RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable Policy Update
Prepared by Karolina Daszkiewicz

Based on the following sources:

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Jordan unveils who will participate in 300 MW solar, wind auction

Kazakhstan tenders 1 GW of renewable capacity

Ethiopia pre-qualified 12 developers in its Scaling Solar tender

Madagascar pre-qualified 6 developers in its Scaling Solar tender for 25 MW solar PV with storage project

Seychelles announces utility-scale floating solar tender

Zambia issues RFQ for 100 MW of solar under GET FiT programme

scheduled/future auctions

Greece to auction 2.6 GW of wind and solar PV in 2018

Italy to launch series of mixed wind-solar auctions totalling 4.8 GW

Denmark preps tender scheme for PV projects up to 1 MW

Turkey pre-selects sites for offshore wind projects to be tendered later in the year

Montenegro prepares for 200 MW solar tender

Peru to auction solar PV and other renewable projects in the second half of 2018

Cancelled auctions

India’s Gujarat’s 500 MW solar PV auction oversubscribed three times and then cancelled

Other renewable energy news

India: Solar project developers ask ministry to defer auctions

India adopts Scheme to Support Promotion of Biomass Based Cogeneration in Sugar Mills and Other Industries in the Country (up to March 2020)

India drops duty on solar modules

India announced the new Wind and Solar Hybrid Policy

India is working on various policy measures to support further growth

India plans to launch KUSUM program to solarize India’s agriculture sector

India plans demonstration offshore wind farm in Tamil Nadu

Uttar Pradesh releases draft EV Manufacturing Policy

India reached nearly 2 MW of installed capacity from solar micro-grids

Japan approves draft offshore wind plan

Vietnam raising environmental tax on petrol, affects biofuel

Thai B10 policy could be ready for early 2019

Bangladesh: World Bank Increases Support for rural electrification and renewable deployment

European Investment Bank loans IREDA EUR 150 million for further renewable energy deployment in India

China

China’s NEA will launch first spot electricity trading market

China’s NEA announced Renewable Electricity Quota and Assessment Method (draft)

Eurasia

Serbia plans to add around 250 MW renewable capacity by 2019 in efforts to reach its targets

Albania to fully liberalise power market by 2025

Albania plans to scrap VAT on imports of PV equipment

Uzbekistan signs first PPA with an independent power producer to build and operate 1 GW PV capacity
Europe

Danish government proposes to procure (through tender) 800 MW offshore wind farm
Poland is working on amending its Renewable Energy Law
Ireland announces 10% biofuel blending from 2019
UK doubles its biofuels targets in the updated UK RTFO
Netherlands distributed all available budget of EUR 6 billion in its autumn 2017 SDE+ programme round
Netherlands renewed SDE+ scheme
French Senate rejected proposal to renegotiate tariffs granted to offshore wind projects auctioned in 2012 and 2014
Vattenfall wins Dutch zero subsidy offshore wind tender
Turkey postpones wind power license applications by 2 years to 2020

North and South Americas

USA: EPA delivers proposed 2019 RFS volumes to White House
USA: California becomes first state to order solar on new homes
USA: Iowa legislature renews biofuels infrastructure program funding
USA: Connecticut has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for offshore wind projects
USA: New Jersey backs 3.5 GW by 2030
USA: Minnesota’s B20 mandate to comes into effect as of May 1

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

South Africa finally signs 27 outstanding renewable PPAs
Kenya cuts power tariffs for state-owned solar farm by half
Kenya considers to replace feed-in-tariffs with auction system for renewables
South Africa plans carbon tax as of January 2019
Renewable energy auctions and tenders

Concluded auctions

**India’s MSEDCL closes with lowest tariff of INR 2.71/kWh in its 1 GW PV auction**

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com  Date: 15 May 2018

The Maharashtra government appeared to be fifth time lucky with its solar auction of 1000 MW held on Monday. While earlier auctions called by the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (MSEDCL) for the same 1000 MW, starting from December last year, were repeatedly undersubscribed and thereafter re-tendered, this time it received bids from eight developers amounting to a total of 1450 MW.

