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*Under the auspices of the company's "Electricity for All" programme*

## **IBERDROLA AND POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF MADRID (UPM) SET UP CHAIR FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO BASIC ENERGY SERVICES**

**The company and UPM will work together on developing activities in training and dissemination and identifying possible R&D initiatives leading to innovative projects in the field of universal access to energy services**

**This initiative is in response to the appeal made by the international community to governments, enterprises, society and the academic sector to pool efforts and extend global access to modern forms of energy, with provision models that are environmentally sustainable, economically feasible and socially inclusive**

IBERDROLA and the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM), via the latter's Innovation and Technology for Development Centre (itdUPM), have set up the IBERDROLA Chair for Universal Access to Basic Energy Services to enable joint collaboration towards promoting universal access to energy.

The initiative is part of IBERDROLA's "Electricity for All" programme and it was launched by the signing of an agreement between the utility and UPM by Agustín Delgado, Director of Innovation, Environment in IBERDROLA, and Carlos Conde, Rector of the university.

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In this regard, it is estimated that over 1 billion people do not have access to essential energy services. This has a negative impact not only on their quality of life, but also on their opportunities for development.

In the opinion of Agustín Delgado, setting up this Chair with the UPM confirms IBERDROLA's unwavering commitment towards energy sustainability, as it promotes a company that is more competitive, more concerned with the environment and which invests in energies that are conducive to long-term security of supply. It also shows its focus on ensuring the sustainability of the business, by carrying out activities that are sustainable from the economic, social and environmental perspectives.

With a view to achieving this goal, the company's Director of R&D reminded those in attendance that IBERDROLA has a Sustainability Policy in place, which endorses its commitment to this kind of development in all of its spheres of action. By adopting this policy, the group wishes to go on adapting to the needs of society in general and the energy sector in particular, the current model of which is changing to become more sustainable.

In turn, Carlos Conde, Rector of UPM, highlighted the importance of this Chair for the Polytechnic University. It reinforces the institution's intense activity in the field of cooperation for development, where it is the leader in the Spanish university system. It also opens up new possibilities for boosting the significant R&D work carried out over several years by several UPM research groups in relation to the production, transmission and consumption of electricity.

The Rector thanked IBERDROLA for the trust it has once again placed in UPM and expressed his satisfaction at being able to reinforce the strong alliance that the two institutions have built up over the years, leading to very diverse arrangements and agreements for carrying out R&D projects.

Lastly, Carlos Mataix, in the capacity of Director of the itdUPM Centre, underlined the importance for universities of building partnerships in the private sector and in civil society in general in order to help achieve a more sustainable world. In this regard, Mataix emphasised the firm commitment that is represented by this Chair, which goes beyond mere social action or philanthropy and aims to harness and combine capacities in an intelligent manner and thus be able to offer high-quality, affordable services to the most vulnerable populations.

### **"Electricity for All" programme**

In order to meet IBERDROLA's commitments under its Sustainability Policy, the group has a programme called "Electricity for All" that was set up to ensure access to electricity in emerging and developing countries.

This project focuses on carrying out economically sustainable electrification projects and the Group will be leveraging its technical, logistics, organisational and financial capabilities to achieve its goals.

The company has already launched various rural electrification schemes, such as *Luz para todos*, in Brazil, in cooperation with the Brazilian Government. The company has contributed over €200 million since it was first launched in 2004, thereby extending the electricity service to over 2.5 million users.

Via its foundation and its engineering subsidiary, the group has also collaborated with the Energy Without Borders Foundation on the construction and commissioning of a solar farm in the village of Nyumbani, Kenya, to supply electricity to 1,000 orphans that lost both parents to HIV.

Another relevant initiative in this field is the Benin project, where the company designed, delivered and installed infrastructure to provide the electricity supply to an educational and healthcare complex built by the Foundation for the Development of Benin (Fundebe).

### **itdUPM, innovation for sustainability**

One of the goals of the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) is to boost research in all fields. UPM has a strong and long-standing commitment to solidarity and development issues, which is most clearly apparent in its 28 Cooperation Groups. In order to harness the synergies between the various groups and thus be able to address more complex problems on a wider scale, it set up the Innovation and Technology for Development Centre (itdUPM), to which this new Chair will now be allocated.

The itdUPM Centre works to apply innovative solutions to the main challenges facing development and global sustainability. Its lines of research allow for the development of innovative experiences with an approach that combines technology with socio-economic, cultural and environmental aspects. All of this is done on the basis of the conviction that the ultimate goal of engineering is to improve the quality of life on earth.