WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

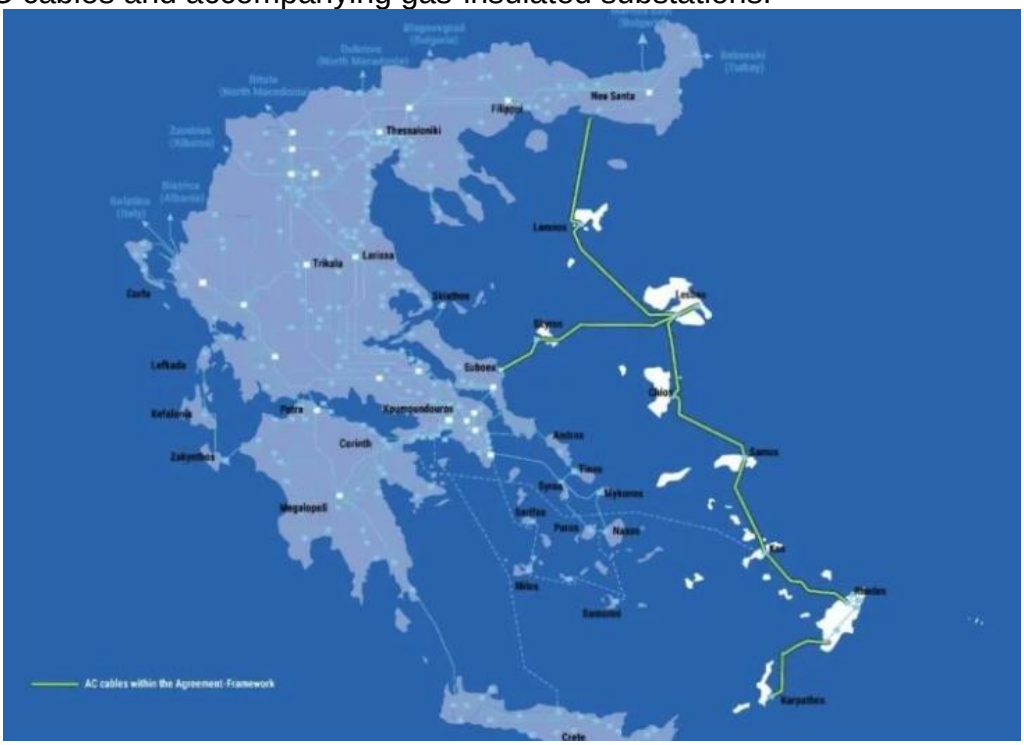
15 January 2026

2 January 2026

European Investment Bank Supports Greek Island Grid Interconnection Project

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved a €490 million financing plan to support a grid interconnection project aimed at ending the electricity isolation of islands in the northeastern Aegean Sea of Greece. The decision was made on December 12, 2025.

The project, to be implemented by Greece's Independent Power Transmission Operator, plans to connect the islands of Lemnos, Lesvos, Chios, Samos, and Skyros to the mainland Greek transmission network via newly constructed submarine cable lines. Simultaneously, the project will also link these islands to the grid of the Dodecanese islands through a southern Kos node. The primary interconnection technology solution involves 150kV AC cables and accompanying gas-insulated substations.



The European Investment Bank stated that this power connection project will end the long-term reliance of the concerned islands on local oil-fired power generation, providing them with more efficient, reliable, and cleaner electricity supply. The project is expected to enhance regional power supply security, improve the capacity to integrate renewable energy, and promote local economic development through improved infrastructure.

Offshore Energy
http://www.offshore-energy.biz/

2 January 2026

RTC Deployed, ERCOT Takes on New Challenges in 2026

Having finally added real-time co-optimization to the market like every other U.S. grid operator with an effort that began in 2019, ERCOT can turn its attention to other pressing issues in 2026. Of course, figuring out the most effective and efficient way to safely interconnect the hundreds of requests from large loads — data centers, bitcoin miners, large industrial facilities and the like — that have flocked to Texas' welcoming arms tops the list. The grid operator began the year with 63 GW of interconnection requests in its large-load queue but enters 2026 with more than 233 GW, up 269%. Data centers account for about 77% of that load.

Then there's ERCOT's continuing work on a dispatchable reliability reserve service (DRRS), a product that staff call an ancillary service but that some stakeholders don't. It is the third iteration of the product, mandated by state law in 2023 and a high priority for the Board of Directors and the Public Utility Commission.

A little less sexy initiative but equally important is the full-scale analysis that will take place in 2026 of the grid's reliability standard. It will be the first formal evaluation of the new reliability standard the PUC established in 2024. But wait. ERCOT isn't finished with RTC. Nearly a dozen issues and tweaks have been identified to stabilize the market mechanism, requiring the task force that deployed RTC to stay active.

CEO Pablo Vegas says ERCOT is going through a transition "characterized by high and very rapid growth" of intermittent and short-duration supply resources.

