Based on the following sources:
ADB, AEO.ca, Alberta.ca, Biodiesel Magazine, Biofuels Digest, BNAmericas, Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB),
EBRD, Economic Times/India Times, ENDS, Enerdata, Energy Central, ESI Africa, Europea.eu, European
Parliament, IEA Press Intelligence, Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), Lexology,
Mercom India, My Sun, New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP),
Offshore Wind, Photon, PV Magazine, PV Tech, RAWI.ru, RenewablesNow, Reuters, Solar Energy Corporation
of India (SECI), Thehindubusinessline.com, ThinkGeoenergy, Tidal Energy Today, TimesofIndia.indiatimes.com,
Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA), Utilities-me.com, Utility Dive,
West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), Wind Power Monthly, Wind Power
Offshore, WindEurope, World Bank.

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Renewable energy auctions and tenders

Concluded auctions

**Karnataka awards 760 MW grid-connected PV capacity**
Source: mercomindia.com  Date: 02 February 2018

The Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has auctioned 760 MW of grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) projects to be developed across 38 taluks in the state. The auction was opened in December 2017.

While the lower limit of the quoted tariff in the auction was INR 2.94/kWh, the highest quoted tariff stood at INR 3.54/kWh. The KREDL had specified the benchmark tariff for the auction to be INR 3.57/kWh.

The projects are to be developed across 43 taluks in Karnataka, out of which the winners for 38 taluks have been announced as of now.

An official at the KREDL told Mercom, “The winners have been finalized for 760 MW and the remaining 100 MW winners will be announced soon.” According to Mercom’s industry sources, bids were not submitted for five taluks of the state. These taluks are: Mundargi, Gajendragad, Gurmitkal, Maski and Kuragodu. A total of 11 winners emerged in the auction.

Opened auctions

**India’s SECI auctions 2 GW of wind projects**
Source: mercomindia.com  Date: 6 February 2018
Further reading:

- Tender document and specification available [here](#);

To leverage the current decline in the wind tariffs, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has tendered 2 GW of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS)-connected wind power projects under Tranche-IV. The bid-submission deadline is March 7, 2018.

A single bidder can bid for a minimum 50 MW and maximum of 300 MW capacity. The successful bidders will enter into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with the SECI for a period of 25 years. The scope of work includes setting up of the wind power projects as well as the transmission network up to the delivery point.

The SECI has fixed INR 2.93/kWh as upper tariff ceiling for this tender. Wind tariffs in the country have dropped considerably over the course of the past year, with a fall of over 24% between the two wind auctions held in 2017.
### India’s SECI auctions 2 GW of solar PV projects

Source: seci.co.in  
Date: 30 January 2018

Further reading:
- Tender document and specification available [here](#).

On 30 January 2018 the Solar Energy Corporation (SECI) issued a Request for Selection (RfS) for 2 GW of grid-connected solar PV. The capacity tendered comprises eight projects of 250 MW each. The bid-submission deadline is March 21, 2018. The maximum tariff payable to the Project Developer is fixed at INR 2.93/kWh.

Already commissioned projects cannot be considered under this RfS. Projects under construction or projects which are not yet commissioned will, however, be considered, in case these projects are not already accepted under any other Central or State Schemes. Enhancement and augmentation of already commissioned Projects, irrespective of their capacities will not be considered as eligible Project under this scheme.

Selected projects will be granted 25-year contracts with SECI for Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Projects will be developed on the Build Own Operate (BOO) basis. Signed projects will have to be commissioned within 15 months from the effective date of the PPA.

### India’s SECI auctions 70 MW of solar PV project in Assam

Source: seci.co.in  
Date: 2 February 2018

On 2 February 2018 SECO issued a Request for Selection (RfS) document for 70 MW of grid-connected solar PV to be developed in the Amguri Solar Park in Assam. The maximum tariff set by SECI payable to the Project Developer is fixed at INR 3.43/kWh. Selected developers will enter a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with SECI. Interested parties must bid for the entirety of 70 MW capacity. Bids for smaller capacity will not be considered.

The Project shall be commissioned within 12 months of the Effective Date of the PPA. Delay up to six months will result in a financial penalty placed on the developer. A longer delay will result in tariff reduction. In case, the Commissioning of the Project is delayed beyond 24 months from the Effective Date of the PPA, the PPA capacity shall stand reduced or amended.

