

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

1 April 2023

Shell adds 400 MWh Rangebank battery to expanding energy storage portfolio

The Australian renewables arm of international energy giant Shell has announced another addition to its rapidly expanding utility-scale battery portfolio, confirming it will team with the Green Investment Group to develop a 200 MW/400 MWh battery energy storage system in Victoria.

Shell Energy Australia has partnered with Green Investment Group (GIG), part of Australia-based venture capital fund Macquarie Asset Management, to build the 200 MW/400 MWh Rangebank battery energy storage system (BESS) in the 20-hectare Rangebank Business Park in Cranbourne on Melbourne's southeast.

Shell and GIG said the project, which planning documents estimate will cost approximately \$80 million, has already reached financial close and will be completed in late 2024. GIG Global Head of Energy Technology Greg Callman said the battery, to be built near the existing Cranbourne Terminal Station, will deliver a range of benefits for the grid, including increasing Victoria's renewable energy hosting capacity and delivering essential system services.

"Grid-scale batteries are an essential element in the decarbonization of the energy sector, and the need for storage solutions is growing rapidly," he said. "This project will help provide communities with reliable and flexible energy." Once fully operational, the Rangebank BESS will have the capacity to power the equivalent of 80,000 homes for an hour during peak periods. Shell will hold the rights to charge and dispatch energy from the battery through a 20-year offtake agreement.

Shell Energy Australia Chief Executive Officer Greg Joiner said the project signals the company's commitment to accelerating the energy transition and contributing to growth of firming capacity. "The Rangebank project is our first grid-scale battery investment in Victoria and marks Shell's first direct equity investment in a utility-scale BESS globally," he said. "Located in one of Melbourne's fastest-growing population centres, the Rangebank BESS will help to stabilize Victoria's state electricity supply by providing additional storage capacity which can be discharged at times of peak demand."

[pv-magazine](http://www.pv-magazine.com/)

<http://www.pv-magazine.com/>

1 April 2023

SSE passes Berwick Bank permit milestone

Scottish planners have accepted a planning application for the 4100MW Berwick Bank wind farm off east Scotland for determination, according to developer SSE Renewables.

The consent process for the onshore elements of the Berwick Bank project has now opened, which is being considered by East Lothian Council. This process runs alongside the offshore consent process, which kicked off in December 2022 and is being considered by the Scottish government. A final decision by authorities is expected later in 2023.

SSE Renewables expects Berwick Bank to provide multiple benefits for the economy, environment and energy security – as well as acting as a major catalyst for supply chain investment for Scotland. Berwick Bank project director Alex Meredith said: "Berwick Bank is a win-win for the climate and nature. If we consent Berwick, Scotland will be leading the world in the delivery of offshore wind energy and we will provide a long-term solution to help Scotland's iconic seabirds thrive. The team behind the project have based the design on fixed-bottom technology so that it can be delivered quickly at scale."

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

Meredith added: "We're aiming to begin delivering the first energy from 2027, so it's a very short lead time for a project of this size. We will be urging the planning authorities to consider the application quickly to allow us to deliver our largest wind farm to date, in the shortest time possible. Berwick Bank can be a massive step forward in the delivery of renewable capacity and lessen reliance on fossil fuels and volatile imported energy supplies. The world needs more renewable energy, and we are committed to helping meet Scotland and the UK's net zero targets. Our proposals also focus on managing the fishing of sandeels better in Scotland to protect our most vulnerable seabird colonies."



Once complete, which could be by 2030, Berwick Bank will be a critical contributor towards meeting the Scottish Government goal of 11GW of new offshore wind energy supply by the same year. A recent economic impact study carried out by independent renewable energy consultants, BVG Associates (BVGA), has shown that at peak construction in 2026 the project could create around 4,650 direct, indirect and induced jobs in Scotland, and 9,300 in the UK - adding an estimated £8.3bn to the UK economy over the lifetime of the project.

As part of the proposals SSE Renewables has proposed measures that could boost seabird populations in the North Sea while tackling the energy crisis and the climate emergency. Studies submitted with the application indicate that vulnerable seabird populations could increase in numbers by several thousand birds annually if proposed compensation measures are implemented. Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited has also formally promoted a compulsory purchase order (CPO) for specific rights in land that are required for its onshore infrastructure.

