LOCAL INPUT CAN GET THE MOST OUTPUT FROM RENEWABLE GENERATION

Chris Blanksby

SUMMARY

Changes in generation plant are unavoidable

Skill requirement

Projects:

Development cycle

Typical skills shortfall

Opportunities and realistic expectations for local contribution



CHANGES

Close to 1 in 2 RE generators we've seen in the Pacific did not last their design life, or are performing at less than 90% of expected capacity...

And transition to new technology is accelerating...





CHANGES

Generation

- Solar / wind / hydro / bioenergy
- Storage
- Control
- Independent power producers
- Modelling and forecasting



Distribution

- Embedded generation
- Smart meters
- Tariffs
- Islanding and off-grid
- Communications
- Power systems modelling
- Protection
- Electric vehicles



COMPLEX EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS

Failure is not an option. Risks:

- Abandoning government policy and RE targets
- Possible liabilities to IPPs or investors
- Customer defection
- **Requires critical mass of:**
- Community energy literacy
- Skilled local managers, technical specialists, and administrators
- Access to specialist support





TEAMS AND SKILLS REQUIRED – NOT REALLY NEW

Strategic and policy

Technical advice

Sponsors

Specialist studies

Financial

Legal

Procurement

Engineering design

Civil construction

Mechanics

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Electrical Manual labour Control system and SCADA **Transport and logistics Project management** Site management Asset management **Billing and administration Operations and maintenance** IT and communications

BATTERY CONSTRUCTION





BIOENERGY PLANT







WHAT IS NEW

More documentation

More types of equipment and operating procedures More modelling, data processing and analytics More flexibility and options

More tariffs, generators, and customer choice

Much greater variety of failure modes









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PEOPLE ARE THE CRITICAL RESOURCE

Hardware is mass produced – consumer / industrial grade

- Component level equipment 'off-the-shelf'
- Everything else comes down to people



WHERE TO SOURCE PEOPLE

Typical recommendations on development projects for international support

- Procurement support
- Compliance
- Project management
- Engineering oversight
- Single responsibility construction
 - Imported equipment
 - May prefer use of local labour

Otherwise, expectation is for local contribution

BACK TO BASICS – DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Transformation is inevitable - Driven by the opportunity for clean, sustainable energy



It is a long term game – strategy needs to suit





BACK TO BASICS – DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Education basics

Grow community energy literacy

Capacity base with training fundamentals

• Safety, electrical

Mentoring and opportunities for talented staff

Opportunities to explore and move seamlessly between local and international roles

Prestige and respect

Networking, knowledge sharing and secondment





OLD AND NEW – SIDE BY SIDE





OLD AND NEW – SIDE BY SIDE





OLD AND NEW – SIDE BY SIDE



