

WORLD POWER SYSTEMS REVIEW

15 June 2026

1 June 2026

PJM Minimum Capitalization Proposal Would Reduce Market Risk

PJM has proposed to increase the minimum capitalization thresholds required to participate in PJM's wholesale electricity markets to keep step with inflation, better manage risk and protect all market participants from default.

Minimum capitalization thresholds demonstrate proof of market participants' financial health and eligibility to participate in PJM markets. Changes outlined in PJM's May 27 filing (PDF) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission align with similar requirements approved by FERC for other grid operators nationwide.

Proposed revisions to PJM's credit policy are designed to incentivize market participants to strengthen their balance sheets while preventing unreasonable barriers to entry. "These changes strengthen PJM credit policy and ensure the thresholds remain current over time while providing flexibility for market participants," said Lisa Drauschak, PJM Sr. Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. "They allow reasonable access to PJM markets for both established and developing business entities."

The changes, the first since 2011, would take effect over time to:

- Increase the tangible net worth required of FTR market participants to \$2 million as of the effective date;
- Grow the tangible net worth required of all other market participants to \$2 million via a phased approach;
- Institute a 3% annual increase to these thresholds to account for inflation, beginning five years after implementation;
- Result in more uniform requirements for minimum capitalization for all market participants.

For new or emerging market participants who may not meet these criteria, the PJM Tariff provides alternative means to gain market access; options range from posting of collateral, letter of credit or surety bond to a corporate guaranty.

To provide time to procure needed capital, strengthen their balance sheet or provide alternate credit support, PJM proposes that the multi-step changes begin to take effect on April 30, 2027. Thereafter, a five-year ramping schedule is designed so that all PJM non-FTR market participants may demonstrate a \$2 million tangible net worth by 2032. The proposed changes received near-unanimous support from the January Members Committee.

Insidelines PJM
<http://insidelines.pjm.com/>

1 June 2026

UK's largest long-duration liquid air energy storage plant launched

Lointek has unveiled its new strategic long-duration energy storage project for the British company Highview, a prominent firm in energy storage and flexibility solutions. Biscayan-based Lointek has been responsible for the design, manufacture and supply of thermal systems for what is considered to be an innovative liquid air energy storage facility. The Highview plant will have a storage capacity of 300 MWh and a power output of 50 MW, making it the largest facility of its kind in the United Kingdom.

"For Lointek, participating in a project of this nature is particularly significant, both for its technological scope and for the impact it will have on the future of energy storage and the integration of renewable energy," said Serafín and Javier Loroño, the company's CEOs.

LAES (Liquid Air Energy Storage) technology enables renewable energy to be stored for long periods by cooling air, using surplus renewable energy from the grid, to a

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temperature where it liquefies. The liquid air is then returned to a gaseous state by expanding it through a turbine to generate electricity. It can be kept in the liquefied state for long periods, providing for the flexibility, stability and security of electricity grids based on renewable energy.

LAES is a pioneering technology, developed by a limited number of companies worldwide with strong industrial capabilities and expertise in extreme cooling systems and liquid air storage. Lointek is positioning itself as one of the few organisations with the necessary expertise in the manufacture of complex equipment for the energy sector.

Modern Power Systems

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

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ContourGlobal Brings Major Solar-Plus-Storage Project Online in Chile

Global clean energy group ContourGlobal announced the start of commercial operation of another utility-scale solar-plus-storage project in Chile, one the company said features Latin America's longest-duration battery energy storage system (BESS).

UK-headquartered ContourGlobal said the 6.5-hour/200-MW BESS, which pairs with a 231-MW solar power facility at the Victor Jara hybrid plant in Tarapacá, is the latest addition to the company's "Sun at Night" business model. The group said it continues to build on its strategy to capture solar energy during off-peak demand hours for electricity, then redeploy it via storage during evening and nighttime demand peaks. The company said it has a power purchase agreement with Copec EMOAC, one of the Chile's top electricity trading groups.

Contour Global on May 27 said inauguration of the new power station featured James Lee Stancampiano, ContourGlobal's general manager for South America, along with Ximena Rincón González, Chile's minister of Energy. Chilean officials are working to establish the country as a leading destination in Latin America for investments that support the shift from intermittent clean energy generation to firm, dispatchable renewable power.

