



**Funding Source:**  
 Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) - 46%, Solutech- 54%

**Program:**  
 Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia

**Project Name:**  
 Solutech Solar Power

**Project Location:**  
 Dili, and 13 districts in East Timor

**Project Start Date:**  
 1 October 2009

**Project End Date:**  
 30 September 2012

**Total Grant Funds Approved:**  
 A\$575,500

# Solutech

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Solutech is a local East Timorese company supplying solar power and other electrical products to various customers. The company has provided imported solar energy units to East Timorese provincial government offices in various districts. It also supplies solar lighting and power systems to businesses and homes.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

ECF funding will allow Solutech to extend solar powered electricity to remote and rural districts, replacing the traditional kerosene and candle nut oil base lamps. The initial focus will be on affordable solar lighting for individual families but will expand to broader solar power units for communities within 18 months.

ECF funding will assist Solutech to establish the local assembly operation, rapidly expand sales to the more remote districts and train local entrepreneurs in sales and maintenance of the solar powered systems. Solutech will work in partnership with the key micro finance provider in East Timor, Moris Rasik, to enhance the benefits allowing affordable, flexible lending options for disadvantaged rural households.

## BENEFITS TO THE POOR

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Cheaper, safer and pollution free lighting for over 6,000 rural households with broad social and micro enterprise flow on benefits
- Partnership with micro finance provider will increase access to solar power for poor women, who are the main customers of Moris Rasik
- Additional employment of around 30 men and women in expanded operation in Dili and facilitation of small service enterprises in each district
- Project will be a good model for local assembly/ manufacturing and an effective partnership with a microfinance provider.

Moris Rasik customers will be provided with employment opportunities as service agents.

## THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

The ECF grant will allow Solutech to establish a viable local assembly operation, secure stock for the rapid expansion into the more remote districts, train and support the service agents in all 13 provinces and to work in a collaborative manner with the micro finance provider. The project would have been too expensive for Solutech to undertake on its own. Commercial finance for this type of project would not have been available.

For more information please visit our website [www.enterprisechallengefund.org](http://www.enterprisechallengefund.org)



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