



**CLEAN COOKING NEWSLETTER**  
**Igniting Change in the Clean Cooking Sector**

**July –September 2016 Issue**



**Interview with Javier Pascual, Powerspot CEO**

### **What is Powerspot and what do you do?**

Powerspot is a Spanish Company. It was founded five years ago. We are dedicated to the development of miniaturized power generation solutions which are

simply small generators that can be used where there is no electricity grid. .

### **How do these generators work?**

These generators produce electricity when their base gets heated. For example, when you burn coal,



Javier Pascual, Powerspot CEO @Powerspot

wood, ethanol or kerosene fuel, the generator gets heated.

These generators get cooled by water or air. Once the generator heats up, it

produces electricity which can be used to charge household appliances.

### **Powerspot is very prevalent in emerging countries, particularly in Africa. Why this particular market orientation?**

Africa is a unique opportunity for Powerspot. With our innovation, we can be able to meet the rising energy needs of the continent which currently exceed the available electricity supply.

### **What is your approach with respect to Africa?**

Since inception Powerspot has had a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. Powerspot has energy solutions ready to be used continuously in places that perceived to be too remote for heavy investment in energy infrastructure such as refugee camps. These are not mere words: we're engaged in a permanent effort to adapt to the power supply needs of rural communities.

### **How is this adaptation carried out? Explain, please**

Our PowerJiko generator was developed from over two years of market study research in Nairobi (Kenya). The design is based on the Jiko. As you probably know, *jiko* means "stove" in Swahili. As explained power is generated as one cooks. In this way the PowerJiko becomes an irreplaceable tool to provide light and energy to isolated villages without using more biomass than is already being consumed with the cooking of meals. Right now we're reaching the final stages of a specific project in the province of Kwango in the Democratic Republic of Congo to bring clean micro-energy to thousands of people there.

**Why is thermoelectric technology not considered by world power supply programs in developing countries?**

There is a preference by institutions and multilateral agencies for geothermal, hydro, solar and wind. This approach generates a lot of megawatts for the national grids in where they are practises; in fact the energy needs of big towns and cities are met this way. However, there is an opportunity to use innovations that meet the energy needs of the rural population who are not connected to the grid.

**What aspects of thermoelectric technology would you highlight and contrast with respect to solar photovoltaic technology that is so fashionable in emerging countries right now?**

I would like to point out that aluminium, cadmium and other materials used to manufacture photovoltaic technology solutions are pollutants of the environment. Solar also has an additional cost of changing batteries every 5 years. The thermoelectric solutions that Powerspot offers under conditions of conventional use will last 15-20 years without breakdown with zero maintenance cost:

**What other CSR projects are you developing?**

The project I have mentioned fits within the Sustainable Development Goals. We are promoting the use of organic waste for energy production to help countries we work in to mitigate loses attributed to deforestation. To carry our commitment out we've initiated various actions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) since 2015 through donations to various NGOs involved in Sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia (Kenya, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and Cambodia). Recently we've also initiated collaborations with institutions and organizations that promote the use of clean energy in environments where the daily meal is mainly cooked in coal stoves. Among them are HEDON (Household Energy Network), the Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves and Nigerian Alliance for Clean Cook stoves.

**Would you like to add anything else?**

Yes. I'd like to encourage companies, institutions and organisations to join us in the Herculean and worthy task of promoting access in the emerging countries to clean, affordable, sustainable and modern energy for all: In Powerspot you will always find an enthusiastic collaborator and ally.

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