"It's characterized by a rapidly changing customer base that includes price-responsive loads like crypto miners, rapidly growing large-scale data centers, and continued penetration of distributed energy resources throughout the grid," he told his board in December. "It's a significant shift in operational requirements, and it represents an opportunity to create a more resilient and cost-effective grid for the benefit of all Texans."

Vegas says ERCOT's load growth is "fairly unprecedented" and renders obsolete historical interconnection processes. As of November, the ISO had energized only a little over 5 GW of large loads in 2025. To remedy that, Vegas and other members of his leadership team proposed a new approach to interconnection called a "batch study" process.

Projects ready to be studied will be grouped together in batches and allocated existing and planned transmission capacity. ERCOT says this will provide large-load customers with study efficiency, consistency, transparency and certainty. The first group, Batch 0, will create a foundation and baseline for subsequent batches, building on the assumptions that have changed from the previous group.

Staff will develop the batch study's framework, taking input from market participants and regulators. ERCOT has rolled out a stakeholder engagement plan during January and February that includes six presentations to the PUC and stakeholder groups. It plans to file a proposed study process framework for discussion before the commission's Feb. 20 open meeting.

"There's clearly a pressure to move quickly and support the economic growth that's coming our way," Vegas told the PUC in December. There's also pressure on ERCOT to produce the DRRS product, mandated by House Bill 1500 in 2023. The law requires the grid operator to develop DRRS as an ancillary service and establish minimum requirements for the product.

Lawmakers followed up by directing the PUC to revise ERCOT's original protocol change to establish DRRS as a standalone ancillary service. The new direction resulted in allowing only offline resources to participate and the change was withdrawn. ERCOT now has filed a protocol change (NPRR1309) that meets all statutory criteria and improves the previous change by allowing online resources to also participate in DRRS. The new design enables the product to be awarded in real time and co-optimized its procurement with that of energy and other ancillary services under RTC.

An accompanying protocol change (NPRR1310) adds energy storage resources as DRRS participants and a release factor so the product can support resource adequacy. NPRR1309 has been granted urgent status and is due before the board for its June meeting. The same status has not been accorded to NPRR1310. "We recognize there's likely to be a lively stakeholder debate," Keith Collins, vice president of commercial operations, told the board in December. "We are optimistic that it can move through the stakeholder process expeditiously, but we didn't necessarily want to burden it with a timeline for that."

ERCOT contracted Aurora Energy Research, which has a large local presence, to study future resource adequacy conditions and the effect of different market designs, including variations of DRRS. The research firm determined that DRRS' design adds more cost-effective dispatchable capacity and provides greater resource adequacy benefits in different load and extreme weather conditions.

During a December workshop to review the report, stakeholders peppered Aurora staff with questions on the study. DRRS is meant to achieve a revenue goal, not an operational goal, the firm's representatives said as stakeholders questioned whether it is an ancillary service.

Collins said the DRRS mechanism and its eligibility requirements strengthen reliability through ancillary services, whereas ERCOT's operating reserve demand curve, about 10 years old, uses energy to improve reliability. "In our mind, [DRRS] is using ancillary services to achieve reliability, so it is an ancillary service plus," he said. "I'm not aware of any other market that has a tool quite like that."

Saying he doesn't understand how an ancillary service could ever procure 100% of eligible capacity, energy consultant Eric Goff, who represents the consumer segment, said, "It seems like that's a stretch to call it an ancillary service." The workshop signaled the conversations that will happen over the next few months. ERCOT has scheduled another workshop for the Technical Advisory Committee on Jan. 7. "Obviously, there'll be more discussion on 1309 and 1310 next month," Collins said.

After 2021's devastating Winter Storm Uri and the legislative session that followed, the PUC ordered ERCOT to create a reliability standard as a performance benchmark to meet consumer demand for three years into the future. The standard is composed of three criteria to gauge capacity deficiency: frequency (not more than once every 10 years), magnitude (loss of load during a single hour of an outage) and duration (less than 12 hours).

ERCOT and its Independent Market Monitor are required to evaluate the costs and benefits of any market design changes proposed to address deficiencies identified through the assessment process. The first such reliability standard assessment will be conducted in 2026 and then every three years and will include a forward review and analysis of the generation mix. Vegas said in December that additional supply has been "helpful" in improving the grid's reliability characteristics. "In the long term, there is increasing risk if the load materializes and infrastructure development doesn't keep up," he told the board.