The CPO process runs in tandem alongside the planning application seeking permission to approve the construction for the development's offshore and onshore infrastructure. Berwick Bank Wind Farm's primary aim is to reach voluntary agreements with all impacted landowners, and the project team is encouraged by the on-going negotiations to date. The onshore element of an offshore wind development is often overlooked, but it is critical to ensure the project can connect into the national grid to transport the clean renewable energy generated to homes across the UK.

[Renews.biz](http://renews.biz/)
<http://renews.biz/>

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

3 April 2023

Indian government to bid out renewable energy projects of 50GW capacity every year till FY28

The union government will issue tenders for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually till FY28. Cumulatively, from FY24 to FY28, India plans to bid out projects worth 250 GW renewable energy capacity till FY28. In the current fiscal, government renewable energy implementing agencies would bid out at least 15 GW renewable energy capacity in the first (April-June) and second quarter (July-September) each. During the quarters ending December and March of FY24.

An office memorandum released by the union ministry of new and renewable energy said that the bids may consist of "vanilla solar, vanilla wind, solar-wind hybrid, round-the-clock (RTC) renewable energy power, etc with or without storage, or any other combination, based on the assessment of renewable energy market or as per the directions of government".

As of February 28, India's renewable energy installed capacity stood at 168.96 GW with 82.62 GW under implementation and 40.89 GW under the tendering process. The move comes in the backdrop of the Centre's commitment to achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030, and a reduction of the emissions intensity of our GDP by 45% as against 2005 levels by 2030. By 2070, India aims to achieve net zero carbon emission.

In these lines, government is also working to develop ecosystems for green hydrogen and carbon capture. Earlier this year, the union cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with a target to produce 5 million tonne of green hydrogen by 2030. Recently, the government also came up with a draft carbon credit trading scheme to boost carbon markets in the country.

The Hindu Business Online
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/>

3 April 2023

Kazakhstan to raise fuel prices by 11-20% -acting energy minister

Kazakhstan plans to raise its ceiling on 92/93-octane gasoline prices by 11% and that on diesel by 20% in order to bring them into line with those in neighboring countries, acting energy minister Bolat Akchulakov said on Monday.

The oil-rich nation has some of the world's lowest fuel prices and keeping gasoline cheap through price controls has been one of the pillars of state policy for years. But price disparities with neighboring countries have led to illegal exports and price regulations have made the refining industry unattractive for investors, leaving Kazakhstan's domestic market with fuel shortages. The increases will raise the price of gasoline to 205 tenge (\$0.45) per litre, or \$1.70 per gallon, while the diesel price will rise to 295 tenge per litre, or \$2.50 per gallon. Hiking gasoline and diesel prices is a politically risky move though, as a sharp increase in the price of another car fuel, liquefied petroleum gas, prompted street protests in early 2022 which developed into violent riots.

Reuters
<http://reuters.com/>

3 April 2023

Nabrawind enters Chinese tower JV

Spanish developer of a self-erecting wind tower Nabrawind and Chinese firm Golden Ocean are partner on a project to install a 190-metre-tall Nabralift structure in China in 2024.

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

The project which envisages the installation of a large turbine to optimize production in low wind sites. The tower selected for the pilot project is the tallest Nabralift tower in Nabrawind's portfolio, consisting of a 95-metre framed structure and a standard tubular tower on top.

Golden Ocean will select a low-wind site in China for the installation in the coming weeks. Raising the hub height from the standard 100-120 metres to 190 metres will increase turbine production by 20% in low wind sites, which could make the installation of turbines feasible in sites that are currently not profitable using standard solutions. A significant potential market has been identified in Chinese provinces such as Jiangsu, Shandong, and Hebei, among others.

The collaboration project is supported by a Chineka grant from the Spanish and Chinese governments. During the project, both companies will explore future partnerships for production, promotion, and installation in and from China.

Nabrawind's main product is a tower capable of reaching unprecedented hub heights, and Golden Ocean is leading the expansion of high towers in China, having installed more than 2,000 high towers and commissioned 6GW, the companies said. Nabrawind general manager Eneko Sanz expressed his "enthusiasm" about the project with "such an experienced and professional partner as Golden Ocean."

Sanz added that he was confident that this project "will not only be a success but also the beginning of a fruitful relationship between two companies that may greatly contribute to the development of high towers in China."