ContourGlobal's solar-plus-storage portfolio in Chile is now fully operational and includes the Victor Jara project (231-MWp solar photovoltaic [PV] combined with a 1.3-GWh battery system) and the Quillagua project, in Antofagasta (221-MWp solar PV and 1.2 GWh of storage).

ContourGlobal said the new project brings greater flexibility and enhanced stability to the Chilean electrical system, supporting a more efficient integration of renewable energy and optimizing the use of solar generation throughout the day.

"By integrating solar energy with long-duration battery storage, Chile is taking a decisive step toward a more resilient and sustainable energy matrix," said Stancampiano. "The key challenge today is to move from intermittent renewable generation to a firm, reliable, and sustainable renewable supply. With this milestone, ContourGlobal reaches 850 MW in operation in the country across solar PV and storage, reinforcing our contribution to this new phase of the power system. We are proud to be part of this transformation and will continue investing in Chile, one of our most important strategic markets."

Stancampiano continued, "The idea that the sun from the Tarapacá desert can light Chilean homes at night is not just a technical achievement—it's a powerful illustration of where we want to take Chile's energy system. We are building a cleaner, more resilient and more inclusive power system, and energy storage is what makes that step change possible."

"We will continue working to position Chile as a leading destination for investment and innovation in clean energy and storage across Latin America, because investing in renewables ultimately means delivering more affordable energy for people and supporting the growth of our economy," said González.

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ContourGlobal, a KKR company, is an independent power producer focused on developing, acquiring, and operating electricity generation and storage assets across Europe and North and South America. It also has a presence in Africa and Asia. The company currently manages 5.5 GW of installed capacity across multiple technologies and asset classes, with an additional 800 MW of renewables under construction and nearly 12.6 GW under development.

Power Magazine
<http://www.powermag.com/>

2 June 2026

VERBUND requests immediate execution order for rapid start of the Riedl energy storage project

On 2 June 2026, VERBUND's subsidiary Donaukraftwerk Jochenstein AG applied to the Passau District Council for an order that the planning approval decision for the Riedl energy storage plant be executed immediately. This step allows for project implementation in parallel with ongoing legal actions and prevents delays of several years on this important infrastructure project for a sustainable and independent energy future.

As a European project of common interest", the Riedl energy storage plant is an important building block for the energy future in Bavaria and Austria. With a storage capacity of 3.5 gigawatt hours and an output of more than 300 megawatts, the pumped storage power plant will play an indispensable role in integrating volatile renewable energies by stabilising the power grid.

"The Riedl energy storage plant is a key project for the energy transition in Bavaria and Austria", explains Michael Strugl, CEO of VERBUND AG – owner of project sponsor Donaukraftwerk Jochenstein AG (DKJ). "The project has been thoroughly tested for 15 years and fulfils all environmental, technical and economic requirements." The planning approval decision takes into account the opinions of the various technical authorities and contains extensive protective measures for people and the natural world. We firmly believe that it will withstand judicial review. The immediate execution request is a clear commitment to this infrastructure project, which is important for energy resilience. Timely implementation – even during the judicial proceedings – is in the interest of the independent energy supply while at the same time safeguarding all legal proceedings."

Time saving of at least three years: Immediate execution order will ensure sufficient storage capacity in time for the energy transition

The planning approval decision is currently the subject of three appeals to the Bavarian Higher Administrative Court. These generally have suspensory effect, with the result that the planning approval decision is not enforceable. Without the requested order for immediate execution, the project would be delayed for several years: the initial operation of the Riedl energy storage plant could only take place in the middle of the next decade.

"What we gain is time — three to five decisive years that we urgently need in light of the rapid expansion of renewable energies like wind and sun. With the immediate execution ordered by the authorities, we can provide the necessary storage and flexibility capacities that are critical to the energy transition earlier," explains Strugl.

Standard approach for major projects

Due to particular public interest, the immediate execution system is a common and legally established tool in Germany for large energy and infrastructure projects. It allows work to begin during the judicial review. In doing so, plaintiff's rights are fully respected.