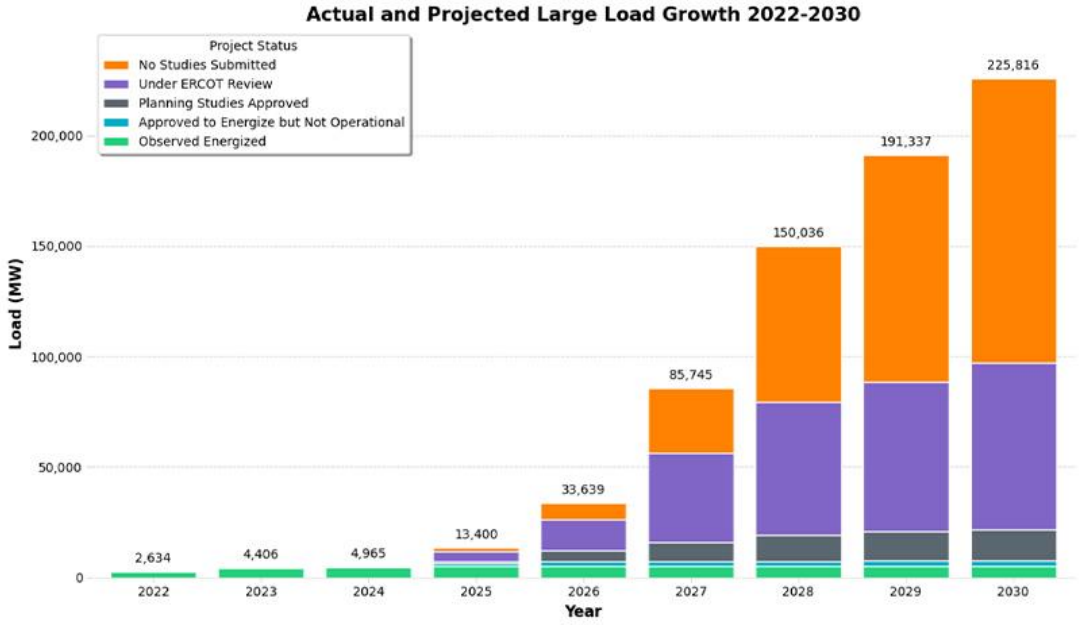
ERCOT has deployed what it calls its "most significant" design change since its nodal market went live in 2010. The grid operator went live with RTC in early December and it has been successfully procuring energy and AS in real time every five minutes ever since. "Mission accomplished. It was absolutely brilliant," ERCOT's Matt Mereness, who chaired the stakeholder group managing the effort, told the board in December.

The ISO says new functionality, which also improves the modeling and consideration of batteries and their state-of-charge in participating in RTC, will yield more than $1 billion in annual wholesale market savings. However, there's still work to be done stabilizing RTC and transitioning to normal processers. Staff and stakeholders have identified nine issues to further evaluate in 2026. Those issues run from reviewing the ancillary service demand curve to evaluating concerns with AS deliverability and will be transferred to TAC.

ERCOT has identified five likely protocol violations and mitigation plans with the PUC and has filed a protocol change (NPRR1311) to reverse language allowing ancillary service prices above the $5,000/MWh cap during emergency conditions. Mereness said the plan is to have everything resolved by Jan. 31. The grid operator will spend the first few months of 2026 releasing updates for remaining non-critical defects.

RTC's successful implementation is another plus for ERCOT and Vegas. He told the board during its year-end meeting that the ISO is determined to be the "most reliable and

innovative grid in the world. We are one of the best, if not the leading, grids globally when it comes to operational and technical complexities," Vegas said. To be successful, we need to be a clear leader on a stage that represents the entirety of this planet."



Project Status	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
No Studies Submitted	0	0	0	1,414	7,385	29,580	70,709	102,970	128,487
Under ERCOT Review	0	0	0	4,720	13,935	40,098	59,909	67,472	75,531
Planning Studies Approved	0	0	0	637	5,118	8,866	12,217	13,394	14,297
Approved to Energize but Not Operational	0	77	131	1,327	1,899	1,899	1,899	2,199	2,199
Observed Energized	2,634	4,329	4,834	5,302	5,302	5,302	5,302	5,302	5,302
Total (MW)	**2,634**	**4,406**	**4,965**	**13,400**	**33,639**	**85,745**	**150,036**	**191,337**	**225,816**

As part of its strategy to "advance knowledge sharing in grid innovations," ERCOT is hosting its third annual Innovation Summit on March 31 at a resort near Round Rock, Texas, where "visionaries, thought leaders and innovators" share ideas to address "challenges and opportunities facing grid operators around the world." Or those thought leaders could just ask ERCOT staff, who already may be there.

RTO Insider
http://www.rtoinsider.com/

6 January 2026

Spain Invests Over €800 Million to Support Energy Storage Projects

The Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge recently announced the selection of 126 energy storage projects that will receive a total of €818.3 million in funding from the European Regional Development Fund. The call for proposals received 1,750 applications, and the final approved budget represents an increase of approximately 17% compared to the initial plan.

