarking Results and Conclusion

The results from the research to obtain benchmark indicators are shown in the table below; and the median is considered to display the most reliable central tendency of the data obtained, hence considered the primary benchmarking value.

BENCHMARK INDICATOR	Min	Max	Median	Mean	Std Dev
Earnings Before Interest & Tax Margin	-7.1%	42.7%	17.0%	16.6%	9.5%
Net Profit Margin	0.7%	17.5%	8.9%	9.3%	3.9%
Return on Total Assets (EBIT, inflation adjusted)	-0.3%	12.8%	4.1%	4.4%	3.0%
Return on Total Assets (Net Profit, inflation adjusted)	-0.5%	3.9%	0.86%	1.1%	1.2%
Energy Sold per Employee (MWh/Employee)	1,270	15,779	6,639	6,312	3,132
Energy Conversion (%)	84%	98%	95%	93%	3.7%
Debtor Days	25	91	46	51	19
Number of Customers per Employee	68	848	321	346	209
Employees per MW	0.06	2.06	0.59	0.67	0.50
Availablility	87%	93%	90%	90%	2.6%

The above summaries of results are as presented in the draft report; and the final draft will be made available to all ESI stakeholders and on the ECB web site. ECB will continue to balance the interests of licensees, GRN and consumers in the envisaged licensees' performance management system.

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Colouring Competition Prize-giving Ceremony

Background

Distributing CFLs to the public is an option identified through the Demand Side Management (DSM) Study, commissioned by the Electricity Control board (ECB) in 2005, to reduce the demand for electricity especially during the winter peak. Unfortunately CFLs could not be procured before the winter peak of 2007. Nevertheless, the project was launched 29 October 2007 and free CFLs are disseminated to decrease not only the electricity demand, but also to lower monthly electricity bills. However, it is still a concern whether these bulbs will be installed or shelved.

Continues on page 8

The bright spark at the ECB - continued from page 3

in turning around the fortunes of the ECB, through meeting the strategic objectives. According to chairperson of the panel of Judges Patty Karauihe-Martin the entrants were judged on qualitative criteria, including entrepreneurial skills, growth in their business turnover and their employment growth and skills development.

Helene's accomplishments are an inspiration to us and she is a role model for other women, within the ECB. This achievement demystifies the perception that women are incapable of reaching greater heights within the corporate world and also demonstrates the fact that the ECB is creating an enabling environment for women to showcase their potential and abilities in this male dominated industry. This achievement for Helene was not really a fluke, since she has scooped many internal awards at the ECB and this was really the cherry on top of the cake.

Speaking on her success, during her time at the ECB she says she had many highlights but one of the biggest was when she was given the company's Achiever Award in 2001. For her this was a major achievement since she was the only person in the company who has not previously worked in the electricity industry. She has won this award every year since.

With the acquisitions of so many awards, Helene is indeed a "Bright Spark at the ECB"

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Colouring Competition Prize-giving Ceremony

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Against this background, the ECB decided to shift the emphasis to our younger generation, specifically the 3-5 year-olds, as they are the decision makers of the future. The CFL Coloring Competition therefore entailed a colouring exercise of the two bulbs at stake, the CFL and the incandescent bulb, with a note to urge parents to make the change, more so, to install the distributed CFLs.

Although not all pre-primary schools could be included in this initial project, a total of 14 pre-primary schools within Windhoek were included. The response was very good, which made the judging process a nightmare. One thing is for sure: Parents do not pay for pre-primary education in vain! These small ones can colour! Three winners were identified out of each category and all the winners, their principals and parents were invited to a prize-giving ceremony, which was held on Friday, 12 October 2007 at the Kleinnes Heim Hotel Pension, Windhoek West.

Here follows the names of the winners for each of the different categories:

3 year-olds	4 year-old	5 year-olds
1st Price: Lito Nangula from Elongo Pre-Primary School 2nd Price: Jurgen Tegethoff from Dt. Evang. Kindergarten	1st Price: Linda Aludhila from Emmanuel Pre-Primary School	1st Price: Tshepo Makaza from Windhoek Pre-Primary School
West 3rd Price: Tammy-Anne Lombardt from	2nd Price: Ngazutue Tjombe from Klein Windhoek Privater Kindergarten	2nd Price: Jasreel Wana from Learn and Play Pre-Primary School
Bizkids	3rd Price: Arkell Wellmann from play-World Montessori	3rd Price: Tye Zechner from Play-World Montessori

The prices were as follows:
1st Price: N$1 000-00, 2nd Price: N$700-00, 3rd Price: N$500-00

The main sponsor of this project was the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA), who sponsored the prices and Insite Communications, who designed the colouring templates. The ECB sponsored the prizes to the different schools with winners.

We want to thank all principals and fellow teachers, parents and above all, the kids who made this event a success. However, we still rely on your support to make Namibia an electricity wise country, thus remember to think twice before you hit that switch and turn off unused electricity appliances!

Swakopmund played host to the REDs funday recently. Erongo RED, Cenored, Nored and the ECB all participated in this much anticipated event.

The day was an opportunity for team building with teams playing against each other in volleyball, soccer and netball. Nored was the overall winner with two trophies followed by Cenored, which won one.