

Energy without Borders

Rosseti's Grassroots Innovation Initiative with Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



EFMD Excellence
in Practice Awards Competition

Executive Summary

In order to remain competitive in today's rapidly changing environment, companies need to continuously reinvent themselves. While technology contributes to the increasing pace of globalization, national borders still present considerable challenges for innovation and development, particularly in the electric energy sector.

Historically, national markets for electric power have largely been developed independently, which has made it difficult to balance supply and demand across borders. The unique geographic position of Russia provides a natural bridge between China, with its growing demand for energy resources, and Europe, now increasingly reliant on green power. The integration of national networks and joint development of energy transportation storage solutions can make a significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of current energy grid solutions. Russian PJSC ROSSETI (Rosseti), one of the largest players in the electric power sector in Eurasia is keen to champion the integration process in the region.

This case provides an account of the establishment and impact of the International Youth Energy Forum (IYEF), a long-term strategic grassroots initiative created by Rosseti in partnership with SKOLKOVO Moscow School of Management. The goals of the initiative are:

- 1 to develop a pool of future leaders and world class specialists with a shared vision of industry development in a global context
- 2 to create awareness of state-of-the-art technological developments and facilitate knowledge spillover effects across different technological domains in the global electric power industry
- 3 to facilitate international integration in the global electric power industry

For four consecutive years, IYEF has been bringing together high-potential young talents in the electric power sector from 8 countries in Asia and Europe to create and sustain a long-term cross-national collaboration and technological exchange. Unique methodologies implemented during the program have enabled the development of soft as well as hard skills among the participants, while creating an environment that nurtures innovation.

As a result of the initiative, a portfolio of 13 innovative projects has been created and submitted for consideration to the senior executives of participating corporations as well as national and international policy makers. While it may still take years to fully reap the benefits of the initiative, some powerful projects and spin-offs have already been developed and are currently at various stages in the implementation process.



“The forum helped me realize the differences between our energy systems and the burning need of collaboration and best practice exchange. We had a chance to showcase our project to top management and received positive feedback. Some key elements and technologies from our project are being implemented in the technical policy of our company.”

Natalia Kharitonova

Program participant, Chief Expert of the Department of R&D and Innovations, Rosseti (Russia)