

SUCCESS STORY

USAID & USEA Partner with Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories on Smart Grid Pilot Project in Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina



The United States Agency for International Development and the United States Energy Association have partnered with Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL) of Pullman, Washington and Brcko Komunalna, the electric utility serving the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a unique smart grid technology project designed to improve electrical services to Brcko's residential, commercial and industrial customers.

The project employs SEL smart grid sensors and software and mechanical systems to instantaneously identify the location of power outages caused by storms and technical failures on one of Brcko's distribution lines and automatically restores electrical service to its customers. By reducing the number of "truck rolls" and employees needed to restore service, the project is expected to increase efficiency at the Brcko utility, improve customer service, and reduce emissions and expenses associated with the use of diesel powered backup generators.

Data collected by SEL smart grid sensors will be used to benchmark improvements in the number, frequency and duration of network outages on the pilot line against its historic performance. According to Carlos Quecan, Vice President of SEL, "This technological innovation has the potential to be replicated and scaled up throughout Southeast Europe, enabling distribution companies to harden their networks and mitigate the effects of increasingly frequent network outages caused by climate change induced weather events."

SEL is sharing the costs of the project with USAID by volunteering both equipment and engineering services to provide a distribution automation solution to the municipal utility in Brcko. The solution will reduce the number of households experiencing outages and will lead to a faster response time of maintenance crews.

The pilot project is organized under the USAID/USEA Southeast Europe Distribution System Operator Security of Supply Working Group. Established in 2013, the Working Group brings together electricity distribution system operators from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia to assist in adapting to climate related network challenges and to improve their collective disaster response capabilities.

"This technological innovation has the potential to be replicated and scaled up throughout Southeast Europe, enabling distribution system operators to harden their networks and mitigate the effects of climate change induced weather events."
- Carlos Quecan, Vice President, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories



Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>