

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

1 April 2026

15 March 2026

NYPA Receives FAA Waiver Allowing Expanded Drone Operations

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granted a waiver early this year expanding the New York Power Authority's ability for certified pilots to fly unmanned aircraft systems beyond the visual line of sight of the pilot in command. FAA regulations require a pilot or observer to see the drone in flight. The change to a 4-to-1 operation, where one pilot can monitor up to four drones simultaneously, introduces a major shift in operational flexibility and efficiency.

This increased capability will streamline inspection processes, expedite data collection and bolster the Power Authority's capacity to monitor its energy infrastructure across New York State. NYPA primarily uses drones to assess the health of its 1,550 miles of power transmission, its power generation assets and Canal Corporation infrastructure.

"The New York Power Authority is one of the first utilities in the nation to receive this expanded four to one waiver," said NYPA Robotics Program Manager Peter Kalaitzidis. "Conducting standardized four-drones-to-one-pilot operations at our sites will allow for more consistent inspection workflows across our energy assets and electric grid regions. We are currently creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and validating the technology to ensure we are fully prepared and have all safety protocols in place to implement expanded observation activities."

NYPA first received FAA approval to conduct remote drone operations in a limited capacity, allowing one drone per pilot, in 2022. The existing drone operations have already proven instrumental in asset health monitoring, including the inspection of transmission lines, vegetation management, and dam spillway potential erosion mapping. These operations enhance worker safety and significantly reduce the time required for inspections. Currently, 146 NYPA employees are certified as drone pilots. To further advance its utility operations, NYPA is investing more than \$37 million in its drone program through 2028.

The new 4-1 operational model leverages fully autonomous missions, with drones flying predefined routes and patterns without continuous manual control. This autonomy allows for inspections during off-hours, such as overnight or in severe weather conditions, capturing critical thermal and visual data when asset conditions are most revealing. For instance, drones can effectively monitor infrastructure during ice storms or extreme cold, providing vital information that would be difficult to obtain otherwise.

The waiver was obtained with the help of Skydio, a U.S. drone and software manufacturer providing equipment and advisory services. The waiver authorizes operations through 2030 and is specific to Skydio drones.

"This latest approval enables a single operator to conduct up to four simultaneous missions, multiplying the safety and efficiency gains already achieved by the program and unlocking significant operational scale," said Daniel Jenkins, Regulatory Program Manager, Skydio. "This milestone underscores the value of Skydio's autonomy: putting machines in harm's way instead of people, while delivering more reliable energy, and reducing response times for outages for all New Yorkers."

Autonomous operations enable continuous monitoring, automated alerts for abnormal conditions, and rapid escalation to staff only when intervention is necessary. Beyond asset inspections, multi-drone operations facilitate persistent aerial security patrols, enhancing situational awareness and reducing risks to personnel. This capability collectively improves safety, standardization, resilience, and operational efficiency while allowing NYPA's workforce to focus on critical decision-making rather than manual data collection.

Kalaitzidis noted that the program will be phased in over the next few years. NYPA plans to take the four of the drone systems to the Northeast UAS Airspace Integration

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Research Alliance, Inc. (NUAIR), which performs UAS testing and validation. Experts will meticulously evaluate processes, inspections, and standard operational procedures to ensure operational safety.

NYPA

<http://www.nypa.gov/>

17 March 2026

Global offshore wind capacity set to hit 100 GW this year

RenewableUK's latest EnergyPulse Insights report shows there are now 374 offshore windfarms operating around the world, up from 347 12 months ago.

According to the report, global offshore wind capacity increased by 8% over the last 12 months, from 82.5 GW to 89.2 GW of fully operational capacity, an increase of 6.7 GW.

2025 was the fourth-largest year of delivery of offshore wind capacity on record (8.8 GW) and the report forecasts that 18.8 GW could be delivered in 2026 with projects completing in China, UK, Germany, US, Taiwan, Poland and elsewhere.

The vast global offshore wind pipeline now stands at 1,565 projects at every stage of development, with a capacity of 1,157 GW in 49 markets. This includes projects which are operational, under construction, consented, submitted into the planning system and at an early stage of development.

