



SMA Australia Pty. Ltd. Press Release

## **The SMA Fuel Save Solution successfully commissioned for the first time in APAC**

Niestetal/ Sydney/ Tonga, December 16th, 2013 – For the first time the SMA Fuel Save Solution, which combines diesel gensets and photovoltaics in a hybrid system, has been realised in the APAC region. The Tongan island of Vava'u now benefits from reduced energy costs, while minimising its dependence on fossil fuel. The system solution incorporates the SMA Fuel Save Controller, which enables the smart integration of photovoltaics while leaving the diesel gensets unaffected. An additional storage unit ensures that environmental challenges like cloud cover are not a problem. The PV diesel hybrid system will offset up to 70 percent of Vava'u's electricity demand during the day and approximately 13 percent of the annual demand of the Island.

The new solar farm includes ground-mounted photovoltaic panels and battery storage technology that is fully integrated with the island's diesel power station. The 500kW system has the capacity to produce 873MWh of energy per annum and is projected to offset an average of 225,000 litres of diesel each year. The system comprises 21 SMA Sunny Tripower 20000TL inverters, 15 SMA Sunny Backup 5000 inverters and the SMA Fuel Save Controller. "SMA is proud to be an integral part of the system at Vava'u, helping the Tongan government to reduce its fossil fuel dependency," said Mark Twidell, Managing Director of SMA Australia. "This project benefits from the SMA Fuel Save Solution which stabilises the grid and prevents system failures."

"The SMA Fuel Save Solution enables state of the art integration of PV into diesel genset systems without compromising operational readiness, reliability or fuel efficiency," explains Rodger Whitby, General Manager Generation of the Australian solar power company Ingenero, who installed the solar farm.

Vava'u is the collective name for a chain of one large island and 40 smaller ones in Tonga, in the South Pacific Ocean. The main island of Vava'u covers an area of almost 90 square kilometres and is the second largest island in Tonga. Traditionally Vava'u relied on diesel generators for its electricity needs, but the development of a hybrid energy system was initialised in an effort to reduce fuel costs and CO2 emissions. The Tonga Energy Road Map (TERM) strives to meet the target to supply 50 percent of the Kingdom's power demand from renewable energy sources by the year 2020. The project was developed by Abu Dhabi based renewable energy company Masdar and is financed through a grant provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

### **About SMA Australia**

SMA Australia Pty. Ltd. is one of 21 global subsidiaries of German parent company SMA Solar Technology AG, supplying photovoltaic inverters to residential, commercial and industrial sectors, partnering with a large distribution network across Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. SMA Australia's office is located in North Ryde, Sydney where over 30 employees provide service, sales, marketing and technical support to the region. The Sydney office was officially opened in 2007 with a strong emphasis on expanding the local team to ensure SMA is in the position to deliver the best technical pre sales and after sales service to the industry. Prominent solar installations within the region using SMA products include the Sydney Theatre Company, Crowne Plaza Alice Springs, Queensland's Lady Elliot Island, New Zealand's Great Barrier Island and The Adelaide Showgrounds.



## **About SMA**

The SMA Group generated sales of €1.5 billion in 2012 and is the global market leader for solar inverters, a key component of all PV plants and, as an energy management group, offers innovative key technologies for future power supply structures. It is headquartered in Niestetal, near Kassel, Germany, and is represented internationally in 21 countries. The Group employs more than 5,000 people worldwide. SMA's broad product portfolio includes a compatible inverter for every type of module on the market and for all plant sizes. The product range includes both inverters for photovoltaic plants connected to the grid as well as inverters for off-grid systems. SMA is therefore able to provide ideal technical inverter solutions for all plant sizes and types. Since 2008, the Group's parent company, SMA Solar Technology AG, has been listed on the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (S92) and also in the TecDAX index. In recent years, SMA has received numerous awards for excellence as an employer and achieved first place in the nationwide "Great Place to Work<sup>®</sup>" competition in 2011 and 2012 and fourth place in 2013.

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