[Renews.biz](http://renews.biz)
<http://renews.biz/>

3 April 2023

500 MW Gulf of Suez 2 wind farm project achieves major milestone in Egypt

The Red Sea Wind Energy Consortium achieved financial close on Monday, a significant milestone on the new 500 MW Gulf of Suez Wind Farm near Ras Ghareb, Egypt.

The consortium will operate and maintain the wind farm under a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC), and the plant will be connected to the grid over two phases with full commercial operation planned in the third quarter of 2025. The wind farm will be built, owned and operated by Red Sea Wind Energy S.A.E., which is owned by a Consortium of ENGIE (35%), Orascom Construction (25%), Toyota Tsusho Corporation (20%) and Eurus Energy Holdings Corporation (20%). Orascom Construction will execute the construction of the civil and electrical works of the wind farm, the companies said in a statement.

EETC's obligations under the PPA are backed by Egypt's Ministry of Finance. The project will be capable of delivering clean power to more than 800,000 Egyptian homes. The project also helps accelerate Egypt's transition to renewable power generation and will reduce CO2 emissions by approximately 1 million tons annually. The project falls under the energy pillar of the Nexus of Water-Food-Energy (NWFE) program, an initiative the Government of Egypt presented at COP27 in November 2022 that is expected to contribute toward the energy transition.

Non-recourse project financing is provided by the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC) in coordination with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, the Norinchukin Bank, and Société Générale S.A. under a Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) cover, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). HSBC Bank Egypt S.A.E. is acting as working capital bank and Onshore Security Agent, the statement said.

This new 500 MW wind farm project builds on the past success achieved by the consortium in developing Egypt's first renewable energy Independent Power Producer (IPP)

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

project of its kind and size (completed in October 2019 ahead of schedule), and triples the developer consortium's wind energy capacity in Egypt to 762.5 MW. This project marks the first co-financing between JBIC and the EBRD since the signing of an MOU in October 2022 to fortify cooperation between the two organizations, and the first joint project between NEXI and the EBRD since the signing of an MOU in October 2020.

"ENGIE is delighted to be replicating the same partnerships as it has with the 262.5MW Ras Ghareb wind farm for the Gulf of Suez 2 which once completed in 2025 will be one of the largest onshore wind facilities in ENGIE's portfolio," said Mo Hoosen, ENGIE Managing Director Renewables AMEA & South Africa Country Manager.

Energy connect

<http://www.energyconnects.com/>

3 April 2023

TenneT awards on- and offshore converter stations and HVDC technology with a total capacity of 22 gigawatts

With 40 gigawatts, Transmission System Operator (TSO) TenneT will account for almost two-thirds of the 65GW offshore wind energy target by 2030 agreed by Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Belgium in the Esbjerg Declaration of May 2022 at the North Sea Energy Summit. TenneT will build 20 gigawatts (GW) each in the German and Dutch North Sea with its innovative 2GW Program and pave the way for our next generation of offshore grid connection systems. The 2GW program consist of a new standardized platform and a new certified cable system with a higher transmission capacity. It plays a crucial role in developing the offshore energy transition and will help Europe become the world's first climate-neutral continent.

In a collaboration with Hitachi Energy and Petrofac and consortia of GE/SMOP and GE/McDermott TenneT awarded multiyear agreements to connect eight offshore wind farms in the Netherlands and three offshore wind farms in Germany until 2031. Future additional HVDC stations are planned to be called off at a later stage. The announced agreements cover offshore platforms and onshore stations, as well as the HVDC system for the two-way conversion between alternating and direct currents. Hitachi Energy/Petrofac has been awarded five Dutch projects that will be connected in Borssele (IJmuiden Ver Alpha, Nederwiek 1), Eemshaven (Doordewind 1 and Doordewind 2) and Geertruidenberg or Moerdijk (Nederwiek 3). This partnership will also realize the German connection LanWin5 that will be connected in Rastede.

GE/SMOP has been awarded three Dutch projects that will be connected in Maasvlakte, Rotterdam (IJmuiden Ver Beta, IJmuiden Ver Gamma and Nederwiek 2). GE/McDermott will execute the German projects BalWin4 and LanWin1 that will be connected in Unterweser. TenneT expects that the projects BalWin3, LanWin4 (both connecting to the onshore grid in Wilhemshaven) and LanWin2 (connecting in Heide) will soon be awarded. The awarded suppliers will start preparatory work for the realization of the projects with immediate effect to ensure that all projects can be delivered until 2031. The total volume of the eleven orders is approximately 23 billion euros.

