

PRESS RELEASE

Who will be the Saudi Arabia of renewables? It's not who you think, says CrossBoundary Co- founder Matt Tilleard

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In a [TED talk released today](#), Co-founder and Managing Partner of the CrossBoundary Group Matt Tilleard presents an alternative to outdated scarcity-based narratives and reframes the energy transition as one of innovation and abundance. His assertion – the energy transition is fundamentally different than previous shifts because it is driven by technology, rather than fuel.

“History has been defined by who finds, who controls, and who burns, the dominant fuel of the age,” says Tilleard, “But now, we are in the midst of the next great energy transition. Unlike fuel, renewable energy technology is less existential. It’s more circular. It’s more fungible. And it’s more abundant.”

Drawing on CrossBoundary Energy’s work across Africa, Tilleard illustrates how technology-based systems resist geopolitical choke points. In Tolagnaro, Madagascar, a remote town situated near a large mineral mine – once dependent on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) – now runs on solar, batteries, and wind. Even if global supply chains for lithium or copper were disrupted tomorrow, the lights would stay on – because once built, technology endures.

This distinction between fuels that disappear when consumed and technologies that persist once built has profound implications for geopolitics. Oil and gas revenues have sustained conflicts and shielded regimes from sanctions. By contrast, new distributed energy systems diffuse power. They shift the balance away from chokepoints and toward innovation and deployment.

For Africa and other underserved markets, the shift is especially significant. Rather than being reduced to suppliers of raw inputs, they are proving they can build affordable, reliable, and scalable energy systems that both fuel growth and demonstrate resilience to global shocks.

“The great nations of tomorrow will be those that identify their comparative advantages and invent, improve and build the technology we need. The future of energy is not controlled – it’s shared. It is not extracted – it’s built. And it belongs to all of us,” Tilleard concludes.

Watch the full TED Talk: https://bit.ly/matt_tilleard



About CrossBoundary Group

CrossBoundary Group is a mission driven investment and advisory firm dedicated to unlocking the power of capital for sustainable growth and strong returns in underserved markets. From industrial solar PPAs to distributed mini-grids, CrossBoundary is showing how abundant, circular, and adaptable technologies can thrive in underserved markets. CrossBoundary Energy develops, owns, and operates renewable power for Africa's leading industries. We keep businesses running with reliable solar and storage in some of the world's most difficult jurisdictions. CrossBoundary Access uses blended finance and an innovative project financing structure to unlock capital for mini-grids with a mission to bring electricity for the first time to more than 1 million people. CrossBoundary Advisory is a trusted investment advisor for governments, development finance institutions, private equity firms, Fortune 100 companies, and research institutions, helping them unlock mutually beneficial transactions. CrossBoundary Real Estate seeks to provide affordable housing and related infrastructure in East Africa. The Fund for Nature is scaling investment into nature-based solutions in emerging and frontier markets. For additional information, visit www.crossboundary.com.

Contact

Kymerly Bays
Director of Global Communications
CrossBoundary Group
communications@crossboundary.com