Among the approved projects, hybrid storage projects are the most numerous, totaling 69. There are 39 independent battery storage projects, and thermal energy storage and pumped hydro storage projects account for 15 and 3 respectively. These projects are expected to add 2.2 gigawatts of generation capacity and 9.4 gigawatt-hours of storage capacity to Spain's grid. The renewable energy sources paired with the hybrid storage projects are primarily solar photovoltaic (38 projects) and wind power (18 projects). Projects must be completed within 36 months of funding approval, with all construction work required to finish by the end of 2029.

The Ministry stated that once operational, these facilities will enhance the flexibility of the power system, facilitate the integration of more renewable energy into the grid, and advance the decarbonization process by providing lower-cost, zero-emission energy. Funding will be allocated based on regional development levels, with autonomous communities such as Andalusia, Valencia, and Galicia hosting a larger number of projects.

This funding allocation is another initiative under Spain's Energy Transition and Resilience Plan framework to support energy storage development. It complements earlier incentive programs launched using the EU's Next Generation funds, collectively promoting various projects, including hybrid storage, independent batteries, and technological research and development.

Recharge News
http://www.rechargenews.com/

8 January 2026

World's first 361-foot fully recyclable wind turbine blade unveiled in China

Chinese energy giant Ming Yang Smart Energy has developed the "world's first fully recyclable carbon fiber wind turbine blade."

Dubbed MySE23X, it measures over 110 meters (361 feet) long.

Announced on a LinkedIn post on January 7, the newly developed turbine blade uses a chemical degradation solution that works at ambient temperature and pressure. This innovation targets the wind industry's massive waste problem — typically, turbine blades are made of composites that are difficult to break down. It could bring the wind energy sector closer to a carbon-neutral, waste-free future.

Conventional blades are difficult to recycle because their resin and fibers are permanently bonded during manufacturing. Since these materials cannot be separated, decommissioned blades are typically buried in landfills or, at best, shredded into low-value filler for cement. An earlier research from the University of Cambridge estimates that the world will accumulate 43 million tonnes of wind turbine blade waste by 2050. As early-generation turbines reach the end of their lifespans, the disposal of these non-biodegradable composite materials is becoming a major global challenge. This mounting waste is a primary driver of the industry's shift toward fully recyclable blade technologies, such as those recently announced by Ming Yang.

Electrek reported that the company has designed a "special degradation solution."

Compared with previous recycling attempts that required intense heat or high pressure — often damaging the fibers they sought to save — this new chemical process operates at ambient temperature and pressure. It chemically dissolves the glue holding the blade together. The high-value carbon fiber can be recovered, cleaned, and reused in everything from new turbines to car parts.

The MySE23X blade uses pultruded carbon fiber panels, which are much stronger and lighter than standard fiberglass. At over 110 meters, it is designed for the world's most powerful offshore turbines, where weight is the enemy of efficiency. The environmental reputation of wind power technology is under closer scrutiny as the global transition to clean energy accelerates. Critics have long pointed to non-recyclable turbines as a fundamental flaw in the renewable movement. Ming Yang is not alone in this pursuit. At present, several companies are developing recyclable turbine blades. Among them, Spain-based Siemens Gamesa is a major competitor in the race for circularity.

It has already deployed its recyclable blade technology in large-scale projects like the Kaskasi offshore wind farm in Germany and the Sofia wind farm in the UK.

Their current sustainable blades are roughly 95% recyclable, but the company has committed to delivering fully recyclable blades by 2030 and making its entire wind turbine

fleet 100% recyclable by 2040. The adoption of these advanced materials allows the wind sector to transition toward a circular model with full lifecycle accountability and reinforces its commitment to a carbon-neutral future. Meanwhile, Ming Yang is also famous for experimenting with wind turbine technology. Beyond its latest recycling breakthrough, the energy giant has a history of industry "firsts," including the development of an 18 MW typhoon-proof turbine and an unconventional dual-headed wind turbine system.

Interesting Engineering
http://interestingengineering.com/

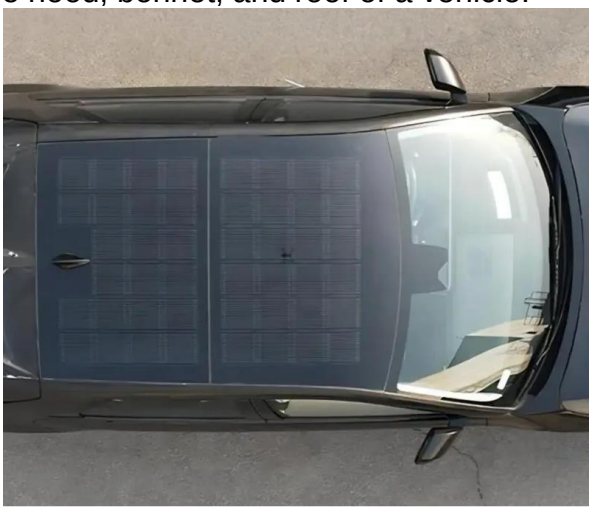
8 January 2026

Hyundai spin-off targets EV range anxiety with built-in solar panels

Solarstic, an in-house venture spun out of Hyundai Motor Group, is showcasing its vehicle-integrated solar technology at CES 2026 in Las Vegas, highlighting efforts to bring renewable energy directly onto vehicle exteriors.