### India’s SECI auctioned together 1.2 GW of grid-connected solar PV in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the first 5 days of January 2018

Source: pv-magazine.com  
Date: 5 January 2018

Within first five days the Solar Energy Corporation (SECI) issued Requests for Selection in three separate auctions for a cumulative of 1.2 GW of grid-connected solar PV projects in three regions.

The capacity and regional division for these auctions is following:
- 750 MW capacity to be commissioned in Andhra Pradesh in three 250 MW projects at the Kadapa Solar Park. Each project will be further divided into five 50 MW sub-plants. Bid submissions are due on February 23. The bidding price is capped at INR 2.93/kWh.
- 200 MW capacity in Karnataka with capacity allocated across four 50 MW plants, which will be located in the Pavagada Solar Park. Bid submissions are due on February 20. The bidding price is
capped at INR 2.93/kWh.

- 275 MW capacity under the National Solar Mission of Phase-II, Batch-IV for 6 projects across the region ranging in size between 20 MW and 75 MW in Uttar Pradesh. The bidding price is capped at INR 3.43/kW. Projects must be commissioned within 12 months from signing the PPA. Winning project will enter 25-year PPA with Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) being the offtaker.

### India’s APDCL auctions 100 MW (four 25-MW projects) of grid-connected solar PV projects in Assam

**Source:** seci.co.in  **Date:** January 2018

In January the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) issued Request for Selection (RfS) documents for procurement of four 25 MW grid-connected solar PV projects to be developed in Assam. The deadline for bid submission is fixed on 4 March 2018. The upper tariff ceiling for each tender is set at INR 4.48/kWh. The winning projects will be granted 25-year Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). The bidders will cover costs of the transmission infrastructure.

Selected projects will be announced on 21 March 2018. It is estimated the PPAs will be signed on 30 March 2018.

### India’s West Bengal state auctions 63 MW of grid-connected solar PV projects

**Source:** wbshedcl.in  **Date:** 19 January 2018

Further reading:
- Invitation notice to the tender is available [here](#);
- Auction details and specification available [here](#);

On 19 January the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) issued a tender invitation for development of grid-connected 63 MW solar PV capacity across the West Bengal state. The bid submission deadline is on 26 February 2018 and the technical bid opens on 5 March 2018.

### India’s BREDA opens auction for 40 MW grid-connected rooftop PV

**Source:** mercomindia.com  **Date:** 2 February 2018

The Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA), a state-run entity, has invited bids for the development of 40 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) rooftop projects at various locations across the state.

The BREDA has specified that the interested bidders must bid for a minimum of 1 MW. The last date for the bid submission is 16 February 2018. It will undertake a competitive bidding process to shortlist and qualify the suitable bidders for the projects, which will be developed under the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) model.

No information on maximum bid tariff found for this auction.

### India’s UPNEDA auctions for 1 GW grid-connected PV in Uttar Pradesh

**Source:** upneda.org.in  **Date:** 2 February 2018

Further reading and information:
- Detailed auction information available [here](#);
- Auction ID: 01/UPNEDA/Grid connect/RfP/2018,

The Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) auctioned 1 GW of grid-connected solar PV projects to be developed across the state. The bid-submission deadline is extended to 7 March 2018. The minimum size of the project eligible to participate in the bid is 5 MW and the largest is 1 GW.

No information on maximum bid tariff found for this auction.
India’s NREDCAP opens auction for 5000 solar water pumping systems in Andhra Pradesh
Source: nredcap.in Date: 11 December 2017

On 10 January 2018 the New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP) issued a Request for Proposals (RfP) for design, supply, installation and commissioning of 5000 solar water pumping systems in Andhra Pradesh. The financial bid took place on 24 January 2018. The auction winners will be announced in the first half of 2018.

Sri Lanka auctions 90 MW (ninety 1-MW projects) of grid-connected solar PV
Source: ceb.lk Date: 16 January 2018
Further reading:
- Tender document and specification available here:

Sri Lanka’s Ceylon Electricity Board (CEV) issued a request for proposal for the construction of ninety grid-connected solar PV power plants, each 1 MW size on build, own and operate basis (BOO). The auction is launched under the “Sooraya Bala Sangramaya Phase II” programme. Winning projects will be granted 20-year long PPA contracts with CEB.

Deadline for project proposal submission is fixed for 23 March 2018.