Looking ahead, the report forecasts that 236 GW could be operational worldwide by the end of 2030, that is, more than 2.5 times as much global capacity as we have today. 671 offshore wind projects are expected to be fully operational by 2030, which is likely to outstrip the number of nuclear power stations worldwide, which currently stands at 416 according to the International Atomic Energy Authority.

In the UK, operational capacity has risen from 14.8 GW to 16.1 GW over the last 12 months, with the number of completed windfarms rising from 43 to 45. A further 11.5 GW is under construction, showing that there will be a surge in new capacity over the next two years. In total, the UK has 127 UK projects at any stage of development (91.9 GW).

84% of offshore wind capacity which went operational over the last 12 months was in two markets, China and the UK, which still dominate the global portfolio: £39Bn (US\$52Bn) of capital investment was committed worldwide across 16.8 GW of financial investment decisions in offshore wind projects over the last year, according to the report.

RenewableUK also notes that capital investment in UK offshore wind projects awarded contracts in the government's latest auction for new capacity, Allocation Round 7, could reach £32Bn.

Commenting on the report, RenewableUK chief executive Tara Singh said, "Our latest EnergyPulse report highlights the extraordinary growth of the global offshore wind industry as we approach the milestone of 100 GW of clean power capacity – that will be enough to power more than 40M EVs for a year.

"A significant level of private investment has gone into new offshore wind projects worldwide over the last 12 months, with final investment decisions worth nearly £40Bn across 38 offshore windfarms, demonstrating the huge contribution the industry is making to global economic growth.

"The UK retains its position as a world leader in offshore wind and in January we secured a record-breaking 8.4 GW of new capacity. More than twice that amount of capacity is eligible to compete in the next clean power auction later this year (16.9 GW) so we are urging the government to aim high when it sets the parameters for the next allocation round in the months ahead."

Renewables UK

<https://www.renewableuk.com/>

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18 March 2026

Europe's first 110MW data centre microgrid launches in Dublin

Pure Data Centres Group and AVK have launched Europe's first large-scale (110MW) on-site data centre microgrid at Pure DC's Dublin campus, designed to provide dispatchable power during early development phases before full grid connection.

The three interconnected 30MW energy centres (EC) – starting with EC1 and EC2 by the end of 2026 – blend combined heat and power with heat recovery, battery energy storage system integration, rainwater harvesting and future hydrogen blending to boost resilience amid Ireland's grid constraints.

The system supports AI-driven data centre demand while paving the way for hybrid grid-renewable operations and potential district heating links. Fingal Mayor Tom O'Leary hailed the project as climate-friendly innovation aligning with Ireland's energy transition, while Pure DC executive chairman Gary Wojtaszek said it overcomes Europe's power bottleneck to unlock AI infrastructure growth. AVK's Ben Pritchard called it a blueprint for replication in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, where grid upgrades lag behind digital expansion.

The microgrid addresses acute power shortages for hyperscale cloud and AI facilities, using on-site generation as a bridge to national grid integration and renewable scaling. Waste heat recovery and low-carbon fuel readiness position it as a model for the energy-as-strategic-asset approach in the data centre race.

Power-Technology

<http://www.power-technology.com/>

20 March 2026

ENTSO-E Publishes Expert Panel Final Report on 28 April 2025 Blackout in Spain and Portugal

The final report of the Expert Panel on the 28 April 2025 blackout in continental Spain and Portugal identifies its causes and outlines recommendations to strengthen the resilience of Europe's interconnected electricity system. It was prepared by a 49-member Panel including representatives from Transmission System Operators (TSOs), Regional Coordination Centres (RCCs), ACER and National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), and was chaired by experts from two unaffected TSOs.

The investigation concludes that the blackout resulted from a combination of many interacting factors, including oscillations, gaps in voltage and reactive power control, differences in voltage regulation practices, rapid output reductions and generator disconnections in Spain, and uneven stabilisation capabilities. These factors led to fast voltage increases and cascading generation disconnections, resulting in the blackout in continental Spain and Portugal.

