

PACIFIC

Project Brief

SAMOA

Prepayment Meter Rollout

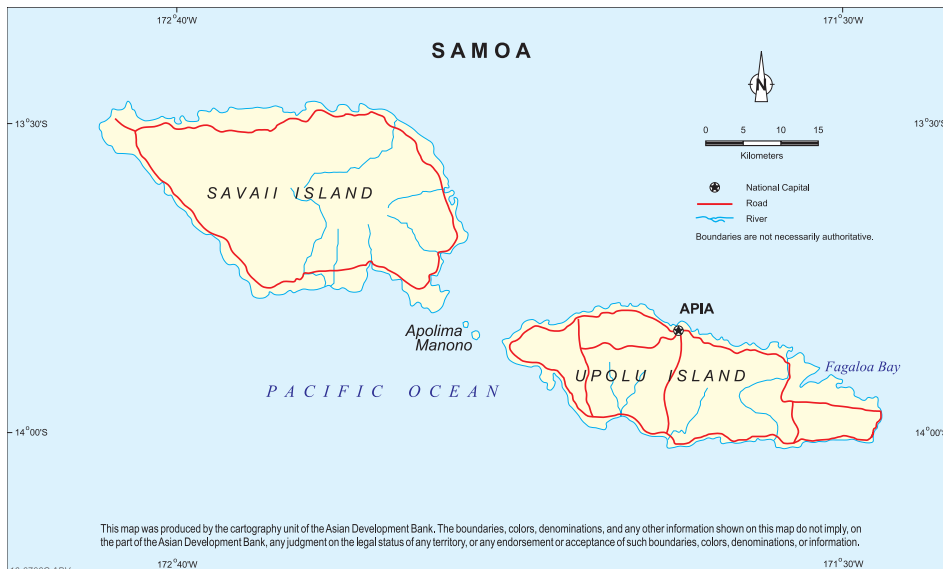
The Samoa Electric Power Corporation (EPC) has converted their billing system for their customer base to prepayment meters. This included installation of approximately 21,000 prepayment meters for EPC customers and establishing a prepayment purchasing system. Prepayment meters require customers to pre-purchase credit and activate their prepayment meter through an access code which can be purchased by mobile phone.

The new system allows customers to buy electricity credit to match their household income and prevents unaffordable end-of-month power bills which, if unpaid, can lead to disconnection. For the power utility, it reduces billing and collection costs. The prepayment meter rollout cost approximately \$6.3 million and was largely completed across the country by 2014. Currently, 99% of EPC's customer base utilize prepayment meters.

The prepayment meter rollout included the following:

- installation of 21,000 prepayment meters;
- establishing a new billing software system;
- setting up various options for customers to purchase credit, including over-the-counter, mobile phone banking purchases, and retail outlet sales; and
- a public education program.

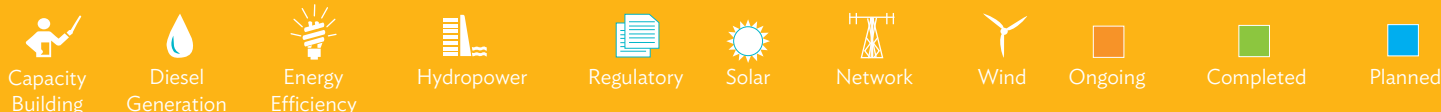
The project was supported through the Power Sector Expansion Project (PSEP) administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). PSEP is a \$100-million project to support rehabilitation and expansion of the Samoa power sector by the Samoa EPC. The PSEP has about 29 subprojects including upgrade of transmission and distribution lines, construction and rehabilitation of diesel generation, development of renewable energy resources and installation of prepayment meters. The project is funded by ADB and cofinanced by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Government of Australia.



Energy



ADB Energy Operations in the Pacific



REGIONAL

Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific Phase 2	\$8.75 M
Promoting Access to Renewable Energy in the Pacific	\$3.75 M
Establishment of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility Coordination Office	\$15.20 M
Increasing Access to Renewable Energy	\$1.00 M

Institutional Strengthening of the Nauru Utilities Corporation	\$0.23 M
Electricity Supply Security and Sustainability	\$12.14 M
Tariff and Subsidy Policy Reform	\$0.80 M

Majuro Power Network Strengthening	\$0.69 M
Fuel Tank Farm Rehabilitation	\$7.00 M

Yap Renewable Energy Development	\$8.73 M
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Power Sector Expansion	\$100.00 M
Renewable Energy Development and Power Sector Rehabilitation	\$33.59 M

Electricity System Strengthening and Sustainability	\$48.30 M
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Improved Energy Access for Rural Communities	\$5.00 M
Port Moresby Power Grid Development	\$65.39 M
Implementation of the Electricity Industry Policy	\$1.00 M
MFF: Town Electrification Investment—Tranche 1	\$62.07 M
MFF: Town Electrification Investment—Tranche 2	\$73.60 M

Provincial Renewable Energy	\$15.00 M
Solar Power Development	\$15.20 M

Renewable Energy Sector	\$25.59 M
Renewable Energy Sector	\$4.26 M

Cyclone Ian Recovery	\$4.52 M
Outer Island Renewable Energy	\$18.23 M

Support for Energy Sector Regulatory Capacity and Electrification	\$1.00 M
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M = million, MFF = multitranchise financing facility.



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