Jordan to prequalify bidders for 30 MW of solar project
Source: renewablesnow.com Date: 16 January 2018

The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has issued invitations for prequalification for the construction and operation of 30 MWp of solar power capacity to support water pumping stations in the Hashemite Kingdom. 24 MW project is to be constructed to support Disi Area to support a water pumping station while 6 MW project is to be commissioned in order to generate power for Zara Ma’in Water Station The construction period ranges between 8 and 12 months depending on the project’s size.

The deadline for submitting prequalification documents for both projects is February 20. Companies and consortia from any country can participate.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing financing for the projects, in line with a commitment to help strengthen the resilience of Jordan’s water sector, which has been put under significant strain by the influx of Syrian refugees.

Oman auction 100 MW grid-connected solar PV project in Amin
Source: photon.info Date: 15 January 2018
Further reading:
- Auction specification available here:

Oil and gas production company Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has tendered a 100 MW grid-connected PV project to be developed in Amin, which is a desert area of Oman. The project will operate as an Independent Power Producer model and will be developed on build, own, operate and transfer basis. The scope of work includes the design, construction, ownership, financing, operation, and maintenance. The PDO will enter a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the successful bidder for a period of 23 years.

The already extended deadline for proposal submission is fixed on 14 February 2018. Evaluation of bids will take place in May 2018. It expects to award the contract for project construction by June 2018. Project will have to be commissioned within 18 months from the start of the first eligible day of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Placed bids cannot be for a capacity smaller than 100 MW.
Malawi opens tender for 40 MW solar PV plant
Source: esi-africa.com  Date: 7 February 2018
Further reading:
- Tender announcement and specifications available [here](#);

Malawian-based independent power producer, JCM Matswani Solar Corp, seeks to develop a 40 MW solar PV project. The power producer has issued a Request for Expression of Interest, to select EPC contractors for the solar PV project to be located in the Salima District of central Malawi. The bids for 20 MW to 40 MW capacity are accepted to participate in tender. Proposal deadline submission is 2 March 2018. Selected developer will enter the 20-year PPA with ESCOM.

Benin’s first tender for 25 solar PV capacity, supported by the French Development Agency
Source: pv-magazine.com  Date: 31 January 2018

The French Development Agency (AFD) has issued an expression of interest for the construction of a 25 MW solar power project in Benin. The plant will be located in Onigbolo, in the Plateau Department, southern Benin, and will be the country’s first ground-mounted solar park. Interested developers must send their bids by February 19.

The solar facility will deliver power to the country’s state-owned utility, SBEE under a long-term PPA. The project is being financed by the EU and AFD with around EUR 60 million. The French agency is providing around 80% of financing, while the EU is responsible for the remaining funds.

Niger tenders 22 MW solar-diesel hybrid project
Source: pv-magazine.com  Date: 1 February 2018

The French Development Agency (AFD) has issued a tender for the construction of a 22 MW solar-diesel hybrid power plant near Agades, the largest city in central Niger.

The project will consist of a 13 MW PV power plant, three 2 MW diesel power stations, a 5 MWh storage system, a 20kV substation and two 20kV lines with a length of around 3 km. The facility will be connected to the local power grid and will sell electricity to Niger’s state-owned power utility, Nigelec. Interested developers must submit their bids by February 28, 2018.

If implemented, the project would be the country’s first MW-sized ground-mounted PV plant, with Niger only recently resorting to solar as an energy source.

Scheduled/future auctions
Germany will auction 1.6 GW of offshore wind at a EUR 12c/kWh cap price
Source: enerdata.net  Date: 31 January 2018

The German Federal Network Agency (BNetzA) has announced the terms of the country’s second offshore wind auction, which will be held on 1 April 2018. 1.6 GW will be available (1.55 GW as planned in the Wind Energy on Sea Act, plus 60 MW left over from the first offshore wind auction in April 2017). 500 MW will be earmarked for Baltic Sea projects, while the remainder will be dedicated to the North Sea.

The call for tender is open to offshore wind parks approved before August 2016 or with an advanced approval status and which will be put into operation after 31 December 2020. The cap price has been lowered from EUR 12c/kWh (2017 round) to EUR 10c/kWh. Besides, the BNetzA has ruled out negative bids for this upcoming tender.