The overwhelming public interest in the Riedl energy storage plant is evident based on the German Energy Management Act (EnWG) and the PCI status granted to the plant by

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the European Union. As soon as the immediate execution has been granted by the Passau District Council, construction work will begin on the Riedl energy storage plant.

The Riedl energy storage project – an important contribution to the energy transition

The Riedl energy storage plant is a highly flexible pumped storage power plant with an output of more than 300 MW. The efficiency of the technology, which has been tested over the long term, is around 80%. In the event of excess electricity from wind power and photovoltaics, this electricity is used to pump water from the reservoir of the Donaukraftwerk Jochenstein plant into an upper basin located around 330 metres higher and to temporarily store it there. When demand is high or the grid is congested, water from the reservoir is fed in seconds to the two underground generator sets, which produce electricity that is fed into the grid. The water then enters the Danube again. The project does not touch the ecologically valuable slopes of the Danube, because the structures are located deep below them.

Key data on the Riedl energy storage plant

- Generator output: 2 x 150 megawatts
- Reservoir volume: 4.2 million m³
- Upper basin water area: 24 ha
- Average drop height: 331.5 m
- Average Danube outflow: 1,420 m³/s
- Turbine operation flow: 114 m³/s
- Pump operation flow: 85 m³/s
- The lower basins are the Jochenstein and Aschach dams
- Power station site: Municipality of Untergriesbach/district of Jochenstein
- Reservoir site: Untergriesbach municipality/Gottsdorf district

Verbund

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

3 June 2026

Google to fund 100-MW virtual power plant in PJM in ‘first-of-its-kind’ deal

Google will fund a three-year, 100-MW virtual power plant in the PJM Interconnection with the aim of creating an “industry-leading scalable blueprint” for unlocking capacity to meet data center demand, the tech giant announced Tuesday.

The company is partnering with VPP operator Voltus, which will aggregate distributed energy resources from residential, commercial and industrial customers across the regional transmission organization, a spokesperson for Voltus said in an email.

Google has also worked to make its own data centers flexible, Amanda Peterson Corio, the company’s global head of data center energy, told Utility Dive, but reasons that it is often faster and more cost effective to pay other customers to shift their electricity usage. “The cost of capital in the data center, of our chips, can be billions and billions of dollars of hardware that only gets utilized to our customers if it’s running,” she said. “While there may be optionality for flexibility for some of our training of those chips, we want to make sure that we’re bringing all resources to bear from the system.”

The Google-Voltus deal, which the companies call a “first-of-its-kind,” comes amid rising electricity costs, shrinking reserve margins and aggressive load growth from artificial intelligence data centers, particularly in PJM. PJM’s struggles, which have played out over several years of record-high capacity auctions and, more recently, reliability margin shortfalls, have prompted calls to overhaul the market or bring back some elements of the vertically integrated utility model. Corio offered a diplomatic answer when asked in an interview if Google prefers to work in vertically integrated or deregulated markets, saying the

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company “partners across the ecosystem.” “What’s really important, across any system, is transparency,” she said. “One of the great things about markets is that it allows us to get more information, to be more clear, to be able to do the modeling where distributed energy resources could be deployed, or to understand where there are bottlenecks.” “There can be improvements in all market structures, quite frankly,” she added.

The pressure to meet rising demand, not only from large commercial and industrial loads but also broader electrification, is spurring a utility capital spending spree that is expected to surpass \$1 trillion over the next five years. A significant amount is going to new gas-fired power plants that threaten the climate goals large companies like Google have spent years promoting.

But public backlash could alter those plans, with electricity prices taking center stage in several recent statewide elections. Three-quarters of Americans say they want stronger utility oversight, according to one recent report, which also calculated that utilities filed \$9.4 billion in rate increase requests impacting 81 million people in the first quarter of this year. The Google-Voltus announcement emphasized its potential to save on system costs, noting that expanding the grid to handle short periods of peak demand is “a primary driver of costs for electricity customers.”

