

### **Case study - Helping Uganda to meet its electricity needs**

SN Power has chosen Uganda, where energy demand is steadily rising, as a point of entry to the African continent. An electrification programme has been launched for Uganda's rural areas, where as little as three per cent of the population has access to stable electricity supplies. Supported by the World Bank, the scheme aims to connect 400 000 households to the power grid over a 10-year period.

The Ugandan government is eager to speed up rural electrification to deal with problems such as the overuse of diesel generators and wood-burning stoves. An open fire in the home are commonly used for cooking in Uganda, and represents a substantial health problem because the smoke damages the respiratory system.

SN Power is currently carrying out feasibility studies for four small hydropower plants in Western Uganda. Construction of the first two plants is planned to begin in late 2005, with start-up of power production at the end of 2007. The construction costs are estimated at about USD 30 million and will have a totalled installed capacity of 16-17 MW.

The area where the power plants are planned has a low population density. The projects are expected to revive commercial activity in neighbouring areas and thus have a positive social impact. The first two plants are typical run-of-river schemes and will not involve any construction of dams. Detailed environmental impact assessments have been carried out to ensure that all environmental and socio-economic issues are managed according to international standards.