Based on these findings, the Expert Panel sets out recommendations addressing each of the factors identified in the report to help prevent similar events in the future. These include strengthened operational practices, improved monitoring of system behaviour and closer coordination and data exchange among power system actors. The findings of the investigation also underscore the need for regulatory frameworks to adapt in order to support the evolving nature of the power system.

The 28 April 2025 blackout was a first of its kind event, and the recommendations aim to strengthen system resilience with solutions that are already technologically deployable. This blackout highlights how developments at the local level can have system-wide implications and underlines the importance of maintaining strong links between local and European system behaviour and coordination, while ensuring that market mechanisms,

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regulatory frameworks and energy policies remain aligned with the physical limits of the system.

ENTSO-E

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

23 March 2026

TotalEnergies' 31-MW floating solar park to supply Holcim in Belgium

French energy group TotalEnergies and Franco-Swiss cement giant Holcim have officially opened a 31-MW floating solar park at a former chalk extraction site in Belgium.

The photovoltaic (PV) array is Europe's largest floating solar power plant dedicated to self-consumption, TotalEnergies said on Friday. The installation is situated in Obourg, in the province of Hainaut, at a site that has been rehabilitated into a lake. It is expected to generate 30 GWh of electricity annually which will be used directly by Holcim's facilities, helping the building solutions provider to achieve its goal of cutting its Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 25% by 2030. TotalEnergies had more than 34 GW of gross renewable power generation capacity globally at the beginning of 2026 and is targeting more than 100 TWh of net electricity production by 2030.

Renewables Now

<http://renewablesnow.com/>

24 March 2026

Government to make 'plug-in solar' available within months

More households will be helped to save money on bills through plug-in solar panels as the government vows to go further and faster on clean energy in response to conflict in the Middle East.

The current conflict is yet another reminder that the only route to energy security and sovereignty for the UK is to end dependence on fossil fuel markets and accelerate the drive for clean, homegrown power, as well as new renewables and nuclear. Already the government has taken significant steps in speeding up the move to clean energy in response to the conflict. Last week, the government's annual renewables auction was brought forward to July. The most recent auction was the biggest ever and alongside the previous auction, enough clean energy to power 23 million homes has been confirmed.

Today, the government is driving forward with the rollout of "plug-in" solar panels (low-cost panels that families can put on their balconies or outdoor space) to be available in shops within months and save people money on their bills. Retailers like Lidl and Iceland, alongside manufacturers such as EcoFlow, are working with government to enable them to be brought to the UK market. Plug-in solar is already widely used by households across Europe, with Germany seeing around half a million new devices plugged in per year.

The free solar power can be used directly through a mains socket like any other device, without an installation cost, thereby reducing the amount of electricity taken from the grid and cutting energy bills. The easy-to-install technology could save many households significant amounts on their energy bills and help make the UK less reliant on global fossil fuel markets. The government has taken decisive action in response to the conflict in the Middle East to fight for consumers and businesses on the cost of living, and is speeding up plans for more clean, homegrown energy that the UK controls to ensure energy sovereignty and security.

This is alongside new rules coming into force today implementing the Future Homes Standard, which includes common-sense measures to ensure the majority of new homes are built cheaper to run, with solar panels and clean heating as standard. These measures on new homes could save families up to £830 a year on their energy bills, compared to a

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standard home with an EPC rating of C. This will ensure they are more comfortable and affordable – and create at least 75% less carbon emissions than those built to the 2013 standards.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband said:

- The government is determined to fight people's corner in this crisis, which is why we have acted to prevent unfair practices like price gouging and provided immediate help for the most vulnerable facing spiralling heating oil prices.
- The Iran War has once again shown our drive for clean power is essential for our energy security so we can escape the grip of fossil fuel markets we don't control. Whether through solar panels fitted as standard on new homes or making it possible for people to purchase plug-in solar in shops, we are determined to roll out clean power so we can give our country energy sovereignty.

