



Social business Little Sun confirmed as a Certified B Corporation



BERLIN (May 21, 2015) – Little Sun, the **Berlin-based** social business and solar lamp producer, is very pleased to announce that it has become a Certified B Corporation. B Corporations are companies that use the power of business to **solve social and environmental problems**.

Photo: Merklit Mersha © Little Sun

Unlike traditional corporations, certified B Corporations are legally required to consider the impact of their decisions not only on their shareholders, but also on their stakeholders (e.g., workers, suppliers, community, consumers, and the environment). Little Sun was found to fit these criteria perfectly.

Says Felix Hallwachs, Managing Director of Little Sun: “We are proud to have been certified by B Lab to join their international network of B Corporations. As a social business, Little Sun is inspired by B Lab’s high standard of recognising companies who are not only affecting **positive change worldwide**, but also revolutionising the type of **impact businesses** can make while transforming their **innovative ideas** into action.”

Little Sun is invested in delivering **clean solar light** as well as raising awareness about the importance of **sustainable energy for all** through special projects and events around the world. The company’s eponymous first product, the Little Sun solar LED lamp, was developed to get clean, reliable, affordable light to the **1.2 billion people worldwide without access to electricity** living in “off-grid” areas, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa.

The unique design of the Little Sun lamp has made it popular across the globe. To date, more than **250,000 Little Suns have been sold worldwide**, with over half going to off-grid areas. Currently Little Sun is available in over 10 African countries, including Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana, and Kenya – as well as in Europe, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the USA. Sales of Little Suns in areas of the world with electricity enable Little Suns to be sold in off-grid African communities at locally affordable prices.

In April 2014 Little Sun received a ground-breaking \$5 million impact investment from [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), making it possible for the company to scale its operations across the African continent. Responding to increasing demand, Little Sun is preparing to launch a series of additional solar products later this year – and the next product will be a **solar charger** with lighting capabilities.

“Becoming a certified B Corp is a testament to the **big impact** Little Sun has already made as a social business, and it only serves to motivate us more to scale further,” says Little Sun

Founder Frederik Ottesen. “With the Little Sun solar lamp, we are happy to provide people with what is often their first step up the **sustainable energy ladder**, as ultimately, Little Sun will become a **solar energy provider** with many solar products in our line.”

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About Little Sun

Little Sun is at once an **inclusive social business**, a global project, and a way of connecting the world through **sharing light**. The Little Sun lamp’s **unique design** has made it popular **across the globe** – in addition to a growing number of African countries, Little Sun is sold in Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan, and the USA. Little Sun’s innovative business model utilises revenue from sales of Little Suns in on-grid areas to subsidise the delivery of Little Sun lamps to off-grid areas at reduced, **locally affordable prices**.

Little Sun **addresses the need for light** in sustainable way that benefits off-grid communities, creates local jobs, and generates local profits. Rather than a short-term fix of donating lamps to an off-grid area, Little Sun works with and trains local entrepreneurs to build **profitable local businesses** that distribute Little Sun light.

For more information about Little Sun, visit: www.littlesun.com

About B Corp

Certified B Corporations meet rigorous **standards of social and environmental performance**, legally expand their corporate responsibilities to include consideration of stakeholder interests, and build collective voice through the power of the unifying B Corporation brand. As of January 2014, there are **more than 900 Certified B Corporations** from over 60 industries and 32 countries, representing a diverse multi-billion dollar marketplace.

About B Lab

B Lab is a nonprofit organization that serves a **global movement to redefine success** in business so that all companies compete not only to be the best in the world, but the best for the world. B Lab drives this systemic change through a number of interrelated initiatives: 1) building a community of Certified B Corporations to make it easier for all of us to tell the difference between “good companies” and good marketing; 2) passing legislation to accelerate growth of social entrepreneurship and impact investing (20 states have already passed benefit corporation legislation); 3) developing B Analytics, a customizable platform for measuring, benchmarking, and reporting on impact 4) providing free, powerful tools for businesses to measure, compare and improve their social and environmental performance (more than 15,000 businesses use B Lab’s free B Impact Assessment).

For more information, visit www.bcorporation.net, www.b-analytics.net and www.benefitcorp.net.