The company is exhibiting at Eureka Park under the Hyundai Motor Group ZERO1NE Pavilion. At CES 2026, Solarstic was named a CES Innovation Awards Honoree in the Vehicle Tech & Advanced Mobility category for its Injection-Molded Vehicle Solar Module.

The award recognizes the company's approach to embedding solar power into vehicle exterior components while preserving automotive-grade design and safety standards. Unlike traditional vehicle solar systems that rely on glass-based panels, Solarstic's technology replaces glass with lightweight polymer packaging. This shift reduces weight and opens up more flexibility in vehicle design while enabling solar modules to function as structural exterior parts. The company says its solution allows solar panels to be integrated directly into the hood, bonnet, and roof of a vehicle.



"Traditionally, solar panels for cars are made with glass, but glass is heavy and limits vehicle design. Our solution uses polymer packaging, which is much lighter and allows for more flexible vehicle designs."

When deployed across multiple exterior surfaces, the system can generate meaningful power. "We integrate the solar panels into the hood, bonnet, and roof. When combined, they can generate up to 500 watts of power. This can extend an EV's range by up to 50 miles per day."Solarstic says the technology could significantly reduce charging needs depending on driving patterns. "For short-distance drivers, this means you may not need to charge your EV at all. For long-distance drivers, the system can recharge about 30 percent of the battery while driving."

The technology has already been validated through proof-of-concept projects on Hyundai vehicles, including the IONIQ 5 and ST1 electric models. These demonstrations

confirm that the solar modules can function under real-world driving conditions on both passenger and commercial vehicles. However, the product is still under development. “The product is still in the development stage and has not been launched yet. We are working with Hyundai, and we plan to introduce a solar-equipped vehicle in the future, possibly within the next one to two years.”

Manufacturing remains one of the biggest hurdles. “The key technical challenge is manufacturing. Polymer packaging requires injection molding, which normally uses high pressure. Solar cells are fragile and can easily break under pressure.”

To address this, Solarstic developed a new packaging approach. “We developed a protective layer design along with a low-pressure injection technology. This allows us to package the solar cells without damaging them.” The company is also focused on aesthetics and safety.

“The solar module has a glass-like appearance, and the solar cells are visible underneath. However, many people prefer not to see the solar cells clearly, so we focus on a black finish that hides them unless you look closely. Because the system is integrated into exterior parts like the hood and roof, safety is important. Glass is very hard, but polymer packaging is softer, which makes it safer if a person impacts the hood.” “One of the main engineering challenges is durability. Because this is an exterior component, we must prevent yellowing and surface damage, especially from car washes,” the company said. “We are currently testing anti-scratch and anti-spreading coatings.” Solarstic’s CES 2026 presence reflects Hyundai Motor Group’s broader ZERO1NE open innovation strategy, aimed at accelerating sustainable mobility technologies.

Interesting Engineering
http://interestingengineering.com/

8 January 2026

ISO New England pursuing major projects in 2026

In the year ahead, ISO New England will continue innovative efforts around market design, transmission planning, consumer engagement, and more. Here’s a look at milestones expected in 2026.

Capacity market reforms

In December the ISO filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the first part of its proposal to redesign the capacity market, outlining a prompt auction schedule and deactivation reforms.

The second part will establish seasonal auctions and resource accreditation standards. Design work and stakeholder discussion on these topics will continue throughout 2026. A second FERC filing is expected before the end of the year.

Longer-term transmission planning

Last year, at the direction of the New England States Committee on Electricity, ISO-NE issued a request for proposals to address transmission constraints between Maine and the rest of the region.

Transmission companies submitted six proposals, which the ISO is now reviewing. The ISO may announce a preferred solution in September.

FERC Order Nos. 1920, 1920-A, and 1920-B address additional longer-term transmission planning reforms. Stakeholder discussions on compliance are expected to begin in the third quarter.

Asset condition review

At the request of stakeholders, ISO-NE has agreed to conduct independent reviews of transmission owners’ proposals to replace deteriorating transmission facilities, called asset condition projects. The goal is to increase transparency around these projects.

Throughout 2026, a consultant will assist in interim reviews and help the ISO develop a framework for a permanent, ISO-run process. A finalized definition of the role is expected in 2027.

Ancillary services

The Day-Ahead Ancillary Services Market will mark one year of operations on Feb. 28. The ISO has been assessing the performance and competitiveness of the market, and plans to present findings and any potential recommendations for enhancements during the first or second quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the ISO plans to begin stakeholder discussions around dynamic operating reserves. These potential new products would address uncertainties resulting from the growth of intermittent power resources and increasing variability in demand.

