

Gareth Warner

Director, Sigma Solar Africa / IOTconnect



Gareth Warner has been involved in the digital environment and renewable energy industry for the past 16 years and has established sound relationships with key stakeholders and government organizations in several countries. As a renewables project developer, he negotiated a number of engineering build and operate contracts, oversaw the financial structuring and aided in bringing projects to financial close. He has led the development of large scale renewable energy projects in the UK, South Africa and Namibia.

Gareth Warner has developed business opportunities, managed business operations and projects in the UAE, United Kingdom, South Africa, Cameroon, DRC, Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Uganda and Mozambique. He is currently a director of a number of companies including Momentous Companies, IOTconnect, Real Tea Beverages and Sigma Solar Africa.

Towards the Digital Age: Understanding, Progression and Digital Evolution

This presentation offers a snapshot of the progression, understanding and digital evolution of society, touching on some of the massive changes that have taken place and which have perhaps run ahead of many governments.

This paper reviews the advent of lighting and hence electrical power and looks at the progress of electricity and energy generation, which is moving from a centralized to a decentralized system, much like what happened in the eighties when the mainframe computers gave way to the decentralized personal computer environment. The energy generation model is starting to move to a decentralized approach with the adoption of renewable energy technologies. Using wind and solar PV technologies for example provides for a less centralized approach and is not dependent on the massive nuclear or coal-powered energy generation plants. Additionally, in the last decade, we have seen the development of two significant but different elements that have further enhanced the growth of the digital world from the early days of the personal computer. The first of these is the mobile phone. What was originally joking referred to as a 'brick' and was a simple device that could store contacts and make calls, has effectively evolved into a full computer that is also a phone and is in the hands of about 2,6 billion people in the world today. The second significant development is the rise of 'social media' which allows people openly to communicate with each other and interact on social networks, exchanging information and news.