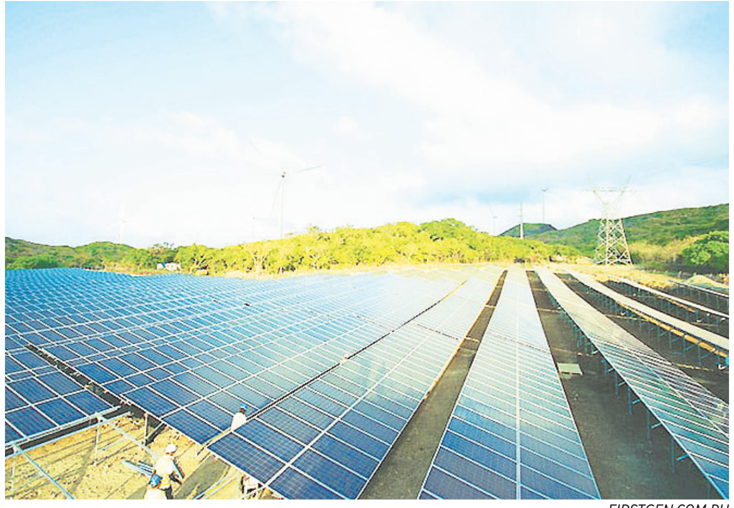

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First Gen, Precision Crestec renew RE supply agreement

INDUSTRIAL PRINTING company Precision Crestec, Inc. has renewed its partnership with Lopez-led First Gen Corp. to power its production facility in Pasig City.

Precision Crestec and First Gen signed a new supply agreement for the provision of 700 kilowatts of electricity from a renewable energy (RE) source, the energy company announced in a media release on Tuesday.

"With an innovative approach, we deliver durable, cost-effective, and eco-friendly packaging designed to enhance product safety and brand visibility while maintaining the lowest possible carbon footprint," said Purificacion Dizon, president of Precision Crestec.

The two companies began their collaboration in 2021 as part of Precision Crestec's initiative to meet the growing demand from customers for more sustainable supply chains and products.

Founded in 1962, Precision Crestec provides packaging solutions across industries such as food and beverage, electronics, pharmaceuticals, e-commerce, and retail for local and Philippine-based export companies.

"Our partnership with industrial firms such as Precision Crestec, Inc. enables them to optimize their power utilization and make more informed decisions on how to save on electricity costs. Additionally, they can reduce their carbon footprint in production through the use of RE," said Carlo Lorenzo Vega, vice-president and chief customer engagement officer at First Gen.

In addition to supplying power, First Gen, along with its sister company Pi Energy, Inc., provides Precision Crestec with energy efficiency solutions designed for the optimal use of electricity. These solutions include a remote energy monitoring system for analyzing and tracking real-time power consumption.

First Gen has a combined total capacity of 3,668 megawatts (MW) from its portfolio of plants, including 1,651 MW from renewable energy and 2,017 MW from natural gas. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

DigiPlus eyes partnership in Brazil

DIGIPLUS Interactive Corp. is exploring the possibility of teaming up with a local partner in Brazil to support the company's expansion.

"We're always exploring possibilities. It's better to have a local partner," DigiPlus Chairman Eusebio H. Tanco said at a recent media briefing.

"It is not so much about the funding. We have sufficient resources, maybe more of a strategic partner," he added.

Mr. Tanco also confirmed that the company's operations in Brazil will begin with sports betting, which could go live "probably towards the end of the year."

"We'll start with sports first. They love football there. We'll test the market first," he said.

DigiPlus Vice-President for Investor Relations Celeste M. Jovenir said that the company has engaged a local Brazilian investment bank to search for potential partners.

"We haven't identified anyone yet. The team is still searching and looking at different companies there. We have an investment banker in Brazil helping us. It's a local Brazilian investment bank," she said.

"The senior management is interviewing people from Brazil to form the team. Actually, we already have a team of ten people there since last year to apply for the license," she added.

Last month, DigiPlus announced that its subsidiary DigiPlus Brazil Interactive Ltda. secured a gaming license from the Brazilian Ministry of Finance's Secretariat of Awards and Bets.

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With the gaming license, DigiPlus is now authorized to conduct land-based and online sports betting, electronic games, live game studios, and other fixed-odds betting activities in Brazil.

The company has initially earmarked P660 million to cover the license fees, minimum capitalization, financial reserves, and other operational expenses for the first three months of its operations in Brazil. It will use the ArenaPlus online sports betting platform for the Brazilian expansion.

DigiPlus previously mentioned that the Brazil expansion coincides with the country's recent move to open up its gaming market, citing the population of over 200 million and its potential as one of the fastest-growing gaming markets in Latin America.

On Tuesday, DigiPlus shares rose by 0.84%, or 25 centavos, to P29.90 per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

ACEN boosts investment in Belenos Energy

ACEN CORP., the Ayala group's listed energy platform, is increasing its investment in subsidiary Belenos Energy Corp. by subscribing to P392 million worth of additional shares.

ACEN signed a contract with Belenos to subscribe to 392 million redeemable preferred shares at P1 each, the company told the local bourse on Tuesday.

The shares, which represent 29% of the total outstanding shares of Belenos, will be issued from the increase in authorized capital stock of Belenos, subject to the necessary regulatory approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Belenos is ACEN's special-purpose vehicle for development projects in the Philippines. It is a holding company that houses ACEN's investments in YMP Telecom Power, Inc. and YMP Industrial Power, Inc., which it previously acquired to provide solar power to telecommunication towers, as well as the commercial and industrial sectors.

ACEN said it will pay an initial P180 million for the subscription price.

"The subscription will allow ACEN to have significant ownership in Belenos and is meant to facilitate Belenos' investment in a potential renewable energy project," the company stated.

In October last year, ACEN also subscribed to 50 million redeemable preferred shares worth a total of P50 million and invested P81 million in August to secure 81 million shares.

For 2025, ACEN has earmarked roughly P70 billion as its capital expenditure budget for renewable energy projects. The company is expecting to operationalize power projects with a combined capacity of approximately 1.2 gigawatts (GW) located within and outside the Philippines.

This pipeline of projects is part of the company's 6.8-GW portfolio of attributable renewable capacity in operation, under construction, and committed projects.

After attaining its 5-GW renewable energy capacity target, the company aims to achieve 20 GW of renewables by 2030. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**