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# ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION

Getting the Best Investments



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## Getting the Best Investments

In recent years, IEA countries have experienced a lack of investment in diverse electricity generation options. At the same time, they have seen an even greater shortfall in expanding the large-scale transmission systems needed to ensure reliable and secure grid operation. Power grid development is especially important for integrating increasing amounts of renewable energy, which is often remotely located and intermittent. The global economic crisis has created even more uncertainty for funding of energy infrastructure. But the need for more investment in transmission has never been greater.

*Electricity Transmission: Getting the Best Investments* provides the most up-to-date assessment of current trends and prospects to 2020 of transmission investments in IEA countries and in China, including major domestic and cross-border projects in North America and Europe. It also analyses the key investment drivers, identifies the challenges in getting timely investments, and proposes solutions to ensure their adequacy, taking into account current planning and regulatory practices in IEA countries.

The study reveals that siting and permitting is a key challenge. It also shows that competitive markets and grid integration of renewable energy need more robust, flexible and "smart" power grids, which cannot be achieved without a strong push for more investment in the grids, coordinated regional planning, speedy regulatory processes and proper incentives. Overall, *Electricity Transmission: Getting the Best Investments* provides a basis for a better understanding of electricity transmission and for policy formulation. It will be of particular interest to policy makers, regulators, industry and other electricity experts.

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The Paris-based International Energy Agency is an intergovernmental body committed to advancing security of energy supply, economic growth and environmental sustainability through energy policy and technology co-operation. It was founded after the oil supply disruptions in 1973-1974 and consists of twenty-eight industrialised countries, all members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.