Press Release

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New Project launched «Reducing the Photovoltaic Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs through an advanced online platform» using ACTIS ERP software

A project coordinated by the FOSS Research Centre for Sustainable Energy of the University of Cyprus

ROM-PV

A new partnership that brings together three European countries, Cyprus, Greece and Spain has been launched for the implementation of a new project entitled **"Reducing the Photovoltaic Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs through an advanced online platform (Acronym: ROM-PV)".** The project is supported under the umbrella of SOLAR-ERA.NET Co-funded by the Research and Innovation Foundation in Cyprus, the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) in Greece and the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness – State Research Agency (MINECO-AEI), in Spain. SOLAR-ERA.NET is supported by the European Commission within the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020 (Cofund ERA-NET Action, N° 691664).

The project is coordinated by FOSS, Research Centre for Sustainable Energy of the University of Cyprus and the partners are the Centre for Advanced Studies in Earth Sciences, Energy and Environment (CEACTEMA) of the University of Jaén and Alectris company delivering asset care for the global solar industry. The total project funding secured is €449.290,00.

The ROM-PV project has been initiated to develop and commercialise a product that will enable preventive and predictive maintenance and ensure optimal PV plant performance while reducing costs associated with operation and maintenance (O&M). This will be achieved through the development of innovative algorithms that will be hosted in the cloud-based solution – ACTIS ERP software a) ensuring data quality and b) allowing failure and performance loss diagnosis (open- and short-circuit failures, inverter and bypass diode faults, shading, degradation, soiling, etc.) without disrupting the normal operation of the PV plant. The methodology will be primarily based on real-time analysis of measurement data, machine learning and statistical analysis and will be verified experimentally against field measurements from existing PV systems installed in Cyprus, Spain and other PV plants from around the world, currently monitored by the industrial partner Alectris through its innovative ACTIS platform.

The outcomes of the project are expected to be significant. Firstly, by implementing the proposed solution, O&M costs will decrease while PV plant performance will improve. As a result, the LCOE (levelized cost of electricity) from PV systems will go down thus rendering the technology more competitive and assisting in

its enhanced penetration in the global electricity mix. Ultimately, through increased PV penetration, ROM-PV will assist in climate change mitigation, reduction of CO2 emissions and eventually improved quality of life.

The official launch date of the research project was the 12th of December 2019 and the project is scheduled to run for 36 months. The kick-off meeting of the project was successfully held on the 13th of December 2019 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

For more information, you may contact the project coordinator Professor George E. Georghiou, Director of FOSS Research Centre for Sustainable Energy, on +357 22 892272, geg@ucy.ac.cy or navigate to the project webpage: http://www.foss.ucy.ac.cy/projects/rompv/.

End of announcement