



Press release

Inauguration of the rural electrification project initiated by Cummins in collaboration with IIT, Bombay and READ Foundation at village Kolha

Kolha, Orissa, March 4, 2010: Inhabitants of Kolha, a lesser known tribal village approximately 2.5 hours away from the Orissa State Capital of Bhubaneshwar, witnessed a historic event today, with the validation of the electrification of their village which had been initiated on August 15, 2009. The event, a humble but important beginning to an initiative titled Ujjwal Bharat is a result of exhaustive work in the area of rural electrification undertaken by the leader in engine technology, Cummins India Limited.

Two years ago, Cummins India Limited collaborated with Cummins Engine Research Facility (CERF) at IIT Bombay and the READ Foundation, an NGO, for developing a sustainable and replicable electrification model for remote villages across India. The main objective of the program was to develop and establish a Distributed Generation Model for rural electrification that is economically sustainable, scalable and uses the "Right Technology" for electricity generation utilizing locally available renewable energy sources (Straight Vegetable Oil from non edible oil seeds grown locally or biogas from oil cake), whilst minimizing overall carbon emissions.

For achieving all of these objectives, a generator set that operates successfully on indigenously developed Straight Vegetable Oil (SVO) technology was designed and tested at CERF. The prototype of the project was executed successfully in Kolha in August 2009. Pongamia trees grown in and around the village yield seeds for SVO, and make the model self-sustainable. The model will be replicated in other villages across the country in future.

Speaking at the inauguration of the project in Kolha, Anant J.Talaulicar, Chairman and Managing Director, Cummins India Limited said, "Ever since Cummins forayed in India half a century ago, we have been committed to deploying our technology and human expertise towards the development of both the nation's economy and its people. We believe that this rural electrification initiative using locally available, low cost, renewable energy sources is an important first step taken in the direction of electrifying remote villages and hence making people's lives better in the rural sections of our nation."

Also present on the occasion, Jean Blackwell, Executive Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and Chief Executive Officer, Cummins Foundation said, "Aligned with one of our core values of corporate responsibility, Cummins is humbled to play a small, yet significant role in improving the lives of the 65 families living in Kolha. We would be delighted to partner in efforts towards the replication of the model in other villages across the country."

The entire project has been designed, funded and executed by Cummins. The local NGO, READ Foundation has assisted in the formation of a village committee that will administer seed collection required to run the power generation system in addition to tariff collection from the villagers. Furthermore, adequate training has been conducted to educate the villagers to operate and maintain the installed systems and ensure sustainability of the project.

Presiding over the inauguration, alongside Anant J. Talaulicar and Jean Blackwell, were Shri. Nabin Nanda, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Dhenkenal District and Shri. SN Girish, District Magistrate and Collector, Dhenkenal District. Senior government officials from Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) and local administration also participated in the function.

Efforts of Cummins, CERF at IIT Bombay and READ Foundation will continue beyond the current SVO based electrification of remote villages. The rural electrification project will be implemented in two phases. Phase I which has already been executed, involves the complete electrification of the village with a 15 kVA generator set running on SVO along with the provision for oil expeller and seed decoater. The next stage which is phase II will entail establishment of dual fuel based decentralized power generating system, wherein the generator set will run on dual fuel mode using SVO and biogas. The model has the potential to make greater quantities of SVO available for sale, in effect generating an additional source of income for the villagers. Phase II is to be completed in Kolha by end of 2010.

The initiative has already demonstrated additional benefits, in the form of potable drinking water for the inhabitants of Kolha, as a result of the installation of an electrically driven water pump and a storage tank by Cummins.

About Cummins India Limited (CIL)

Cummins India Limited, in Pune since 1962, is the country's leading manufacturer of diesel and gas engines for power generation, industrial and automotive markets. Cummins India Limited is the largest company of the Cummins Group in India.

About Cummins in India

Part of the US \$10.8 billion Cummins Inc., Cummins in India is a group of nine entities across 200 locations in the country with a combined turnover of approximately Rs. 7,500 crores and employing over 10,000 individuals.

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