



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY: Afghan, U.S. officials to show solar streetlights Wednesday**

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – Kabul Mayor Muhammad Yunus Nawandish, U.S. Army Col. Thomas Magness and other Afghan and U.S. officials will unveil 28 new solar-powered streetlights along one of Kabul's most important commercial corridors on Wednesday, Dec. 29.

The officials also expect to announce plans to install 260 additional streetlights in two phases on key thoroughfares through the heart of downtown, bringing reliable nighttime lights to the capitol city.

### **Local and international media are invited to cover the event.**

The project is part of Mayor Nawandish's "Open Kabul's Streets to the Night" initiative. The goal of the project is to boost economic development by creating a safer environment for nighttime commerce.

The first solar-powered streetlights have been installed in the median of the road between Jumhoriat National Specialized Hospital and Sherpoor traffic circle. The mayor's office and the Corps of Engineers partnered with the firm Sustainable Energy Services Afghanistan to install the light poles.

"Lighting is essential to improving the quality of life throughout Afghanistan," Mayor Nawandish said. "I'm proud that Kabul City is leading the way down the path to renewable energy for our country."

Stand-alone streetlights are essential to Kabul, because three decades of war have damaged the city's electrical grid. The project is being funded through the Commander's Emergency Response Program at the direction of Col. Magness, commander of Army Corps of Engineers' district in northern Afghanistan.

- WHAT:** Unveiling of solar streetlights in downtown Kabul. Announcement of more work.
- WHO:** Kabul Mayor Nawandish, U.S. Army Col. Magness and other Afghan and U.S. officials.
- WHERE:** In the median outside the Jumhoriat National Specialized Hospital in downtown Kabul.
- WHEN:** 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2010.
- RSVP:** Paul Giblin, 079-546-3349 Afghan cell, (540) 678-4944 U.S., [paul.r.giblin@usace.army.mil](mailto:paul.r.giblin@usace.army.mil).

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