The government is also announcing an innovative new approach, predominantly benefiting Scotland and East of England, and launching in time for this winter, enabling energy companies to offer discounted energy bills to customers on windy days, rather than continuing the previous default practice of paying wind turbines to turn off.

Historic underinvestment in Britain's electricity grid means wind farms in these areas are being paid to switch off on windy days when the network cannot carry all the clean power they produce. Government will look to bring forward new legislation to ensure more homegrown, clean energy can be passed on as discounted electricity to consumers during these periods.

GOV.UK

<http://www.gov.uk/>

24 March 2026

US and TotalEnergies reach 'nearly \$1 billion' deal to end offshore wind projects

The United States and TotalEnergies on Monday, March 23 signed an agreement to end the French company's offshore US wind farm projects and redirect those funds towards fossil fuel production, with the US interior secretary saying the deal was worth "nearly \$1 billion."

TotalEnergies has committed to invest approximately \$1 billion—the value of its renounced offshore wind leases—in oil and natural gas and LNG production in the United States. Following their new investment, the United States will reimburse the company dollar-for-dollar, up to the amount they paid in lease purchases for offshore wind. Under this innovative agreement driven by President Donald J. Trump's Energy Dominance Agenda, the American people will no longer pay for ideological subsidies that benefited only the unreliable and costly offshore wind industry.

Additionally, in light of the national security concerns, TotalEnergies has pledged not to develop any new offshore wind projects in the United States.

For its part, TotalEnergies will invest \$928MM, on the following projects in 2026:

- The development of Train 1 to 4 of Rio Grande LNG plant in Texas;
- The development of upstream conventional oil in Gulf of America and of shale gas production.

Department of the Interior

<http://www.doi.gov/>

24 March 2026

First Power Flows from Biggest US Offshore Wind Farm

The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project, being built by Dominion Energy off Virginia Beach, has produced first power.

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“Today, CVOW delivered its first power to the grid—right on schedule. This achievement marks another important step forward, adding much-needed electricity to help meet the fastest-growing power demand in the country”, Robert Blue, CEO at Dominion Energy, said on 23 March via social media. “This project is a critical part of Virginia’s all-of-the-above energy strategy. As additional turbines are installed, CVOW will continue delivering more power on the path to full completion early next year.”

The first of CVOW’s 176 Siemens Gamesa 14 MW wind turbines was installed in January by Charybdis, the first Jones Act-compliant wind turbine installation vessel (WTIV), commissioned by Dominion Energy and built at Seatrrium’s AmFELS shipyard in Brownsville, Texas. Offshore construction on the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project started in 2024.

On 22 December 2025, the project was issued a stop-work order by the US government, together with four other offshore wind farms under construction. Dominion Energy filed for a temporary restraining order and an injunction in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia on 23 December, and was granted a preliminary injunction on 16 January, which allowed the construction to continue.

Offshore Wind

<http://www.offshorewind.biz/>

25 March 2026

India’s Power Sector: CEA’s Generation Adequacy Plan Charts a 10 Year Clean Energy Transition

India is preparing for one of the most consequential decades in its power sector history. The Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) National Generation Adequacy Plan (2026–27 to 2035–36) outlines a roadmap for meeting rapidly rising electricity demand while accelerating the shift toward clean energy.

Demand Surge: A Structural Shift

India's electricity demand has accelerated beyond historical norms. Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, peak demand grew from 190 GW to 250 GW (CAGR 7.06%), and annual energy requirements rose from 1,276 BU to 1,694 BU (CAGR 7.35%). This surge is driven by post-pandemic industrial recovery, digital infrastructure expansion (data centres), electric vehicle adoption, green hydrogen production, and improved rural electrification.

The CEA's mid-term review of the 20th Electric Power Survey projects near-doubling of demand by 2035–36: peak demand of 459 GW and annual energy requirement of 3,365 BU. New loads - including 50+ GW of data centre capacity, electrolyser-based hydrogen production, and EV penetration - are reshaping demand profiles with higher baseload needs and sharper evening peaks.