During the last tender, EnBW won the lion’s share in the auction round with the "He Dreiht" 900 MW project, while DONG Energy (now Ørsted) won three offshore wind projects with a total capacity of 590 MW. The auction’s average project surcharge value was EUR 0.44c/kWh and the highest bid proposed EUR 6c/kWh.
Alberta (Canada) prepares round 2 and 3 of the renewable auctions for a cumulative 700 MW
Source: aeso.ca   Date: 5 February 2018

On February 5, 2018 the Government of Alberta announced REP Rounds 2 and 3. REP Rounds 2 and 3 will run in parallel, and will build upon on the key features that were essential to the success of Round 1.

REP Round 2 will have a procurement target of 300 MW and will include an Indigenous equity ownership requirement. REP Round 3 will have a procurement target of 400 MW. The following key aspects will apply to both competitions:
- eligible projects are limited to new or expanded renewable electricity generation projects located in Alberta;
- able to connect to the existing distribution or transmission systems;
- greater than 5 MW;
- eligible fuels must meet Alberta’s definition of renewable energy resources as defined in the Renewable Electricity Act; and
- the payment mechanism must be compatible with Alberta’s evolving power market construct.

AESO will provide competition proposals on REP Rounds 2 and 3 to the Minister of Energy at the end of February 2018. Once approved, detailed auction timeline and auction specification will be published.

Zambia to launch 100 MW solar auction in 2018
Source: pv-magazine.com   Date: 11 December 2017

Zambia’s government said it will launch a tender for PV projects up to 20 MW in early 2018, which will be developed under the incentive scheme for solar energy.

The 100 MW tender will be the first round of the program GET FIT Zambia, which was launched on December 7. It is now the official implementation program for the Zambian REFIT Strategy, an initiative developed with the support of German development bank KFW, aimed at accelerating private investments in small and medium sized renewable energy projects in the country.

Through the REFIT Strategy, the Zambian government hopes to allocate around 200 of PV and renewable energy capacity to small- and medium-scale projects with a maximum size of 20 MW, to be procured over a period of three years. Eligible technologies include hydro, solar PV, geothermal, biomass, waste energy and wind power.

Under the 100 MW solar tender, the government said that selected projects will have to sell power to local state-owned power company, Zesco under a long-term PPA, and will have to be located close to substations, whose reliability has already been tested by Zesco in partnership with the KFW.

All substations used for round one and two of the Scaling Solar program, however, will be ineligible, the government said.

Saudi Arabia to tender seven PV projects totalling 3.3 GW and 0.8 GW of wind in 2018
Source: pv-magazine.com   Date: 16 January 2018

The Renewable Energy Project Development Office (REPDO) of Saudi Arabia will launch tenders for seven large-scale solar power projects totalling 3.3 GW, reported by PV Magazine, and 800 MW of wind in 2018. The information on auctions timeline will be provided “soon”.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is aiming to deploy 9.5 GW of wind and solar capacity by 2023, is currently in the process of closing its first solar tender, the final winner of which is expected to be announced by the end of this month.

Kazakhstan aims to auction 1 GW renewable capacity in 2018 with the first round planned for May
Source: pv-magazine.com   Date: 26 January 2018

Kazakh Deputy Minister of Energy, Gani Sadibekov has announced that a series of auctions for large-scale renewable energy power projects will be launched this year, and that the first bidding round will be held in
May. Overall, the government intends to allocate around 1 GW of renewable energy power generation capacity through the tenders.

“A number of domestic and foreign companies, including ACWA Power (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Sky Power (Canada), Shell, General Electric (the USA) and Goldwind (China) expressed their desire to participate in the auction,” the Kazakh government said in its statement. No more details on the auctions’ bidding rules or eventual quota for single renewable energy technologies were provided. When implemented, the new auction scheme will be Kazakhstan’s first serious attempt to increase the share of renewables in its energy mix, after several failed efforts at introducing a FiT program by the country’s government over the previous years.

**Russia aims to auction 1 GW of renewable capacity in 2018**

Source: rawi.ru    Date: October 2018

The Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation plans to hold tenders in 2018 for the construction of renewable energy (RES) facilities with a total capacity of almost 1 GW, said First Deputy Energy Minister Alexei Texler. The Minister revealed that 57 MW of the capacity will be designated for solar PV while 899 MW capacity will be opened for wind projects.
Other renewable energy news

Other Asia and Pacific

**India to set up USD 350 mln fund to finance solar projects**
Source: af.reuters.com Date: 18 January 2018

India will set up a USD 350 million fund to finance solar projects, Power Minister R.K. Singh said, as the country steps up efforts to achieve its ambitious target of adding 175 GW in renewable energy by 2022. India will need at least USD 125 billion to fund a plan to increase the share of renewable power supply in the country’s grid by 2022, underlining the immense financing challenge ahead.

