

Globe Telecom starts upgrades in Batanes

GLOBE TELECOM, Inc. said it is upgrading its mobile infrastructure network in Batanes to provide high-speed data to its mobile subscribers.

In a media release on Thursday, the Ayala-led telecommunications company said it is boosting its long-term evolution (LTE) capacity in Batanes amid the growing demand for connectivity.

"The deployment and expansion of 4G LTE provides a robust and resilient solution needed in remote island communities," Globe said.

Globe Head of Service Planning and Engineering Joel R. Agustin said this move is also part of the company's commitment to help bridge the digital divide by ensuring reliable and secure connec-

tion and mobile services in far-flung areas.

"The upgraded sites are a game-changer for Batanes, enabling faster downloads, smoother streaming, and more seamless online interactions for everyone," it said.

Earlier this month, the company also announced that it had started the transition of more than 3,000 cell sites and other low-energy utilization facilities to renewable energy as part of its net-zero goal.

Globe said these cell sites are in Metro Manila and Calabarzon, with the full transition to renewables expected to be completed by 2028.

At the stock exchange on Thursday, shares in the company fell by P26, or 1.54%, to end at P1,664 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Grid operator OKs connection of solar plant in Negros Occidental

ABOITIZ RENEWABLES, INC., the renewable energy subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corp. (Aboitiz-Power), has received approval from the grid operator to connect its 137.4-megawatt alternating current (MWac) solar power facility in Negros Occidental.

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) issued the final certificate of approval to connect for AboitizPower's Calatrava Solar Power Plant (SPP), signaling the facility's readiness for commercial operations, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

"Aboitiz Renewables is able to complete great projects like the Calatrava SPP with the strong collaboration from NGCP. We appreciate NGCP for working closely with us to bring this project online, and helping us progress our humble

mission to deliver affordable, reliable, clean energy to customers," said Aboitiz Renewables President Jimmy Villaroman.

Mr. Villaroman added that the facility contributes significant capacity to the grid and helps electricity suppliers meet their obligations under the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Meanwhile, Aboitiz Renewables is getting ready to energize two more solar projects in Luzon. The Olongapo Solar Power Plant in Olongapo City and the San Manuel Solar Power Plant in Pangasinan are scheduled for testing and commissioning by the third quarter of 2025.

These facilities will connect to NGCP's Castillejos 230-kilovolt (kV) and San Manuel 69-kV substations, respectively.



ABOITIZ RENEWABLES, INC.

"The successful grid integration of Calatrava SPP, alongside these upcoming projects, highlights Aboitiz Renewables' momentum in contributing to the country's renewable energy growth," Mr. Villaroman said.

Aboitiz Power is the holding company for the Aboitiz Group's investments in power generation, distribution, and retail electricity services.

The company aims to build 3,700 megawatts of new renewable energy capacity by 2030. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



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