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**News Release
For immediate release**

**SINGAPORE POWER PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF LEADING
UTILITIES TO LAUNCH THE FREE ELECTRONS GLOBAL ACCELERATOR
PROGRAMME**

- *World's first global energy accelerator*
- *Promising start-ups are connected with utilities to co-create innovative solutions for a potential market of 73 million customers across 40 countries*
- *Twelve selected start-ups will participate in three modules in Silicon Valley, Europe, and Singapore*

Singapore, 9 January 2017 – Singapore Power (SP) today announced the launch of Free Electrons, a global accelerator programme in partnership with a global consortium of utilities and accelerators. The programme aims to recruit energy start-ups to drive the next generation of ideas and solutions that address emerging and future energy trends in clean energy, energy efficiency, e-mobility, digitisation, and on-demand customer services.

Free Electrons is the first-of-its-kind in the energy sector that is initiated by eight international utilities – SP, AusNet Services, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), ESB (Electricity Supply Board), EDP (Energias de Portugal), innogy, Origin Energy, and Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO). These utilities are leaders in clean energy transition, and have extensive experience in driving technological innovation. Together, the eight utilities represent a global footprint covering 73 million end customers across more than 40 countries, with a combined net income of USD \$148 billion (more than SGD \$211 billion).

The programme is supported by two accelerator partners from Silicon Valley – New Energy Nexus and swissnex San Francisco, who have extensive networks in the innovation ecosystem and have the experience and expertise in connecting innovators.

Twelve start-ups will be selected to participate in the six-month long accelerator programme, consisting of three separate week-long 'customer adoption' modules in Silicon Valley (San Francisco), Lisbon and Dublin, and Singapore. At the modules, the start-ups will gain exposure to various markets all around the world by collaborating with major utility companies. The programme is designed for energy start-ups to further refine their products and services, with the potential of testing and developing them on a global customer base.

“Singapore Power is committed to providing a high quality, sustainable lifestyle for customers. We are excited to partner respected international utilities and experienced accelerators, who have extensive innovation and R&D experience, to support promising start-ups around the world. Together we can develop transformational energy solutions to provide customers with more choices, and help them to save energy and cost.” – May Liew, Director of Strategic Development, Singapore Power



Energy start-ups from Singapore and around the world can apply for the Free Electrons programme at www.freeelectrons.co from 9 January 2017. Applications will close on 28 February 2017 and the selected start-ups will be announced in April 2017.

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Utility Partners

Singapore Power (SP): Singapore Power Group (SP) is a leading energy utility group in the Asia Pacific. It owns and operates electricity and gas transmission and distribution businesses in Singapore and Australia, and district cooling businesses in Singapore and China. More than 1.4 million industrial, commercial and residential customers in Singapore benefit from SP's world-class transmission, distribution and market support services. The networks in Singapore are amongst the most reliable and cost-effective worldwide. For more information, please visit www.singaporepower.com.sg.

AusNet Services: AusNet Services is a major player in the Australian energy industry. We are Victoria's largest energy delivery service business owning and operating approximately \$11 billion of electricity and gas distribution assets that connect into more than 1.3 million Victorian homes and businesses. The energy landscape is transforming and so are we. We are looking for new ways to move energy with significant investment in creating energy solutions to meet tomorrow's needs. More information at www.ausnetservices.com.au.

Dubai Electricity and Water (DEWA): DEWA is committed to promoting Dubai's vision through the delivery of sustainable electricity and water services at a world-class level of reliability, efficiency and safety in an environment that nurtures innovation with a competent workforce and effective partnerships; supporting the sustainability of resources. More information at www.dewa.gov.ae.

ESB (Electricity Supply Board): ESB is Ireland's leading energy company, operating across the full spectrum of the electricity market: from generation, through transmission and distribution to supply. In addition, ESB extracts further value at certain points along this chain: supplying gas, using our networks to carry fibre for telecommunications, developing electric vehicle public charging infrastructure and an international consultancy arm which has worked in 120 countries globally. More information at www.esb.ie/innovation.

EDP (Energias de Portugal): EDP is an energy producer, distributor and retailer with around 12 million customers in Portugal, Spain and Brazil. EDP has around 25GW of power production capacity of which 10GW are wind power generation, making us the 4th largest wind power producer in the world and 3rd in the US, and 5GW are hydro. Our renewable power business is present in 14 countries including US, Brazil and several European



countries. More company information at www.edp.pt and startup support program information at www.edpstarter.com

innogy: innogy SE is a European energy company, offering sustainable and innovative energy solutions. With its three business areas of renewables, grid & infrastructure as well as retail, it addresses the requirements of a modern, decarbonised, decentralised and digital energy world. More information at www.innogy.com.

Origin Energy: Origin is an Australian integrated energy solutions provider with leading positions across energy retailing, power generation and natural gas production. Origin has a rapidly growing renewable energy portfolio, and was the world's first energy company to adopt all seven 'We Mean Business Coalition' initiatives, joining a worldwide group of non-government organisations, signatory companies and institutional investors committed to leadership on climate change. Origin is also scaling up its capabilities in digital metering and data and analytics to create more innovative and differentiated energy solutions for its millions of customers. More information at www.originenergy.com.au.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO): Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc. (TSE: 9501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is the largest utility in Japan serving more than 29 million homes and businesses. Worldwide the company has more than 74 subsidiaries and affiliates in 8 countries and employs approximately 43,330 people. Consolidated revenue for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, totaled 6.8 trillion Japanese yen. The company was established in 1951 and is listed on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. For more information, visit <http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/corpinfo>.

Accelerators

New Energy Nexus: New Energy Nexus supports clean, smart and distributed startups worldwide by facilitating collaboration and innovation between industry experts, accelerators and startups that are transforming tomorrow's energy systems. New Energy Nexus is powered by the California Clean Energy Fund (CalCEF). California Clean Energy Fund (CalCEF) has been investing in, and accelerating clean energy innovation and startup ecosystems for over a decade. CalCEF is tightly integrated in a web of clean energy research institutions, startup accelerators, and investors. More information at www.energy-nexus.co.

swissnex San Francisco: swissnex San Francisco fosters international collaboration in the fields of education, research and innovation. With a belief that entrepreneurship is crucial to the clean energy transition, swissnex launched the SAFT – Energy startup solutions for 2050 accelerator program in 2015. swissnex brings over 13 years of experience connecting innovators with the right contacts and resources in Silicon Valley that they need to take their ventures to the next level. More information at www.swissnexsanfrancisco.org.