Energy adequacy

Over the last few years, the ISO developed its Probabilistic Energy Adequacy Tool (PEAT) and related Regional Energy Shortfall Threshold (REST) metric.

In 2026 it will operationalize an annual process using these tools. In the first quarter, the ISO will work with stakeholders to develop inputs and scenarios for five- and 10-year energy assessments. Results will be reported in the fourth quarter.

Additionally, the ISO will use PEAT and REST ahead of each summer and winter to assess the region's preparedness.

Interconnection queue

ISO-NE launched its Transitional Cluster Study in the fall of 2025. It's the first study of energy resource interconnection requests implemented under FERC Order Nos. 2023 and 2023-A, which seek to address queue backlogs across the country.

The initial study report is expected in January, with the final report following in August.

The cluster request window for the first, regular cluster study will open in October.

Forecast report

Published every year on May 1, the ISO's annual Forecast Report of Capacity, Energy, Loads, and Transmission (CELT Report) is a foundational resource for system planning and reliability studies. It contains detailed information about the current resource mix, as well as long-term projections for electricity demand and adoption of technology like distributed solar photovoltaics, electric vehicles, and air-source heat pumps.

ISO-NE will discuss the findings, as well as the importance of forecasting, shortly after the report is published. Details will be announced on ISO Newswire.

Consumer engagement

ISO New England plans to engage with members of the public in new ways in 2026. In February it will host an "ISO 101" webinar about the ISO's roles and functions. It is also planning "virtual office hours," where members of the public will be able to ask questions of ISO staff.

The Consumer Liaison Group (CLG) is a forum for the exchange of information between ISO New England and electricity consumers. As it has for the last 15 years, the CLG will meet quarterly in locations around the region. Dates, venues, topics, and speakers will be announced on ISO Newswire, as well as via the CLG email list.

ISO Newswire
http://isonewswire.com/

9 January 2026

Germany awards 3.5GW wind tenders as renewable capacity rises

Germany's Federal Network Agency has published the awards for an onshore wind energy bid, totalling 3.5GW, at the same time as announcing a rise of 21GW in installed renewable capacity at the end of 2025.

The onshore wind tender attracted 905 bids, totalling 8,155MW, and of these, 415 were successful, comprising a capacity of 3,456MW. Most of the contracts were awarded to sites in the North Rhine-Westphalia region, totalling 1,093MW across 148 contracts, followed by Lower Saxony at 1,091MW over 133 contracts. The third largest volume of contracts was awarded to projects in Brandenburg, totalling 262MW over 34 contracts.

Klaus Müller, President of the Federal Network Agency, said: "The submitted bid volume of over 8GW represents the highest value ever recorded in a tender. "Looking at the entire year of 2025, this means that every tender was thankfully oversubscribed. At the same time, the winning bids have continued to fall compared to the previous round."

The same day as the bids announcement, the agency released its preliminary figures on growth in renewable electricity generation capacity in 2025 for Germany. Renewable installed capacity increased by nearly 21GW to a total of just under 210GW. This represents a year-on-year increase of 11%, mainly accounted for by solar and wind.

Müller said: "Last year solar power once again led the way in terms of new capacity. Total capacity of 117GW at the end of the year shows good progress has been made towards achieving the expansion targets." At 16.4GW, the increase in solar capacity was slightly less in 2025 when compared with that of 2024. Just under half the increased capacity in 2025 was attributable to solar systems installed on buildings, the remainder was accounted for by ground-mounted solar PV systems.

At the end of 2025, installed solar capacity in Germany totalled 117GW. However, an annual average of 19.6GW of solar capacity still needs to be added in coming years to achieve the expansion target for solar power of 215GW by 2030. Growth in onshore wind capacity in 2025 of 4.6GW surpassed the previous year's level of 2.6GW considerably. Most wind turbines were commissioned in North Rhine-Westphalia, with a total capacity of 1.3GW.

Müller adds that onshore wind caught up significantly last year, though, to achieve total capacity of 68.1GW, with the target for 2030 being 115GW. Therefore, he said, Germany needs an average of 9.4GW of new capacity each year to meet this target. Just under 0.6GW of wind energy capacity was registered as being permanently retired. These sites are generally being repowered with higher-capacity installations.

Planning permission was granted for just under 20.8GW of onshore wind energy in 2025, which again surpasses the high level of the previous year. Regarding offshore wind, a total of 0.3GW of new capacity was put into operation, with its capacity growth once again less than in the previous year. Installed capacity in the Baltic and North Seas now amounts to 9.5 GW.