“As a result, much of the nation’s electricity infrastructure and available capacity sits unused for most of the year,” it said. It said the partnership “establishes a repeatable path for other large energy users to follow.” Corio said advancements in recent years have made it possible to build a multidirectional grid, not just a generation-to-load system, and she hopes the company’s new VPP can help. “Our message to utilities is: Talk to us,” she said. “We’re very, very thoughtful about designing the structures today that 10 years from now we’re still going to like, and that can only happen if we work together and have greater transparency on both ends.”

Utility Dive

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

3 June 2026

ISO-NE market monitor issues 2025 report

Total wholesale electricity costs totaled \$15 billion in 2025, nearly 50% higher than in 2024, according to the latest annual report from ISO New England’s Internal Market Monitor (IMM). While the markets remained competitive, the IMM said, more expensive natural gas, tighter supply conditions, and changes to the resource mix and market design drove prices higher. Published each spring, the Annual Markets Report reviews the development, operation, and performance of the region’s wholesale electricity markets. It also features the IMM’s recommendations for improving market design and rules.

The total wholesale cost of electricity in 2025 was \$15.0 billion, the equivalent of \$127 per megawatt-hour (MWh) of load served. The total cost was a 48% increase over the \$10.2 billion recorded in 2024. The average price in the Day-Ahead Energy Market was \$71.81/MWh, a year-over-year increase of 73%. The average Real-Time Energy Market price increased by 67% from 2024, to \$65.89/MWh.

Other highlights from the report include:

- Natural gas prices — the main driver of wholesale electricity costs — more than doubled, climbing from an average of \$3.06 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) in 2024 to \$6.27/MMBtu in 2025.
- Carbon pricing programs increased average load-weighted energy prices by an estimated \$9/MWh in 2025 (up from \$8/MWh in 2024), contributing about \$1.1 billion to total energy costs.

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- Continuing a multi-year trend, net imports declined further in 2025, reaching their lowest level in more than a decade due to reduced hydropower output and a prolonged nuclear plant outage in Canada. As a result, higher-cost resources inside New England more frequently set the marginal price.
- Recent and near-term transmission and offshore wind resource additions have the potential to significantly expand the region's supply capability and could make a meaningful contribution toward meeting anticipated growth in energy use over the next decade.

Isonewswire

<http://isonewswire.com/>

3 June 2026

OMS MISO Survey shows surge in new resource additions

The Organization of MISO States (OMS) and MISO have released the results of the 2026 OMS-MISO Survey, which shows that states and utilities across the region are planning record levels of resource additions over the next five years. Member utilities expect to add an average of 15 GW of new accredited summer capacity each year – a pace that will help support the region's growing power needs as demand continues to rise.

"The survey results reflect both the scale of the challenge facing the region and the progress being made to meet it," said Michael Carrigan, President of the Organization of MISO States and Commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission. "Utilities are planning substantial additions of new generation and storage resources, and states remain committed to working with MISO and stakeholders to ensure the region has the tools, information and market structures needed to support reliability in the years ahead."

Natural gas accounts for the largest share of planned additions, with strong growth also expected in solar, battery storage and wind. About 4 GW per year of these planned additions are expected to move through MISO's Expedited Resource Adequacy Study (ERAS) process, a faster grid interconnection process designed to help bring critically needed projects online more quickly. This rapid buildout comes as load growth across the MISO region continues to accelerate, with member reported forecasts and load addition requests indicating a five-year compound annual growth rate of 3.1% to 5.1%.

"MISO, our state commissions and our member utilities are taking meaningful steps to stay ahead of the rapid changes unfolding across the electric system," said John Bear, President and CEO of MISO. "The 2026 OMS-MISO Survey shows that our region is adding resources at an accelerated pace, even as load grows faster than we've seen in decades. The insights from this survey help ensure we are all making informed, collaborative decisions to maintain reliability for the communities we serve."

The survey also notes a continued shift in seasonal reliability risk from summer to winter as the region's resource mix evolves. To address this, MISO is updating its accreditation methods to better reflect when resources provide the most value. Beginning in Planning Year 2028/29, MISO will implement accreditation reforms using a Direct Loss of Load (DLOL) methodology, which more accurately measures how resources perform during the highest risk periods. The OMS-MISO survey assesses anticipated generating capacity over a five-year planning horizon (2027/28 through 2031/32). The survey's results, along with MISO's Planning Resource Auction and Futures analyses, provide a comprehensive view of system risks and resource needs, supporting states in their resource adequacy responsibilities and members in their resource planning.