FY 2025–26 marked a historic inflection point: India added 52.5 GW of new generation capacity, the highest annual addition ever, with 43 GW from renewable sources. Non-fossil capacity now totals 271.96 GW - an 84.56% increase since April 2021. Solar PV leads (~140 GW), followed by wind (55 GW) and hydro (51 GW). Renewables now contribute over 27% of total electricity generation, up from 22% in 2020–21.

CEA's optimisation models (ORDENA and STELLAR) project a least-cost, reliability-compliant capacity mix for 2035–36 totaling 1,121 GW:

Solar: 509 GW | Wind: 155 GW | Large Hydro: 78 GW

Coal: 315 GW | Nuclear: 22 GW | Gas: 20 GW | Biomass + Small Hydro: 22 GW

Non-fossil sources will account for 70% of installed capacity, up from 52% in 2026.

Storage: The New Grid Pillar

To integrate this renewable fleet, India will require 174 GW / 888 GWh of storage by 2035–36:

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): 80 GW / 321 GWh

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Pumped Storage Projects (PSP): 94 GW / 567 GWh

This ecosystem is essential for managing mid-day solar surpluses, meeting evening peaks, providing frequency support, and reducing curtailment. Despite aggressive renewable expansion, coal remains indispensable for medium-term reliability:

24/7 dispatchability for non-solar peak demand

- Seasonal reliability during monsoon/winter RE dips
- Cost-effectiveness for baseload vs. solar+BESS combinations
- Grid inertia and frequency stability via synchronous generation

Coal's share in installed capacity will fall to ~30% by 2035–36, but its role as a firm, stabilising resource remains central.

CEA highlights nuclear energy's strategic role in India's decarbonisation pathway, with capacity expected to reach 100 GW by 2047. Nuclear provides zero-carbon baseload power, high capacity factors (~85–90%), grid-stabilising inertia, and reduced dependence on coal—aligning with India's 2070 net-zero commitment.

CEA employs probabilistic tools (Monte Carlo simulations) to quantify uncertainties in demand, RE variability, outages, and hydrology. Key metrics—Loss of Load Probability (LOLP) and Expected Energy Not Served (EENS)—determine the Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) required for grid reliability. As RE penetration rises, PRM requirements increase due to higher variability.

The National Generation Adequacy Plan is a living document, reviewed annually to reflect:

- Technology cost volatility (e.g., BESS, lithium markets)
- Renewable generation profile variations
- Emerging demand from data centres, hydrogen, EVs
- Fuel price fluctuations and supply chain constraints

This iterative, data-driven approach ensures generation pathways remain aligned with technological, economic, and policy realities.

India is poised to become a renewable energy powerhouse, with 509 GW solar and 155 GW wind by 2035–36.

Storage will transition from niche technology to core grid asset for peak management and RE integration. Coal remains critical for medium-term reliability as a firm, dispatchable resource. Nuclear expansion will anchor long-term decarbonisation with clean, firm baseload power. Advanced probabilistic modelling is now embedded in national planning, shifting from deterministic to reliability-centric approaches. India's power sector is entering a decade defined by rapid growth, deep decarbonisation, and unprecedented operational complexity. The National Generation Adequacy Plan provides the analytical backbone for navigating this transition—ensuring a reliable, low-carbon, and economically efficient system capable of supporting India's economic ambitions and climate commitments simultaneously.

RESI

<http://www.resiindia.org>

25 March 2026

Additional tools added to Demand Flexibility Service

Our Demand Flexibility Service (DFS) is set to undergo a major shakeup following approval from Ofgem. For the first time ever, the new service design will enhance year-round participation by offering innovative incentives to both consumers and businesses.

This year, participants in the service will be able for the first time to be rewarded by their energy supplier or third-party aggregator for increasing electricity consumption during

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periods when Great Britain has excess electricity supplies, as well as for shifting their electricity usage away from peak times. This dual approach will allow users to benefit from strategic electricity use throughout the day.

Since its launch, over 2.46 million businesses and consumers have already signed up to take part in DFS events, highlighting its growing popularity and the impact electricity use at home and in businesses can make.