India wants foreign capital to account for a bulk of its investments to meet its renewable energy target. But industry experts say most of the financing for the country’s renewables drive so far has come from domestic banks and such banks have to account for the lion’s share of new renewable investments in the future.

**India to develop 60 solar cities**
Source: pv-magazine-india.com Date: 6 February 2018

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), under its scheme ‘Development of Solar Cities’, has approved 60 cities, including 13 pilot and five model cities, as part of the 12th five-year plan period.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, the upper assembly of parliament, on February 6, MNRE head RK Singh, confirmed that the master plans of 49 solar cities have been prepared. Singh notified that solar PV projects with an aggregate capacity of nearly 8.1 MW, and solar water heating systems with the total size of 7 894 square meter collector area, had been sanctioned under the program. So far, INR 1 016.4 million (around USD 15 million) has been sanctioned, while INR 259.2 million (around USD 4 million) has been already released under the scheme.

**India announced 2018-2019 budget with provisions for renewables**
Source: mercomindia.com and livemind.com Date: 1 February 2018

The much-anticipated Union Budget 2018-19 was tabled in parliament on 1 February 2018 by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. One of the provisions of the budget were:

- Abolishment of the duty on tempered glass (until now the duty was 5%). The decision comes as a relief for the domestic manufacturers of solar equipment in India.
- Allocation of INR 2.17 billion to the state-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) under the internal and external budgetary resources.
- Allocation of INR 99 billion to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) under internal and extra budgetary resources (IEBR).
- The Finance Minister announced that the government will undertake necessary measures to encourage state governments to put in place a mechanism that would ensure that their surplus solar power is purchased by distribution companies (DISCOMs).
- Plan to offer financial incentives to farmers to shift to solar power pumps to help reduce dependence on diesel pumps to irrigate crops
- Plan to deploy greater numbers of electric vehicles (EVs).

However, in the face of growing uncertainties in the domestic market, the industry was hopeful for a few subsidies and incentives that could compensate for the increasing costs of project development in the country. But to the industry’s dismay, no specific incentives, subsidies or grants were announced.

**Uttar Pradesh (India) finalises its Solar Policy facilitating PV deployment in the state**
Source: itsmysun.com Date: December 2017

Uttar Pradesh works on its Solar Policy with final stages of work taking place in December 2017 and January 2018. Key highlights of the policy are following:

- Increase renewable installed capacity in the state to 10.7 GW by 2020 out of which 4.3 GW will come from rooftop solar.

Currently, the state is working towards launching a generous incentive scheme for rooftop solar PV. Subsidy would provide from INR 15 000/kW to INR 30 000/kWh per entire project. The amount would be disbursed
after effective installation, commissioning of the solar system and completing documentation to UPNEDA. The project should be completed within 6 months of the beginning of installation to avail the incentive from UPNEDA. Also, the incentive (solar subsidy) will be available only for first 100 MW installations on a first come, first serve basis.

Further highlights are:
- Uttar Pradesh Government sets an 8% Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) target to be met by 2022.
- Only solar PV installations larger than 10 kW will require previous approval from the State Electricity Inspector.
- Solar PV plants owners are permitted to sell power to individual or institutional consumers within and outside the state.
- The land ceiling of 5.058 hectares has been removed exclusively for setting up of solar power plants. Plus 100% exemption from stamp duty. Also, complete exemption from electricity duty for at least next 10 years.
- The private solar power generator will have the freedom to sell the power anywhere in the country and will get 100% waiver in transmission charges.

India expects to complete its electrification programme ahead of May 2018 target
Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com  Date: 29 January 2018

The Union government’s ambitious plan to complete rural electrification by May 1, 2018 is set to be achieved before target with the rural electrification corporation of India (REC) in the last leg of the scheme. The scheme was launched on August 15, 2015 for the electrification of 18 458 villages by May 1, 2018 in the country of which only 1 227 are left currently.

E100 bikes to roll out this month in India as part of push for cars to follow suit
Source: biofuelsdigest.com  Date: 25 January 2018

In India, the transportation minister announced two models of the long-awaited E100 bikes will debut by month’s end. The government is pushing for auto companies to offer flex-fuel engines and see the bikes as a first step toward demonstrating demand for high blend capacity vehicles. In Mumbai, E100 retails at about half the price of gasoline. With the new biofuel policy approved by the cabinet, the minister believes ethanol production can reasonably increase by 50%.

