



## MAINSTREAMING CONSERVATION & RENEWABLES

Winner of the NGOs and Initiatives Category 2007

**Dr. Russell deLucia, The Small Scale Sustainable Infrastructure Development Fund, Inc. (S<sup>3</sup>IDF)**

Project

**S<sup>3</sup>IDF's "Social Merchant Bank" Approach to provide efficient lighting services to poor households, communities and SMEs in South India**

S<sup>3</sup>IDF has provided about 5,500 people in South India with light from clean energy sources, thereby increasing income generation opportunities and providing health and safety benefits.

### S<sup>3</sup>IDF Project description

Lighting is a critical service for households and small enterprises, both for improving the quality of life and for income generation activities (hawkers, weavers, beedi rolling etc). S<sup>3</sup>IDF has implemented 35+ small investment lighting projects, including photovoltaic panels for individual systems and for charging battery banks, UPS, efficient mobile emergency lamps, and lights powered by electricity generated from biogas. These projects have been for both the urban and rural poor in South India and have benefited about 5,500 people to date. The projects not only create employment and increase income generation by extending the working hours, they also bring health and safety benefits and are environmentally responsible. Through its lighting Initiative, S<sup>3</sup>IDF aims to implement 50+ additional lighting projects in the next 2-3 years. These investments will directly benefit 1,500-3,000 families. In addition, they are structured to provide sufficient additional transaction experience to allow the detailed design of a larger project that can benefit 5,000-10,000 households.

Dr. Russell deLucia, founder and president of S<sup>3</sup>IDF, has worked in 60+ developing countries on large-scale infrastructure projects for governments, bilateral institutions, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. Dr. deLucia applies this experience in business development, financial and technology linkages to small-scale pro-poor infrastructure/energy projects.



### Project contact details

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