Tennet

<http://www.tennet.eu/>

4 April 2023

EDF's West Burton A coal-fired plant officially closes

French-owned energy company EDF Energy has confirmed that West Burton A, a coal-fired power station, closed at midnight 31 March 2023.

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

The coal-fired plant in North Nottinghamshire closed despite calls for a contingency contract extension to further bolster the UK's energy security. National Grid ESO asked both EDF Energy and Drax to continue to operate coal-fired plants over the 2022 to 2023 winter period to ensure enough energy was available to the UK amid the energy crisis. EDF confirmed that its workforce fulfilled the request to have 400MW available throughout the winter.

From 1 April, the 57-year-old plant moved into full decommissioning. This will involve removing oil and fuel from the plant and terminating any power connections. EDF expects this process to be completed by December 2023. This however will not be the end for West Burton in terms of power generation. The UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) confirmed it would develop the nation's first fusion energy plant as part of the government-backed Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP).

The plant, which will be built by 2040, will aim to deliver safe, sustainable, low carbon energy for the UK on its path towards net zero emissions. Because of this profile, fusion could have a significant role in a low-carbon economy in the UK.

The winter contingency coal units had been used for the first time in early March during a cold snap of weather. Two coal units at West Burton power station ran from just before 14:00 on Tuesday 7 March till around 20:30, adding capacity during a particularly constrained period as demand hit its 10th highest point of the winter whilst wind generation stayed low and interconnectors capacity was insecure due to strikes in France. In addition to EDF's two coal units at West Burton, Drax also warmed two of its units last Tuesday in anticipation of potential use.

This was the fifth time that the units have been warmed this winter, with the instruction issued by the operator on 7 February, 26 January, 23 January and 12 December, but ultimately, they weren't used on those occasions.

Current

<http://www.current-news.co.uk/>

5 April 2023

National Grid projects awarded almost £1 million by Ofgem

A total of eight research and development projects led by the National Grid have collectively been awarded £896,000 from Ofgem's Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) programme. Within this funding, £396,000 will be allocated to National Grid Electricity Transmissions (NGET) to accelerate the development of a net zero electricity network.

NGET project aims include researching technology to increase power flow capability on existing overhead lines and the development of a long-term strategy to rid the network of electrical insulating gas sulphur hexafluoride (SF6).

All five of the projects submitted by the National Grid Electricity Distribution have collectively been provided a total of £500,000. The five projects will explore:

- how thermal energy efficiency impacts network loads
- the use of electric vehicles to restore power supplies to vulnerable customers during a power cut
- how digital solutions can support regional network planning
- flexibility across different utilities
- the role digital technologies could have in developing a localised smart energy system

"It's great to see National Grid's networks leading the way with the sort of ambitious thinking needed to tackle some of the biggest challenges in energy. This funding will help drive progress on a raft of innovative projects, from new technologies to boost network capacity, to how we reduce our dependency on the greenhouse gas SF6," said Nicola Todd, head of strategy and innovation at National Grid Electricity Transmission. Work on these

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

initiatives is helping to shape the future of Britain's energy networks and accelerating the transition to net zero, at lowest cost to consumers."

Jenny Woodruff, innovation team manager at National Grid Electricity Distribution added: "We are thrilled that all our projects applications were approved as this is our first experience of SIF. We are eager to crack on with the projects that are very diverse and between them cover a wide range of ways that we can help reach net zero. We are also excited to be working with new project partners which often brings new insights. The discovery phase will allow us to test key assumptions and carry out the early work necessary to firm up our plans for the alpha and beta SIF phases where we can develop the initial ideas into prototypes and full-scale trials." 15 projects submitted by UK Power Networks have also been awarded SIF-funding.

Nationalgrid.com
<http://www.nationalgrid.com/>

5 April 2023

South Africa ends 'state of disaster' over electricity

The South African government on Wednesday terminated the national state of disaster it declared two months ago to deal with an electricity crisis, although there are no signs that the power problems are ending. The government ended the state of disaster while Africa's most developed economy still wrestles with nationwide rolling blackouts — currently for six hours a day — due to failures at the state-run power company, Eskom.

Analysts have this week warned that Eskom's own forecasts indicate that South Africa's businesses and its 60 million people will experience electricity cuts for at least another year. The national state of disaster was announced by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of The Nation address on Feb. 9. It would allow the government to exempt essential services like hospitals and water treatment plants from power blackouts and free up public money to purchase additional power from neighboring countries on an emergency basis, Ramaphosa said.