Indonesia to take US to WTO over biodiesel anti-dumping duties
Source: biofuelsdigest.com  Date: 5 February 2018

In Indonesia, the government has at last taken the decision to file a formal complaint against US anti-dumping duties on Indonesian biodiesel at the World Trade Organization after having been pushed up against a wall with a deadline to file by February 3. Anti-dumping duties in the US are almost as high as 65%. Angered by similar treatment and having sought to make a deal with the US by setting a floor price for its biodiesel exports but failing to reach a deal, Argentina is expected to follow Indonesia’s lead soon.

Bangladesh approves an E5 blending mandate
Source: biofuelsdigest.com  Date: 3 January 2018

In Bangladesh, the government has approved an E5 blending mandate in response to local demand for building ethanol production plants. A notice was published in the national gazette December 12 advising interested party to begin developing the plants but only crop waste feedstocks will be allowed under the new policy. Ethanol produced is to be sold directly to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation for blending and distribution. The local petroleum transportation association said it is concerned ethanol blending will boost fuel prices at the pump.
China

Shandong (China) cuts its coal consumption and promotes renewables
Source: energdata.net  Date: 30 January 2018

The eastern Chinese province of Shandong reduced its coal consumption by 6.6% in 2017, despite a 7.4% GDP growth in the province during the year, in line with its plan to replace the use of coal with renewable energy sources. This significant drop is the largest in 10 years. The province's renewable electricity generation increased by 30% in 2017 to 34.5 TWh.

The province is a major coal producing region in China and also the largest consuming region in China. It plans to halve its coal production, from 144 Mt in 2015 to 60 Mt by 2030 and reduce its coal consumption by 50 Mt by 2030.

China's Hebei province to cut coal use by 5 million tonnes in 2018 and is set to promote renewables
Source: reuters.com  Date: 27 January 2018

China’s northern Hebei province plans to reduce its annual coal consumption by 5 million tonnes this year by promoting the use of clean and renewable energy, reports Reuters.

The smog-plagued province has already cut coal consumption by 44 million tonnes between 2013 and 2017. In 2018, Hebei authorities will continue developing the province’s central heating system, and promote the use of gas and electricity for heating in rural areas as a substitute for coal. The province will support construction of low-carbon pilot cities and raise emission standards for its heavily polluting industries.

Eurasia

Wind industry petitions Medvedev to extend the support of wind power generation beyond 2024
Source: rawi.ru  Date: 9 January 2018

Investors in the Russian market have called on prime minister Dmitry Medvedev to extend the support of wind power generation until 2035. The list of investors that sent the petition to Medvedev included Russian technology giant Rusnano, which, together with Finnish developer Fortum, is developing around 1 GW of wind capacity in the country. Italian firm Enel, which won 291 MW of capacity in last year’s tender, is also a signatory. Until 2024, the development of wind projects in Russia will be supported by top-up payments from the wholesale energy market through power supply contracts.

Europe

European Parliament backs 35% renewables target by 2030 - an increase on the 27% target proposed by the European Energy Council and Commission
Source: windpowermonthly.com  Date: 17 January 2018

Further reading:
- Press release by the European Parliament available here;

MEPs are ready to negotiate binding targets with EU ministers to boost energy efficiency by 35% and the share of renewables in the total energy mix by 35%, by 2030.

Parliament endorsed committee proposals for binding EU-level targets of an 35% improvement in energy efficiency, a minimum 35% share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy, and a 12% share of energy from renewable sources in transport, by 2030. To meet these overall targets, EU member states are asked to set their own national targets, to be monitored and achieved in line with a draft law on the governance of the Energy Union.
### European Parliament passes law to cut CO2 emissions and fund low-carbon innovation

**Source:** europarl.europa.eu  **Date:** 6 February 2018

The European parliament (EP) has passed a new law to strengthen the European Union (EU) curbs on industrial CO2 emissions as per the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The new law provides for:

- an increase in the yearly reduction of emission allowances to be placed on the market (so-called “linear reduction factor”) by 2.2% from 2021, up from the 1.74% planned at present; this factor will also be kept under review with a view to increasing it further by 2024 at the earliest;

- a doubling of the ETS Market Stability Reserve’s capacity to mop up excess emission allowances on the market: when triggered, it would absorb up to 24% of excess allowances in each auctioning year, for the first four years, thus increasing their price and adding to the incentive to reduce emissions.