The service's evolution includes reducing the participation threshold from 1MW to 0.1MW, making it more accessible for smaller energy suppliers and businesses to engage directly with NESO.

At NESO, we're committed to supporting the ambitions outlined in the Clean Flexibility Roadmap. That's why we're providing dedicated 1:1 support through our Power Responsive team to help businesses navigate and participate in demand-side flexibility.

Rebecca Beresford, Director of Markets at NESO:

"There are certain times when the GB system is fortunate to have plentiful supplies of low carbon electricity. Enabling consumers to benefit by increasing their electricity use at those times is a critical step to making demand side flexibility work for consumers and the system. Our evolved service design will maximise the value for consumers and businesses looking to participate in flexibility. We are excited to see participation continue to grow and build on the success of DFS to date.

NESO

<http://www.neso.energy/>

26 March 2026

Delivering reliability for GB consumers: the Capacity Market in action

Britain's electricity system depends on a diverse mix of resources to keep the lights on during periods of highest demand. Established in 2014, the Capacity Market provides long term, stable revenue to Capacity Providers in return for guaranteeing their availability during system stress events. This ensures that reliable capacity is in place when it is needed most and helps protect consumers from the risks and costs associated with supply shortfalls.

Each year, the Capacity Market plays a central role in securing the capacity needed to maintain security of supply as the system evolves with growing renewable generation and shifting patterns of use.

NESO has served as the Delivery Body for the Capacity Market since its inception. We manage the full front-end process for the annual T 1 and T 4 Auctions, including overseeing Prequalification, assessing Applications, resolving Disputes, supporting Applicants through training and mock Auctions, and operating the Auction platform during the live rounds. Once the CM Agreements are awarded, we are also responsible for continuous CM Agreement management to ensure capacity providers comply with their obligations.

T 1 Capacity Auction Results

The T 1 Capacity Market Auction concluded on 4 March 2026 at a Clearing Price of £5/kW/year, the lowest level in five years. In total, 7.2 GW was procured, topping up the 50.7 GW already secured for delivery in 2026/27 and providing targeted additional capacity to support system resilience and consumer value.

The T 1 Auction attracted a broad mix of technologies as the energy system continues to transition. Gas fired generation remains essential in providing dispatchable flexibility, while nuclear continues to deliver reliable, low carbon baseload during periods of low wind and solar output. Non-fossil fuel capacity accounted for 70.8% (5.1 GW) of awarded capacity, driven primarily by nuclear alongside growing participation from demand side

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response and battery storage, supporting the aims of Clean Power 2030. The remaining 29.2% (2.1 GW), mainly gas, reflects its ongoing role in maintaining security of supply.

T 4 Capacity Auction Results

The T 4 Auction concluded on 11 March 2026 with a Clearing Price of £27.10/kW/year, a marked reduction compared with the £60–£65 range seen in the previous three T 4 Auctions. A total of 40.1 GW was procured for delivery in 2029/30, with a further 2.9 GW secured for delivery beyond 2029/30.

The Capacity Market supports security of supply by enabling continued operation and investment in existing generation, including significant refurbishment of critical assets. The T-4 awarded 23.5 GW of gas-fired capacity, reflecting the continued system need for firm, flexible and dispatchable generation to main security of supply. Gas-fired capacity continues to play an important role in supporting system reliability and providing security of supply during as the electricity system transitions

Alongside maintaining security of supply, the results also support clean energy objectives and continued progress towards the CP2030 Action Plan, with 8.2 GW accounting for non-fossil fuel capacity.

What's Next?

NESO now moves into the next phase of delivery, ensuring CM Agreements are issued and Capacity Providers are supported through future milestones.

NESO

<http://www.neso.energy/>

26 March 2026

€693 million financing to support UK's subsea electricity superhighway

ScottishPower, through its parent company Iberdrola, has secured £600 million (around €693 million) in financing from the National Wealth Fund to support the development of the fourth out of five subsea electricity superhighways between Scotland and England.