Ramaphosa has also since appointed a new cabinet minister whose sole responsibility is to deal with the electricity crisis. The government said in a statement Wednesday that the state of disaster had been "a necessary response" to "critical" levels of power cuts at the time it was issued. The frequency of the blackouts has only eased slightly from up to 10 hours a day in February. The blackouts are usually applied in two-hour blocks before the electricity is switched back on for a period.

South Africa has also issued state of disaster declarations recently in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and flooding. The electricity problems have been blamed on years of mismanagement and corruption at Eskom, which is struggling to keep its aging coal-fired plants running. Eskom has been unable to provide a constant supply of electricity and relied on blackouts to save power for years but the cuts in 2022 were the worst the country has experienced. They were a key contributor to South Africa's economy shrinking by 1.3% in the fourth quarter of last year, economists said, raising fears that the country is on the brink of a recession.

AP NEWS
<http://apnews.com/>

5 April 2023

New entities expand WEIM's reach to a total of 11 Western states

Three new participants joined the Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) today, expanding the real-time energy market's footprint to include a portion of Texas.

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Desert Southwest region, El Paso Electric (EPE) and AVANGRID formally began participating in the WEIM, which now represents nearly 80% of the demand for electricity in the Western interconnection.

“We are excited to welcome the WAPA Desert Southwest region, El Paso Electric and AVANGRID to the WEIM,” said Elliot Mainzer, the California Independent System Operator’s (ISO) president and CEO. “Because of their varied resources and location, these new WEIM partners further strengthen regional collaboration and coordination in the West. It’s been a pleasure to work with them in support of their effort to achieve enhanced operational efficiencies while providing cost savings to their customers.”

The new participants are unique to the WEIM for the diversity of the resources and customers they serve:

- WAPA Desert Southwest provides federal hydroelectric power and transmission services to 70 municipalities, cooperatives, Native American tribes, federal and state agencies, and irrigation districts;
- EPE is a regional energy provider engaged in generation, transmission and distribution that serves more than 460,000 customers in west Texas and southern New Mexico; and
- As the first generation-only entity, AVANGRID is the third largest renewable generator in the U.S. The company owns and operates 8.7 GW of emissions-free installed capacity.

The WEIM, which was established by the ISO and PacifiCorp in 2014, uses sophisticated technology to find and deliver the lowest-cost energy to its members, while enhancing reliability and providing significant environmental benefits through the reduction of renewable energy curtailments during periods of oversupply. The newest participants are joining the WEIM following a historic year in benefits totals. In 2022, the WEIM accumulated \$1 billion in benefits, increasing the cumulative amount to more than \$3.4 billion, in part due to more participants in the real-time market.

As the WEIM has continued to grow, the ISO has been moving toward the launch of the Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM), an initiative that was jointly approved in February by the ISO Board of Governors and the WEIM Governing Body. When it goes live, the EDAM will offer WEIM partners the opportunity to participate in the day-ahead market, where the majority of energy transactions occur and even greater benefits are expected.

CAISO

<http://www.caiso.com>

5 April 2023

Iberdrola to sell power assets to Mexico's govt in USD-5.94bn deal

Spanish utility group Iberdrola SA on Tuesday struck an agreement to sell 8,436 MW of combined-cycle gas plants and a wind farm in Mexico to the Mexican government in what president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador called a “new nationalization” of the electricity industry.

Iberdrola Mexico entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with investment fund manager Mexico Infrastructure Partners (MIP), which through a trust will acquire 12 gas plants and a 103-MW wind farm in the country for USD 5.94 billion (EUR 5.43bn). The transaction will be financed by Mexico's national infrastructure trust fund Fonadin and other public financial entities associated with the Mexican government, Iberdrola said.

The deal could spell a peace agreement between the Lopez Obrador administration and Iberdrola after years of disputes, which heard the Spanish group being accused of impropriety. The 13 power plants will be operated by Mexican state-owned utility CFE, which

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

the current government sought to strengthen through reforms while downgrading privately-owned power generators. With Iberdrola Mexico's assets, CFE's generation share in the country will rise to 55.5% from the current 39.6%, Lopez Obrador said in a meeting with Iberdrola CEO Ignacio Galan.