Two funds to help foster innovation and spur the transition to a low-carbon economy:
A modernisation fund will help to upgrade energy systems in lower-income EU member states. MEPs tightened up the financing rules so that the fund is not used for coal-fired projects, except for district heating in the poorest member states.

An innovation fund will provide financial support for renewable energy, carbon capture and storage and low-carbon innovation projects.

### Greece plans to auction 2.6 GW of renewable capacity over 2018-2020

**Source:** energycentral.com  **Date:** 30 January 2018

The Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) plans to tender a total capacity of 2 600 MW of wind and solar power capacity over the next two years in order to achieve its CO2 emissions reduction targets. The planned 2 600 MW capacity could be spread in 300 MW of wind and 300 MW of solar power annually both in 2018 and 2019.

Three auction categories could be established: for PV projects below 1 MW, the starting price would be set at USD 95/MWh; for PV projects between 1 and 10 MW, the starting price would be set at USD 85/MWh; wind energy projects ranging between 3 and 50 MW would have a starting price of USD 95/MWh. No date has been given so far but the next auction is currently expected to take place in early June 2018 and the second one for August 2018; the latter would include PV projects of more than 10 MW and wind power projects of over 50 MW.

### Polish Industry Launches 2025 Offshore Wind Programme

**Source:** offshorewind.biz  **Date:** 12 January 2018

Poland’s Foundation for Sustainable Energy (FNEZ) has, in cooperation with entities from the maritime industry, offshore energy, wind energy, steel industry and manufacturers of offshore constructions, ships, and cables, established a Memorandum of the Polish Offshore Energy Sector (PPPEM). The PPPEM (Porozumienie Polskiego Przemysłu Energetyki Morskiej) has gathered 40 entities, as an opportunity for creating an innovative, competitive and powerful Polish industry, according to FNEZ.

As part of the PPPEM, FNEZ has created and launched a programme called Baltic Energy for Poland 2025, aiming to advance Poland on its path to utilising its untapped offshore wind potential.

The FNEZ estimates that Polish Baltic Sea area has a potential of 8-10 GW of offshore wind capacity. So far, the projects that have so far come furthest in their development are the two offshore wind farms planned to be built by Polenergia: Bałtyk II and Bałtyk III, with the latter being in a more advanced stage.

The construction works on the 600 MW Polenergia Baltic Sea III (Polenergia Bałtyk III) are due to commence in 2019 at the earliest, and is expected to start delivering electricity to the grid in 2021 or 2022. The 600 MW Polenergia Baltic Sea II is anticipated to be operational in 2026. Both wind farms will feature 8 MW-10 MW wind turbines. When commissioned, the projects will be the first offshore wind projects online in Poland.

### France to study tidal zones ahead of tender launch

**Source:** tidalenergytoday.com  **Date:** 9 February 2018

[Further details on the French offshore wind projects and the study of tidal zones are not provided in the text snippet.]
French Secretary of State for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Sébastien Lecornu, has announced the launch of preliminary studies into the northern French tidal zones ahead of tender opening for the sector.

Speaking at the Colloque Annuel of Syndicat des Énergies Renouvelables (SER) on February 8, 2018, Lecornu revealed plans for preliminary studies into tidal zones in Brittany and Normandy set to start this year.

European industry body for ocean renewable energy, Ocean Energy Europe deemed the announcement as an important first step for the sector with a strong message that a tender for tidal energy could see France become the global center of tidal energy manufacturing.

Rémi Gruet, CEO of Ocean Energy Europe, welcomed the announcement and called for the launch of a tender for tidal energy as soon as possible. Gruet said: “The stage is set for France to become the powerhouse of a global tidal energy industry. It has one of the most powerful tidal resources in the world; it has world-leading tidal technology, and it has an existing offshore supply-chain ready for action.

“A tender for tidal energy will see the first manufacturing plants come to France, creating a strong domestic industry, with significant export opportunities globally”

**Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

**Iran plans to build a new 1.5 GW solar plant between Tehran and Qom**
Source: enerdata.net Date: 7 February 2018

The Iranian government and the Qom Province Electricity Distribution Company plan to develop a new 1 500 MW solar PV project, which would stretch through the centre of the country along the Tehran-Qom highway. No date has been submitted so far, but the utility also unveiled plans to support local residents, which would build rooftop solar and sign 20-year power purchase agreements (PPAs).