The 2 GW Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) high-voltage direct current (HVDC) subsea power link will run between Fife and Norfolk, with its 530-kilometer cable to be able to transmit enough electricity to power the equivalent of 1.5 million UK homes.

The project aims to reduce constraint costs by transporting domestically produced energy from where it is generated in Scotland to areas of demand in England.

Keith Anderson, CEO of ScottishPower, said: "We are pleased to be strengthening our relationship with the National Wealth Fund to deliver these critical investments. By working together to support the delivery of the Government's Clean Power 2030 pathway, projects like EGL4 are meeting our shared goals of accelerating electrification, boosting the UK economy and delivering energy security."

The £600 million green financing builds on the National Wealth Fund's £600 million loan in May 2025 to support the development of seven of ScottishPower's priority network initiatives.

In its recent strategic plan, the fund prioritized the grid as an area for investment and is offering a longer tenor facility to allow ScottishPower to better align the debt profile with the life of the assets being financed, the company noted.

World Energy

<http://www.world-energy.org/>

26 March 2026

World's first hydrogen-powered hotel opens in Fukushima Prefecture

The world's first hydrogen-powered hotel opened its doors in the town of Namie, Fukushima Prefecture, on Wednesday.

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Its operator, Namie-based Date Juki, runs heavy machinery rental and freight transport services. The town aims to spread the use of hydrogen in the community and is home to one of the world's largest hydrogen production bases.

The hotel is a detached house built next to a hydrogen station operated by Date Juki. The company hopes to attract customers by promoting the hotel as a real-life example of what a life with hydrogen as a major energy source would be like. When the station is in operation, hydrogen is sent to the hotel's fuel cells, water heater and grill through a pipeline, providing power to all energy-related equipment at the facility. At night, when the station's operations stop, external electricity generated by renewable energy sources is used to power the hotel.

The hotel charges ¥97,000 per night, with guests limited to one group per day.

At the opening ceremony Wednesday, Namie Mayor Eiko Yoshida and other participants toured the hotel. Meat and vegetables cooked on a hydrogen-powered grill were served. "If we incorporate hydrogen into our lives, we could expand its use," Date Juki head Akihiro Zenji said.

The Japan Times

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/>

26 March 2026

£64 million for Port Talbot offshore wind hub in the Celtic Sea

Port Talbot will be the forefront of a pioneering new clean energy industry, backing thousands of good jobs and driving growth across South Wales, thanks to a £64 million grant from the UK government.

The funding will enable Associated British Ports (ABP) to complete the essential design and engineering work needed to build one of the first floating offshore wind ports in the UK at Port Talbot. The Celtic Sea offers some of the best conditions for floating offshore wind in Europe. Unlike traditional offshore wind farms, floating turbines are based in deeper waters, where they can harness stronger and more consistent wind speeds. The new port will unlock an initial 4.5 GW of floating offshore wind projects in the Celtic Sea - enough to power 6.5 million homes - following last year's successful seabed leasing round by The Crown Estate.

ABP expect that, once completed, the new port will support thousands of jobs and unlock over £500 million in investment for Port Talbot. The conflict in the Middle East has once again exposed that families and businesses will continue to pay the price if the UK is dependent on fossil fuel markets that we do not control. The only way to take back control of Britain's energy and bring down bills for good is with clean, homegrown power. Funding for Port Talbot is another step in learning the right lessons from the conflict, while bringing jobs and the industries of the future to South Wales.

Grant terms have been agreed with ABP and the funding will be subject to the outcome of the mandatory Subsidy Advice Unit referral and final government approvals.

This funding is the latest decisive action by the UK government to secure Port Talbot's industrial future, including supporting Tata Steel with £500 million to deliver a state-of-the-art Electric Arc Furnace, ensuring Port Talbot will remain a steel-producing town.

It also comes a week after the launch of the government's Steel Strategy which, backed by up to £2.5 billion, will help it meet its target of supplying 50% of domestic demand for steel and secure the industry's role in supporting vital UK sectors such as infrastructure, defence, and clean energy.