Iberdrola will get to transfer four power plants involved in open litigations with regulatory bodies in this operation. The move will allow it to create the "New Iberdrola Mexico", which will be left with 2,427 MW of operational capacity, including 1,059 MW of wind and solar. In the next era, Iberdrola Mexico will focus on private customers and a 6,000-MW renewables pipeline, the Spanish group said, calling the deal fairly priced and a "win-win" for both parties. "The agreement reached with Iberdrola, which allows progress to be made in the implementation of Mexico's new energy policy, marks the beginning of a new stage in which the company will actively participate in the country's renewable energy development," commented Lopez Obrador.

Renewables Now
<http://renewablesnow.com/>

6 April 2023

In Canada, freezing rain, gales leave more than a million without power

Over 1.2 million people were left high and dry without electricity in Canada's two most populated provinces— Ontario and Quebec, on Thursday morning a day after freezing rain and strong winds hit the southeast part of the country, toppling trees which came crashing down on power lines.

Nearly 1,000 workers worked to restore power overnight and on Thursday morning in Quebec, the province's electricity provider said, warning that more such outages could happen given the damage caused by the storm and rain. "We are confident that we can restore power to some of the affected customers today," Hydro-Quebec said in a statement. "Unfortunately, it is already expected that some customers will still be without power on Friday and this weekend."

About 1.1 million people did not have power in Quebec and about 167,000 in Ontario as of 10:35 am, according to Poweroutage.com. Ontario and Quebec account for more than half of Canada's total population of about 39.6 million. In Ottawa, workers were expected to restore power for a large portion of some 65,000 affected customers by noon, mayor Mark Sutcliffe said. Some areas in the capital "remain hazardous due to fallen debris and power outages affecting traffic signals," Sutcliffe said. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was scheduled to be in Montreal on Thursday to speak about his government's budget, offered to provide federal assistance if required. Montreal is among the worst affected by the power outages after Wednesday's ice storm, according to Hydro-Quebec.

First Post
<http://www.firstpost.com/>

6 April 2023

ESO's Stability Pathfinders grid decarbonization project completes phase one

The National Grid ESO has completed work on 12 units which will provide inertia to the electricity network and ensure stability in the case of sudden changes in generating capacity. The 12 synchronous compensators are zero-carbon and will help the ESO meet its ambition to transition to a fully decarbonised network by 2025.

Currently inertia is provided to the electricity grid using fossil fuel power stations, which need to be warmed in case they are needed to provide extra power. The Stability Pathfinder units will replace these facilities and provide a transition to a zero-carbon system.

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

The ESO says that these units will provide “up to £128million in consumer savings over their lifetime and to reduce CO2 emissions by around 6 million tonnes.”

Stability Pathfinders was created to develop technologies that generate important system characteristics like inertia. Synchronous compensators replicate the creation and storage of inertia reducing the number of fossil fuel power stations that need to be kept available. EDF Energy recently said that they closed West Burton coal fired power plant on March 31, despite National Grid ESO asking both EDF Energy and Drax to continue running coal fired power plants over the next winter. In March, Octopus Energy called for an end to the use of coal fired power plants, citing the success of its Demand Flexibility Service (DFS) to provide flexibility and security to the grid. Julian Leslie, head of networks at ESO said: “The delivery of all twelve units involved in phase one of our stability pathfinders is an important milestone in delivering our ambition to be able to operate the network with zero carbon from 2025.

Ian Kinnaird, Scottish assets director at Drax commented: “Triton Power’s conversion at Deeside Power Station from retired CCGT [Combined Cycle Gas Turbine] to synchronous compensator has been successfully operating for almost 2 years providing essential stability services to the National Grid. The recycling of Deeside CCGT is the first in a development pipeline at Triton Power to modify existing assets, and adopt new technologies, to reduce the carbon intensity of the UK power sector”. Mike Lockett, UK country chairman at Uniper, which provides the technology used in the units, said: “Uniper is now delivering all of the vital stability services it has been contracted to supply to National Grid ESO under phase 1 of its Stability Pathfinder to 2026, putting us at the forefront of this market.”

Current

<http://www.current-news.co.uk/>

12 April 2023

Turkey: Ministry launches project to place solar panels on water

Within the scope of a new project by the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, which will both increase renewable energy production and protect agricultural lands, floating solar panels will be placed on stagnant water surfaces such as dams and ponds. The ministry has initiated a project regarding the establishment of floating solar energy systems for stagnant waters, as solar energy collecting panels are established on mainly agricultural lands, which brings the use of these lands for agricultural purposes to a standstill.