Renewables Now

<http://renewablesnow.com/>

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5 June 2026

Eskom, ZET sign HoA for 3GW gas-to-power project in South Africa

Eskom and Zululand Energy Terminal (ZET) have signed a heads of agreement (HoA) establishing a framework for collaboration on a planned 3GW gas-to-power development in South Africa. Under the agreement, Eskom will be the 'foundation customer' at the proposed Zululand Energy Terminal.

It is set to provide open access to liquefied natural gas (LNG) import, storage and regasification infrastructure supporting Eskom's planned generation capacity. The planned project will be based in the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone in KwaZulu-Natal.

Zululand Energy Terminal director and project owner Oliver Naidu said: "Today's signing marks a significant milestone for ZET as we advance our role in supporting South Africa's energy future. "As one of our anchor customers, Eskom's participation demonstrates growing confidence in LNG as an enabler of energy security, grid stability and industrial growth." The LNG terminal is being led by ZET, a joint venture between Vopak Terminal Durban (owned by Royal Vopak of the Netherlands and South Africa's Reatile Group Proprietary Limited) and Transnet Pipelines, a division of Transnet SOC.

The terminal was granted a concession by the Transnet National Ports Authority to develop, operate and maintain the facility. Eskom group CEO Dan Marokane said: "Gas is being used as a bridge fuel to support the transition to a low-carbon energy system.

"These gas plants are designed to complement intermittent renewable sources like solar and wind, ensuring reliable 24/7 power, while clean energy technologies are being developed and introduced onto the grid. "The availability of dispatchable power is at the very heart of the energy transition and industry cannot operate without it as it forms the backbone for renewable energy integration into the grid."

Eskom and ZET have agreed to seek the required regulatory approvals, finalise commercial terms and move forward with the infrastructure needed for the project. The agreement is supported by South Africa's Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Transport and Transnet. According to Eskom, the power plant will use regasified LNG as its primary fuel source and is designed for a 25-year life cycle, operating mainly as a mid-merit plant. The project is designated as a Strategic Integrated Project under the Infrastructure Development Act 23 of 2014 and is incorporated in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2025.

Development will follow a private sector participation model, leveraging strategic partnerships, project financing and long-term power offtake agreements. The IRP 2025 sets a target for 6GW of gas-fired power by 2030, split between private producers and Eskom. The partners state that the initiative aims to reinforce energy supply security, aid the transition to renewable sources, and reduce dependence on diesel and coal. Eskom highlights that the use of gas will also support overall grid stability and broader industrialisation.

Power Technology

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

8 June 2026

FERC approves SPP non-firm, large-load transmission service

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday approved the Southwest Power Pool's proposal for providing transmission service to data centers and other large loads that agree to be curtailed during grid emergencies.

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Under the “conditional high impact large load service,” or CHILLS, SPP will provide transmission service using available transmission capacity for up to seven years while large loads acquire firm service.

Currently, SPP requires transmission customers to have sufficient generating resources to serve their load. But those resources often require network upgrades that can take years to complete, the grid operator said in its proposal to FERC.

To help bring data centers and other large loads online quickly, the CHILLS framework will allow SPP to provide non-firm transmission service to large loads while the upgrades needed for firm service are being built or new generation becomes fully operational, the grid operator said.

SPP will be able to cut service to those large loads when the transmission system is constrained or under emergency conditions, according to FERC’s decision.

“We find that CHILLS is a just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential approach to addressing the need to expeditiously interconnect and provide transmission service to new [high impact large loads,] while maintaining the reliable operation of SPP’s transmission system,” FERC said.

The conditional transmission service builds on SPP’s High Impact Large Loads and High Impact Large Load Generation Assessment study processes that FERC approved in January.

SPP is also developing a Price Adaptive Load Service framework for large loads that are willing to be curtailed. SPP runs the grid and wholesale power markets in 17 states from northern Texas to Montana.

