**Rural Spark strengthens position in Sub-Saharan Africa by raising € 3.5 million growth capital**

Rural Spark is scaling up. From 2019 onwards the company sold over 20.000 energy-kits in Sub-Saharan Africa. With fresh capital from BOM Brabant Ventures, YARD ENERGY Investments and DOEN Participations, Rural Spark is ready for the next step in rural electrification. The capital enables the company to grow, enter new markets and further innovate their modular energy solution.

According to the company, originating from the Netherlands, access to electricity is crucial to economic development for approximately 580 million people in Africa. Their Energy-kit and supporting ecosystem services this need. The solution consists of smart battery packs connected to solar panels and a range of appliances including lamps, fans and TVs. It is supported by, among others, Rural Spark’s service and payment platform, and financing program for local partners. Smartly connecting multiple kits allows for powering a growing range of appliances for productive use.

“Access to electricity is essential to local economic development”, says Harmen van Heist, co-founder of Rural Spark. “By smartly linking kits, we continue to increase the power and capacity of the kit. By connecting kits to each other, we create energy-networks: simple and future-proof.”

Van Heist: “We’re glad to have the new investors on board. Not just for the financial means that allow for growth and development. Knowledge of the market and product development: all parties bring their own, complementary expertise. Together we function as a dream team”

- End of press release –

**Rural Spark:**

* The energy kit is at the core of what Rural Spark offers. This modular kit that can be extended, consists of a central router and smart battery packs that powers a wide variety of devices like lamps, fans and TVs based on solar power.
* The kit is equipped with a ‘Pay As You Go’ system. Users activate the kit using mobile money which is all managed by the service and payment platform.
* Rural Spark offers access to finance for distribution partners, which allows for payment of the kits over multiple years. It also provides export-insurance for Rural Spark.
* Rural Spark also provides training of local Solar Engineers for technical support and after sales services.

Meer informatie:

**BOM Brabant Ventures**

Together with entrepreneurs, the BOM (Brabantse Ontwikkelings Maatschappij) builds a strong, sustainable and future proof economy in the Province of Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands.

With knowledge and capital, their label Brabent Ventrures focusses on the accelerated, future-proof growth of ambitious start-ups and scale-ups in the top sectors High-Tech Systems and Software, Agrifood, Life Sciences & Health, Maintenance, Supply Chain and Biobased Economy.

[www.bom.nl](http://www.bom.nl)

**Yard Energy**

YARD ENERGY is one of the largest private developers and investors in wind energy in the Netherlands and has realized more than 400 MW of onshore wind projects in the Netherlands, Finland and Poland. In addition to its own realized projects, YARD ENERGY invests strategically in companies and projects with a focus on the energy transition. To this end, YARD selects initiatives in the Netherlands and initiatives across the border in which Dutch companies are involved.

[www.yardenergy.com](http://www.yardenergy.com)

**DOEN Participations**

DOEN Participations has the ambition for a greener and more social world. That is why impact is central to all investments. Over the past 25 years, DOEN Participations has grown into the largest impact investor in sustainable and social startups in the Netherlands. DOEN Participations invests in early phase companies and can to take risks. DOEN Participations is fully owned and managed by the DOEN Foundation. The DOEN Foundation was founded by Charity Lotteries.

[www.doenparticipaties.nl](http://www.doenparticipaties.nl)

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