The country’s solar prices are decreasing and Iran is looking forward to adding at least 5 GW of renewable energies by 2020 and an additional 2.5 GW by 2030 to succeed in its energy transition.

**North and South Americas**

**US imposes safeguard tariffs on solar modules imports ranging from 30% to 15% for the next five years**
Source: pv-magazine.com Date: 23 January 2018

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer announced that President Trump has decided to impose safeguard tariffs on solar module and cell manufacturers for the next five years, starting at 30% and ending at 15% in Year 4.

The decision exempts 2.5 GW of cell imports per year, which could keep around 14 U.S. solar module manufacturers identified by pv magazine in business. No U.S. crystalline silicon solar manufacturing facility currently produces its own cells, with the exceptions of Panasonic (at the Tesla Gigafactory in Buffalo) and SolarWorld.

**Rhode Island (USA) to issue 400 MW renewable energy solicitation**
Source: pv-magazine-usa.com Date: 6 February 2018

Further reading:
- The Rhode Island announcement available [here](#);

Rhode Islands has a renewable target of reaching 1 GW of installed renewable capacity by 2020. To bring the State closer to meeting this target the Governor, Ms Raimondo, ordered utilities to form a 400 MW competitive solicitation of renewable energy. All sources of generation that comply with Rhode Island’s RES will be eligible, including solar, biomass, small hydro and land-based and offshore wind. No timeline for this task was given.
Biodiesel tax credit renewal makes US budget deal, but voting delayed
Source: biofuelsdigest.com Date: 8 February 2018

The budget compromise appears to be running into headwinds in the Senate, in the form of a voting delay imposed by Rand Paul of Kentucky, while opposition in the House from a group of Democrats and hard-line conservatives is putting the bill in a limited degree of jeopardy, at press time.

The budget deal includes a retroactive USD 1 per gallon biodiesel tax credit for 2017 – a credit which expired at the end of 2016 and which biodiesel advocates have been strenuously attempting to revive. And, the budget deal clears the deck for Congress to begin movement on a 2018 Farm Bill, and Agri-Pulse is reporting that a key compromise on cotton and dairy has put that bill back on track.

Chile to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2050
Source: bnamericas.com Date: 29 January 2018

Chile has pledged not to continue building coal-fired power plants unless they have carbon capture and storage technology, or the equivalent, according to dual statements from the energy ministry and electric power generators’ association Asociación de Generadoras.

The association agreed not to start developing any new coal-fired power generation projects without the relevant carbon reduction technology, despite the fact that coal currently accounts for around 40% of the national energy matrix.
Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

**South Africa’s ESKOM instructed to sign outstanding PPAs**

*Source: esi-africa.com*  
*Date: 5 February 2018*

South Africa’s minister of Public Enterprises, Lynne Brown, has given state-owned utility Eskom the go ahead to resume the signing of outstanding Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with renewable independent power producers (IPPs).

The PPAs have been kept on ice since 2016, resulting in an estimated ZAR 58 billion of stalled investment— an estimated 13 000 construction jobs lost and billions of Rands of local economic development spend foregone. The delay in government’s Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) was according to the utility, due to serious liquidity issues.

**IRENA and ADFD to fund USD 25 million PV projects in Mauritius and Rwanda**

*Source: pv-magazine.com*  
*Date: 15 January 2018*

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) have announced that two solar PV projects—one located in Mauritius and the other in Rwanda—will be receiving USD 25 million in concessional loans from ADFD, one in Mauritius and one in Rwanda.

**Ghana to launch rooftop solar program in 2018**

*Source: pv-magazine.com*  
*Date: 18 December 2017*

Ghana’s Minister of Information, Mustapha Abdul Hamid, has announced that the long-expected MDA Solar Rooftop Programme will be launched in 2018.

Through the rebate scheme, which was originally conceived in 2015 and planned to be launched in 2016, the Ghanaian government intends to install around 200 MW of rooftop solar capacity throughout the country. The program, which was redubbed “Government Goes Solar”, will ensure that government institutions switch to renewable energy to reduce Government’s expenditure on utilities.

Under the new rebate program, the applicant is required to pay only for the cost of the balance of system components (BOS). This means inverter, batteries, charge controllers, breakers, switches, cables, and installation works. PV systems installed under the program can sell their power surplus to the local grid through a net-metering scheme. No power limit has been set for PV projects to be eligible to have access to net-metering.

For more information on renewable energy legislation please go to:

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