Utility Dive

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

8 June 2026

Energy Department to use Defense Production Act funding to expand coal capacity at 13 plants and build export infrastructure

The US Department of Energy (DOE) has announced it will support 13 American coal-fired power plants and new coal export infrastructure by providing up to US\$500 million in Defense Production Act Title III (DPA) funds.

The DPA funding includes up to US\$425 million for 12 projects selected to expand and reinvigorate America’s coal fleet and up to US\$75 million for the West Gateway Terminal Project, a rail-served marine export terminal capable of handling more than 10 million t of bulk commodities annually.

The West Gateway project in Oakland, California, will expand West Coast export capacity and support energy exports to allied nations including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Malaysia. The selected projects are intended to strengthen domestic coal mining value chains, support reliable baseload power generation, and enhance the resilience of critical energy infrastructure. By leveraging DPA authorities, DOE is helping ensure the US maintains the industrial capacity and energy resources needed to strengthen national security.

“To ensure our national security, the United States will continue to support our coal fleet and domestic supply chains,” said US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. “For too long, limited West Coast export capacity has constrained America’s ability to move coal and other energy resources to global markets. By investing in both coal generation and critical export infrastructure, including the West Gateway Terminal Project, the Energy Department is strengthening US energy security, reinforcing strategic supply chains, and advancing American energy dominance.”

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“The West Gateway Terminal Project fills a critical infrastructure gap in the U.S. energy export system by providing additional West Coast export capacity for American coal producers,” said DOE Under Secretary of Energy Kyle Haustveit. “By expanding access to global markets, the project will support continued growth in US coal exports, improve supply chain resilience, and strengthen energy partnerships with allies throughout the Indo-Pacific region.”

World Coal
<http://www.worldcoal.com/>

9 June 2026

NYISO Releases Power Trends 2026

The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) today released Power Trends 2026, its annual report on forces shaping the electric grid and wholesale electricity markets. The report urges an “all-of-the-above” investment approach to developing new generation resources, guided and supported by the power of competitive electric markets.

The report details how electrification of the building and transportation sectors, along with the growth of large energy-intensive projects, is accelerating demand and placing new strains on the grid. At the same time, retirements and performance challenges among aging resources are reducing the system’s margin for error, underscoring the need for timely and sustained investment across a broad range of resource types.

“New York is at a defining moment for its electric system, comparable to the periods that first built and expanded the grid that powers our economy today,” said NYISO President and CEO Rich Dewey. “An all-of-the-above approach to investment, supported by effective competitive electric markets, is needed now to maintain system reliability and support the state’s economic and environmental goals.”

Power Trends 2026 emphasizes that competitive wholesale electricity markets are central to enabling this approach. The markets provide transparent price signals that guide development to where resources are needed on the system most. Markets incentivize generator performance during periods of system stress. Most important at a time of rising industry costs, competitive electric markets allocate financial risk to private developers rather than electricity consumers. Power Trends 2026 shows how this framework supports the development of a diverse resource mix capable of meeting evolving system needs while helping to manage costs.

The report identifies several key trends impacting system reliability and long-term planning:

- Declining reliability margins: Generator retirements and performance challenges among aging resources are outpacing the addition of new supply, narrowing the system’s margin for error during periods of stress.
- Rapid and uncertain load growth: Large energy intensive projects and electrification are increasing demand and complicating forecasts, particularly as load patterns evolve.
- Shifting seasonal risks: Winter conditions are emerging as a defining reliability challenge, with fuel constraints and rising winter demand increasing system stress.
- A changing resource mix: Growth in renewable generation and storage, combined with the retirement of conventional resources, is altering the operational characteristics of the grid and increasing dependence on weather dependent supply.
- Expanding system uncertainty: The interaction of electrification, large load growth, extreme weather, and project timing is widening the range of potential future system conditions, reinforcing the need for scenario-based planning.

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To address these challenges, Power Trends 2026 underscores the importance of advancing a broad portfolio of resources including generation, storage, transmission, and demand-side solutions capable of providing reliable and flexible performance during extended periods of high demand.