With the establishment of floating solar power plants in stagnant waters, such as lakes, dams and ponds, in order to use land more efficiently for agriculture, the country’s fight against the climate crisis will improve. As in many countries, the focus on renewable energy sources such as solar energy instead of fossil fuels continues in Türkiye to minimize the environmental risks posed by climate change and for clean energy, which is included in the roadmap of the European Green Deal. Accordingly, a meeting was held with the relevant units and institutions by the ministry’s General Directorate of Water Management. With the determination of the pilot study area, a general plan consisting of the necessary permits to be obtained, budget planning and environmental consultation of experts regarding the floating solar power plants will be revealed in the following period.

The project aims to contribute to sustainability by protecting water resources and to the renewable future by generating electricity from the sun. In the meantime, the “Türkiye National Energy Plan” of the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry stated that the aim is to make the country’s solar energy capacity reach 52.9 units, with a rise of approximately 500 percent until 2035. The ministry envisages that solar energy will be the most used energy source with the highest number of installed power plants. According to the data of the ministry, 10 provinces of the country has an important potential in terms of solar energy.

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 April 2023

The capital Ankara, the western provinces of İzmir and Manisa, the Central Anatolian province of Konya and the southeastern province of Şanlıurfa are among the cities with high solar energy capacity, the report said.

Hurriyet Daily News

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/>

12 April 2023

6,100 MW added to Iran's power generation capacity in a year

As announced by the Iranian deputy energy minister, 6,100 megawatts (MW) was added to the country's electricity generation capacity in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20). While elaborating on the electricity sector's achievements in the past year, Homayoun Haeri, the deputy minister for electricity affairs, said that the mentioned 6,100 MW was generated through the construction of new power plants with the capacity of 4,150 MW, upgrading the capacity of existing units by 1,350 MW, and rebuilding 600 damaged units. The official also announced that the rise in power generation efficiency of power plants, which increased to 39.1 percent, was another record registered last year.

Back in January, an official with Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) announced that with the inauguration of a new thermal power plant in southwestern Iran, the nominal capacity of the country's power plants exceeded 90,000 MW. According to Mohammad Ramezani, the deputy head of the company's projects development department, the mentioned power plant which has been constructed with €250 million of investment in Khuzestan Province, is comprised of a 307-MW gas unit and a 144-MW steam unit. Most of Iran's power generation capacity is supplied by thermal power plants. Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share of the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants. Increasing the country's power generation capacity and preventing blackouts during peak consumption periods have been among the Iranian Energy Ministry's top priorities since the current government administration took office in 2021.

The mentioned figure would be achieved through the construction of thermal power plants with 15,000 MW of capacity, and renewable power plants with a capacity of 10,000 MW by the governmental and private sectors, as well as the construction of new power plants with 10,000 megawatts capacity by large industries. Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods. In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages. Constructing new units in the country's power plants and also building new power plants for major industries are among the mentioned programs that are being pursued seriously by the ministry in collaboration with other related government entities.

Tehran Times

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/>

14 April 2023

Officials meet in Tbilisi to discuss Black Sea submarine cable project

Officials from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Romania and Hungary on Thursday met in the Georgian capital city of Tbilisi to discuss various stages of the implementation of the Black Sea submarine electricity cable project, a new transmission route to deliver green energy from Azerbaijan to Europe, the Georgian Ministry of Economy announced.

At the meeting, Georgian officials shared the first results of the feasibility study of the project and discussed the next stages of its implementation with their counterparts.

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

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Economy Minister Levan Davitashvili said additional studies were required this year in order to have a “complete picture” of how the project should be implemented. It is very important to coordinate at a high level between the countries in order for the project to be effectively implemented”, Davitashvili said after the meeting. George Niculescu, the State Secretary in the Romanian Ministry of Energy, said the project was an opportunity for Europe and the Caspian Sea countries to be better connected with each other. Peter Szijjártó, the Hungarian Minister of Trade and Foreign Affairs, said his country was interested in energy diversification to ensure “security of supply and green, environmentally friendly solutions”.

The four countries signed the project in December, with the projected infrastructure enabling the countries of the South Caucasus and Romania to take advantage of “broadened export opportunities” and trade in electricity at hourly market prices. The next meeting between the sides is scheduled to be held in Bucharest, Romania.

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