

Title of the Official Side Event	Mini-grids for remote village electrification and income generation activities
Side Event Theme / Description	<p>India has a long record of carrying out the renewable energy programme. Government has played a critical role in developing the same with various incentives and subsidies. Despite such a long history of renewable energy activity in India, a number of villages in India still lack power. There is still greater number of villages where the grid may have been extended but without adequate power supply.</p> <p>The renewable energy technologies thus provide an option for electrifying these power starved villages. This is particularly important for remote villages where grid extension will have substantial financial implications.</p> <p>The Norwegian Embassy has been supporting a project in India along with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt of India with an objective of developing sustainable and scalable business models (with particular focus on local revenue models) and developing an effective, global incentive mechanism to facilitate and accelerate a large-scale roll-out of Community Solar Power Plants (CSPPs).</p> <p>The options chosen in these pilots involve a mini-grid approach in some villages and a charging hub model in the others.</p> <p>The proposed side event will discuss the learnings from this project as well as other similar initiative in India or other countries in the world and would deliberate on the significance of minigrids in remote village electrification and livelihood enterprises. The side event will also discuss the regulatory and policy aspects providing an enabling environment for large scale implementation of mini-grids. Engagement of private sector becomes critically important for large scale implementation and for sustenance of this initiative.</p>
Potential speakers and panelists	Mr. Alf Bjørseth, Chairman and owner, Scatec AS Dr Debashish Mazumdar, CMD, IREDA Mr Ryan G Anderson, Energy Advisor, Norad