NYISO

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

10 June 2026

GM to offer EV owners ability to sell power to US electricity grid

General Motors is releasing a software update that allows some U.S. electric-vehicle owners to pipe power back to the electric grid, another example of car companies pursuing business opportunities in the energy sector.

The update gives owners of GM's vehicle-to-home energy system, which allows the EV to power the home during a blackout, the expanded capability of feeding electricity to the power grid. However, it remains unclear whether doing so will be popular with drivers, who may also want to keep their cars charged.

Vehicle-to-home system owners would be able to sell power back to the utility at times of high demand, with GM getting a cut of those payments. A GM spokesperson said it has thousands of vehicle-to-home users, but declined to provide a specific figure.

World Energy

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

10 June 2026

China opens world's first undersea data centre, powered by offshore wind turbines

The world's first undersea data centre has begun operating off the coast from Shanghai, powered by a direct offshore wind connection, according to China state media.

The Shanghai Lingang undersea data centre demonstration project, located 10 kms off the coast, was built by a subsidiary of China Communications Construction and combined in its construction offshore engineering, renewable energy, and an AI-focused digital infrastructure. Chinese officials told the English-language state-run outlet China Daily that the project could serve as a potential template for next-generation computing systems.

Global data centre capacity – measured in megawatts or gigawatts to represent total continuous power available to run at maximum power – is forecast to nearly double to 200 GW by 2030, growth that is expected to require up to \$US3 trillion in investment over the remainder of the decade. Demand for data centre capacity is being driven primarily by the artificial intelligence (AI) industry, but both data centres and AI in particular are hugely power-hungry beasts.

This does not even take into consideration the physical resources that are used to supply these industries, such as raw materials for data centre components, energy usage, land use, and water for cooling. Which is why the launch of the Shanghai Lingang undersea data centre could mark a potential sea change.

According to Chinese state media, the underwater 24 MW data centre is able to use seawater as a natural cooling source, circulating through a copper-pipe heat exchange design that reduces electricity consumption by 22.8 per cent and eliminates freshwater use entirely. Tsinghua University Professor Li Zhen told China Daily that conventional data centres generally use around one-third of their total electricity consumption on cooling systems.

“For an undersea data center of the same scale, the electricity used for cooling would only account for about one-tenth of total power consumption,” Li said. “If data centers of the same scale were placed underwater, even allowing extra margins, cooling consumption

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could fall to around 30 billion kWh. That would save about 50 billion kWh of electricity each year.” China’s data centres currently consume around 250 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity each year, said Li, with around 80 billion kWh used specifically for cooling.

Similarly, by placing the data centre underwater, it also cuts land usage by more than 90 per cent, another problem facing local communities in proximity to land-based data centres. Another feature of the underwater data centre is its “direct offshore wind connection” that uses electricity transmitted directly from offshore wind farms through subsea photoelectric composite cables. Not only does this setup minimise stress on existing electricity grid infrastructure, but it also ensures data centres are powered by renewable energy.

Renew Economy

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/>

12 June 2026

First turbine installed at Nordseecluster A offshore wind farm

RWE has installed the first turbine at its 1.6GW Nordseecluster offshore wind project, located 50km north of Juist in the German North Sea.

The first phase, Nordseecluster A, is being built using DEME’s installation vessel the Norse Wind, and all 44 Vestas turbines are expected to be in place by the end of 2026.

Each turbine is rated at up to 15MW, with a 145m hub height and 115m rotor blades, making the project one of the largest offshore builds currently under way in Germany. RWE said the installation reflects the close coordination and safety focus needed for large-scale offshore construction, while Vestas said the milestone underlines the strength of its long-standing partnership with RWE.

Nordseecluster A has a planned capacity of 660MW and is expected to connect to the grid in early 2027. A second phase, Nordseecluster B, will add another 900MW, with foundation work due to begin next year and turbine installation scheduled for 2028. Commercial operation is planned for early 2029.

When complete, the two phases will generate around 6.5TW-hours (TWh) of renewable electricity each year. RWE says that power will help decarbonise industry and supply customised energy solutions for customers, including technology companies such as Amazon, which earlier this year signed a 110MW power purchase agreement tied to Nordseecluster B.

Power Technology

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