Enlit
http://www.enlit.world/

12 January 2026

New York Attorney General Files Lawsuits Against Trump Admin's Stop-Work Orders for Empire Wind, Sunrise Wind

The Trump administration has ordered work halted on all five offshore wind facilities under construction in U.S. waters. The Dec. 22 announcement by the U.S. Department of Interior said the Department of Defense had identified wind farms as national security risks — claiming that the towers and the spinning blades create a clutter in radar signals that generates false targets and obscures legitimate targets.

Interior said it is pausing the offshore wind leases to give all relevant government agencies time to work with the leaseholders and state governments to mitigate those risks. The move is a sharp escalation of the campaign against offshore wind power President Donald Trump kicked off on the first day of his second term. This has included suspension

of leasing, attempts to pull back approvals issued during the Biden administration, the end of tax credits and separate stop-work orders against two offshore wind farms under construction.

Some of the individual actions have fallen flat: A federal judge in September lifted the stop-work order imposed on Revolution Wind, and a different federal judge in December ruled Trump's Day 1 order halting onshore and offshore wind leasing and permitting was unlawful. But taken together, Trump's efforts have created a level of risk and uncertainty that has led multiple developers to shelve or cancel their plans in U.S. waters.

Just two U.S. offshore wind farms are in operation, one small and one tiny. Four large facilities and one very large facility are in various stages of construction. The rest of what had been a very ambitious pipeline formed during the Biden administration and first Trump administration is in tatters, some of that due not to Trump but to cost and logistics problems that beset the nascent U.S. industry in 2022. The five projects affected by the Dec. 22 order are Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW), Empire Wind 1, Revolution Wind, Sunrise Wind and Vineyard Wind 1.

The order did not address the two facilities already in operation: the 30-MW Block Island Wind farm in state waters near Rhode Island, and the 132-MW South Fork, which is farther south off the Rhode Island coast and directly adjacent to or near Revolution, Sunrise and Vineyard in a cluster of nine wind energy lease areas.

Interior's announcement Dec. 22 cited the findings of unclassified government reports that turbine towers are highly reflective of radar. This and dozens of spinning blades create radar interference, Interior said; radar operators can change the alarm threshold to reduce false alarms from this clutter, but doing so may cause actual threats to be overlooked.

Interior said recent DOD reports provide further basis for the pausing leases. The 2.6 GW, 176-turbine CVOW is near the concentration of major military facilities in southeastern Virginia. Its potential to interfere with radar, air and naval operations was flagged early in the federal review process. The Jan. 28, 2024, federal approval of CVOW's construction and operations plan includes a series of conditions, one of which is a radar impact mitigation agreement to be negotiated with the North American Air Defense Command.

Empire, Revolution, Sunrise and Vineyard are near lesser concentrations of military assets, but their environmental impact statements each contain numerous references to radar. Their construction and operations plans — all approved during the Biden administration — also contain directives to address national security concerns. What has changed since then, aside from the energy priorities of the White House, is not immediately clear. The recent DOD reports are classified.

But in the announcement, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said the threat environment has evolved since the approvals were granted: "Today's action addresses emerging national security risks, including the rapid evolution of the relevant adversary technologies, and the vulnerabilities created by large-scale offshore wind projects with proximity near our East Coast population centers. The Trump administration will always prioritize the security of the American people."

Reaction fell along expected lines.

Dominion Energy said: "Stopping CVOW for any length of time will threaten grid reliability for some of the nation's most important war fighting, AI and civilian assets. It will also lead to energy inflation and threaten thousands of jobs. … The project has been more than 10 years in the works [and] involved close coordination with the military, and [its] two pilot turbines have been operating for five years without causing any impacts to national security."

U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-N.J.) said: "For years, I've warned that offshore wind can interfere with military radar and threaten our coastal defenses. This pause is the right move.

National security always comes first." The Oceantic Network said: "The Trump administration's construction pause issued today on five U.S. offshore wind projects set to deliver nearly 6 GW of much-needed power is another veiled attempt to hide the fact that the president doesn't like offshore wind. The U.S. offshore wind industry has continuously worked with the Department of Defense to address national security concerns, and its own clearinghouse has signed off on every offshore wind lease ahead of construction."

The Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow said: "Today was a historic victory for the little guy taking on the twin Goliaths of big government and big green energy. The Trump administration's decision to deliver a lump of coal to five major offshore wind projects by placing a hold on their permits delivers a wonderful Christmas gift to those of us who've been fighting in the trenches for years to halt them."

Vet Voice Foundation said: "This isn't about national security — it's a political gift to fossil fuel donors that will raise electricity bills for U.S. households and increase our risk of blackouts this winter." U.S. Rep. Andy Harris (R-Md.) said: "Good. National security cannot be sacrificed in pursuit of expensive, untested energy experiments that put both the Eastern Shore and the nation at risk." Advanced Energy United said: "PJM just failed to secure enough generation in its latest capacity auction this month, and if these wind projects are delayed, it will make keeping the lights on during an energy crunch even more difficult in the Mid-Atlantic."