Alongside this, the UK Government allocated all £122 million of The UK government Port Talbot Transition Board funding to support thousands of workers, businesses and communities affected by the transition at Tata Steel, helping to regenerate the town and

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support new economic opportunities. As well as securing the future of steelmaking the UK government has also made the Port Talbot the home of the Celtic Freeport which will bring thousands of new jobs.

Clean steelmaking, the development of the Celtic Freeport and the expansion of floating offshore wind mean Port Talbot is firmly at the heart of South Wales's growing clean energy economy, supporting thousands of new, high-quality jobs and helping deliver Britain's clean power mission.

GOV.UK

<http://www.gov.uk/>

27 March 2026

UK sets wind energy record as gas generation hits two-year low

The UK's National Energy System Operator (NESO) has confirmed a new record for British wind generation, with output reaching 23.88GW on Wednesday 25 March, surpassing the previous peak of 23.83GW set on 5 December.

The milestone demonstrates the growing role of wind in the UK's generation mix at a time when homegrown energy security is under sharp political and public scrutiny. Level of output was sufficient to power the equivalent of 23 million homes for a short period, highlighting the scale at which wind can now displace other sources in the system. During the record-breaking window, wind supplied more than half of the UK's electricity, underlining its status as the country's largest source of renewable power.

RenewableUK CEO Tara Singh said the record also illustrated how low-cost wind and solar were pushing expensive fossil-fuel generation further to the margins. Earlier in the same day, gas generation had fallen to around 2.3% of total supply – the lowest level for nearly two years – as wind and solar together met the bulk of demand.

Singh described this displacement as “what the energy transition looks like in practice”, arguing that the signal for policymakers is clear: the UK needs to continue building out an ambitious pipeline of new onshore and offshore wind projects alongside complementary solar and storage capacity.

The record comes amid heightened concern over global energy volatility and underlines the importance of maintaining momentum on planning, grid access and consenting for renewables. For the power systems community, the figure serves as a practical benchmark for how deeply renewables can penetrate the system while still keeping it stable, flexible and cost-competitive.

Power Technology

<http://www.power-technology.com/>

28 March 2026

Taipower applies to restart Maanshan plant

Taiwan Power Company said it had submitted a proposal to reactivate the Maanshan nuclear power plant in Pingtung to the Nuclear Safety Commission on March 27.

Lai Ching-te said on March 21 that two of the nation's nuclear power plants shut down over the past few years could be considered for reactivation.

Lai named the Maanshan or No. 3 Nuclear Power Plant in Hengchun and the Guosheng or No. 2 Plant in Wanli, New Taipei. But State utility Taipower cautioned Friday that submitting its reactivation plan for Maanshan did not mean the plant would start supplying electricity again any time soon.

The official procedure includes a safety review lasting 18 to 24 months, followed by a review of the safety report by the Nuclear Safety Commission according to its own timetable. Taipower said it had begun to conduct the safety review of the Pingtung plant.

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Once the commission approves the safety report, it still needs to issue an operating license before the nuclear power plant can start working again.

World Energy
<http://www.world-energy.org/>

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Construction Kicks Off on Kazakhstan's 1-GW wind farm

According to the Kazakh Ministry of Energy, the project is jointly implemented by China's State Power Investment Corporation and Pavlodar Green Energy under agreements signed with the ministry on January 29, 2026.

"Foreign direct investment in the construction will total \$1.2 billion, and the facility is set to be commissioned in 2029. A distinctive technological feature of the new wind farm will be its 300 MW power storage systems. This solution will effectively smooth out natural fluctuations in renewable energy generation and ensure a stable power output to the country's Unified Power System. Once launched, the wind farm will generate 3.4 billion kWh of electricity annually, making a significant contribution to strengthening Kazakhstan's energy balance," the Ministry of Energy said in a press release.

The ministry noted that in addition to its energy benefits, the project has high environmental value: greenhouse gas emissions are expected to be reduced by as much as 2 million tons of carbon dioxide per annum.

Wind Power Monthly
<http://www.windpowermonthly.com/>