

nyrstar foundation

Contributing
to a better
world

In April 2012 the Nyrstar Foundation proudly presented its first winner: Solar without Borders - The inaugural Nyrstar Foundation Grant winner.

The Nyrstar Foundation is a charitable organisation that supports and rewards creative, innovative and breakthrough initiatives, that will help make the world a better place. Ideas and projects that could make a real difference to either health, the environment, education or social welfare in developing countries.

The Nyrstar Foundation provides opportunities to contribute in a meaningful way to significant broader sustainability issues facing humanity. It is an essential part of the Nyrstar's Corporate Social Responsibility program which is driven by a desire to support causes, charitable or otherwise, that improve the environments and communities in which the company operates. By supporting initiatives aimed at improving conditions relating to health, the environment, education or social welfare, the Nyrstar Foundation hopes to make the world a better place and to improve the quality of life in the developing countries. The grant is aimed primarily at individuals, starting companies or organisations that lack the finance to develop their own ideas, or have difficulty in winning support from other, perhaps more traditional sources. Every year a grant of €25,000 is awarded to an individual, company or organisation in Belgium. The Foundation will provide further support in the form of coaching from industry leaders and partners of the Nyrstar Foundation.



Michael Morley, Chief Corporate & Development Officer (left) and Jan Huyghebaert, Chairman Nyrstar Foundation (right) present the grant to Katrien Van Rompay and Bert Bemolet from Solar without Borders.

We are proud to say that Solar without Borders is a great organisation to support and work with and that their winning project 'Solar Kiosks for Togo' represents everything we envisioned when we launched the Nyrstar Foundation and went out looking for great ideas. As Bert Bemolet of Solar Without Borders said, "This is excellent! [Through this financial and coaching support from](#)

the Nyrstar Foundation we can now turn our idea into a sustainable project. Together we can realise the idea that we and the local population in Togo strongly believe in and build up a beautiful project in a thoughtful and sustainable way!"

Solar without Borders is a Belgian NGO that realises projects based on solar energy. "Providing basic electricity in local communities can drastically improve the lives of a large number of people in developing countries. By using renewable energy sources this can be done in a sustainable way."

The 'Solar Kiosks for Togo' project is dedicated to providing affordable solar powered electricity for local communities in Togo by setting up central solar powered kiosks that provide electricity and lighting. The kiosks are located in small villages that have no access to the electricity grid. With these kiosks we offer the poorest people in the community access to clean electricity. Villagers come to the kiosk and can rent and recharge a solar charged LED lamp at an affordable price.

It's a great idea! But there is more to the project. The solar panels needed for the kiosks are produced locally in Togo. The third element of the project is that the solar kiosks are set up as independent businesses. A micro franchising business model will allow rapid spreading of Solar Kiosks.

With the help of the Nyrstar Foundation, five additional villages receive a solar powered kiosk and have access to electricity and lighting, critical for health, education and general quality of life.



Solar kiosks in Togo

Our 2012 theme: **Education**

Access to education is essential to improve quality of life in developing countries. For socially disadvantaged groups, access to education is especially difficult. Four out of five children in developing countries who do not go to school live in rural regions. In 2012, we were looking for great ideas and initiatives that facilitate learning possibilities for students of all ages, from pre-school to graduate school and including education for adults. Projects that in an innovative and creative way provide advancement of education that has an impact on the improvement of social and community welfare. We were also targeting initiatives that provide educational services, opportunities and tools that help make local education more effective and more accessible to students of all backgrounds and ages.

The applications we received in 2012 fit within a broad criteria ranging from innovative education programs and locations, to access to education (mobility, transport), to supporting services that facilitate education (computer, radio). The winner of the 2012 Nyrstar Foundation Grant will be announced on 24 April 2013.



Bert Bernolet helps installing the solar panels



Local manager Yaovi Adih in the pilot kiosk