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) said: "Empire Wind's close proximity to major international airports, including Newark Liberty, LaGuardia and JFK, and critical military installations, such as Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and Naval Weapons Station Earle, make the project especially dangerous. It must be halted." The American Clean Power Association said: "All the projects suspended today underwent rigorous national security reviews during the first Trump and Biden administrations. Today's decision creates needless uncertainty for any company that seeks to build an energy project in the United States. In America today, the greatest threat to a reliable energy system is an unreliable political system."

On the Facebook page of Protect Our Coast NJ, users posted "BEST Christmas gift EVER"; "Alleluia"; "Thank YOU Lord Jesus and President Trump"; "Stop onshore wind too"; and "A pause is nice a permanent ban is better. Get it done."

Offshorewind
http://www.offshorewind.biz/

13 January 2026

SolarMax Technologies to deploy three utility-scale BESS projects in Texas, Puerto Rico

California-based clean energy company SolarMax said last week it will deploy a combined 400 MW/1 GWh of battery energy storage capacity at three sites, one in Texas and two in Puerto Rico.

In Puerto Rico, SolarMax Technologies' 80MW/320MWh Naguabo BESS in Ceiba and 20MW/80MWh Yabucoa BESS in Humacao would each provide four hours of power at maximum discharge, according to a regulatory filing posted earlier this month. The Texas deployment, near Corpus Christi on the state's Gulf coast, would be a two-hour, 300 MW/600 MWh installation.

SolarMax said the engineering, procurement and construction contracts would provide hundreds of millions of dollars over multiple years. In November, it told investors that large commercial contracts would help offset declining revenues in its residential solar business.

SolarMax Technologies sees opportunity in a growing U.S. market for utility-scale energy storage, CEO David Hsu said in a statement accompanying the project

announcements. Its announcements this month follow news in July that it would build a 430-MWh battery storage installation in Texas. “Demand for large-scale energy storage solutions continues to grow,” Hsu said. “As we enter into contracts for projects of increasing size and complexity, we are … scaling SolarMax into a meaningful participant in a multi-billion-dollar market.” In a November regulatory filing, SolarMax framed its pursuit of larger construction contracts as a response to recent changes in state and federal clean energy policy.

“We are seeking to offset our decline in residential solar sales in California for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the anticipated continued decline as a result of expiration of the federal residential solar tax credit on December 31, 2025 by marketing commercial sales of larger systems to commercial users both in California and in other states,” the filing said. In 2024, California’s NEM 3.0 net metering policy significantly reduced payments for grid exports from distributed solar systems, leading to a sharp drop in solar-only installations that was partially offset by a surge in battery attachments. Leading installers like Sunrun say most of the solar systems they install now are paired with batteries.

The two Puerto Rico projects will support clean energy deployment and improve grid reliability across the island, the company said. A 2017 Congressional report flagged long-running reliability issues in Puerto Rico “due largely to underinvestment and the perceived poor maintenance practices of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority,” or PREPA, the vertically integrated utility owned by the island’s government. That year, Hurricane Maria decimated Puerto Rico’s distribution grid, causing billions of dollars in damage and casting PREPA into bankruptcy. LUMA Energy took over the island’s transmission and distribution assets in 2021.

In the hurricane’s aftermath, Puerto Rico saw a boom in distributed solar and battery deployments that now support one of the Western Hemisphere’s most sophisticated and heavily utilized virtual power plants. Javier Rúa-Jovet, chief policy officer of the Solar and Energy Storage Association of Puerto Rico, said in an interview this week that his organization has “200,000 clients” with a combined 1.3 GW of distributed solar and more than a gigawatt of distributed batteries.

“The value of resiliency is huge in Puerto Rico” given ongoing grid reliability issues, Rúa-Jovet said. Residents began pairing solar with batteries to “[save] their own lives,” but the combined capacity is now a vital grid asset, he added. Puerto Rico still has relatively little utility-scale solar and storage. Renewables accounted for about 5% of the island’s power generation in 2023, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Few large-scale projects have come online since, according to Rúa-Jovet.

Puerto Rico could use more clean power, and storage in particular, Rúa-Jovet said. “Storage is good for the grid, period … it’s a good sign that some things are moving and contracts are happening,” he said, citing reliability-boosting benefits like resource adequacy during periods of high demand and voltage regulation. In the waning days of the Biden administration, the Department of Energy’s Loan Programs Office greenlighted $1.2 billion in financial support for at least nine utility-scale solar and battery projects in Puerto Rico.

With 202 MW of solar and 455 MW/1820 MWh of storage, LPO said the projects would support PREPA’s goal to deploy 1,500 MW of battery storage and 3,750 MW of solar while adding “reliability and stability to PREPA’s system that aging centralized plants are struggling to provide.” SolarMax’s public communications about its own Puerto Rico projects do not say when they might be operational. Representatives for LUMA and SolarMax did not respond to requests for comment.

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