The bids too matched those of the 750 MW auction held last week by NTPC. The tariffs were all in the range of INR 2.71-2.72/kWh, while those at the NTPC auction had been INR 2.72-2.73/kWh. Tariffs discovered in state auctions are usually higher than at those held by NTPC, since the latter’s sound financials – compared to those of most state utilities – call for lower financial risk.

Among the winners, the lowest bidders were Adani Green Energy’s special purpose vehicle Mahoba Solar (UP) Pvt Ltd which got 200 MW at INR 2.71/kWh and French developer Technique Solar which won 20 MW at the same price. The other winners, all of whom bid INR 2.72/kWh, were ReNew Solar Power which got 250 MW, Acme Solar Holdings which also got 250 MW, Tata Power Renewable Energy which won 150 MW and Azure Power India, which got the remaining 80 MW.

The capacity was auctioned in December 2017, later re-tendered in April 2018 and was oversubscribed by 450 MW.

**India’s NTPC 750 MW solar PV auction closes with the lowest tariff of INR 2.72/kWh**

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com  Date: 10 May 2018

Tariffs fell to INR 2.72-2.73/kWh in the 750 MW auction conducted by NTPC for projects at Ananthapuram Solar Park in Andhra Pradesh, a sizeable drop from previous auctions. But they were still well above the record-low solar price of INR 2.44/kWh reached at an auction held in May 2017.

The winners, each of whom got 250 MW, were Sprng Energy, the renewable energy platform of UK-headquartered private equity firm Actis LLP; Ayana Renewable Power, backed by the UK government’s development finance institution CDC; and SB Energy Solar, the joint venture of Japan’s SoftBank, Taiwan’s Foxconn and Bharti Airtel. While Sprng Energy sought a tariff of INR 2.72/kWh, Ayana and SB Energy both quoted INR 2.73/kWh.

The NTPC auction saw a total of 11 bidders who between them sought 4000 MW.

**India’s SECI 2 GW wind auction closes with lowest tariffs of INR 2.51/kWh**

Source: mercomindia.com  Date: 6 April 2018

In early February SECI launched auction for 2 GW onshore wind capacity. A SECI official confirmed to Mercom that the lowest (L1) tariff quoted by the bidders stood at INR 2.51 (0.0386)/kWh. In all, six bidders quoted the L1 tariff to win 1435 MW of project capacity. The tariffs quoted in the auction ranged between a high of INR 2.67/kWh and a low of INR 2.51/kWh.

Srijan Energy Systems was the L1 bidder to develop 250 MW. Sprng Energy, BLP Energy, Betam Energy, INOX Wind, and Adani Green Energy quoted a tariff of INR 2.5/kWh to develop 300 MW, 285 MW, 200 MW, 100 MW, and 300 MW respectively.

Mytrah Energy quoted a tariff of INR 2.52/kWh to develop 300 MW. ReNew Wind Energy (TN) Private Limited too quoted a tariff of INR 2.52/kWh to develop 300 MW but was awarded 265 MW.

Overall, out of the 2 GW tendered, SECI was able to auction 1435 MW at a tariff of INR 2.51/kWh. The L1 tariff quoted in this auction is 3.3 percent more than the lowest ever wind tariff of INR 2.43/kWh.

The letters of award (LoAs) will be issued soon, and power purchase agreements (PPAs) between successful
bidders and SECI will be signed two months after the award of LoA.

**India’s MSEDCL 500 MW wind auction closes with bids of INR 2.85/kWh**

Source: renewablesnow.com  
Date: 7 March 2018

A tender for 500 MW of grid-connected wind power capacity in the Indian state of Maharashtra (MSEDCL discom) has attracted bids ranging from INR 2.85/kWh to INR 2.87/kWh. Both Adani Green Energy and KCT Renewable Energy won 75 MW projects with a bid of INR 2.85/kWh. Three other companies won contracts for a cumulative 225.6 MW with bids of INR 2.86/kWh. Torrent Power secured 146 MW capacity with INR 2.87/kWh bid.

The auction was announced in December 2017 with results announced early March. The PPAs signing was scheduled shortly. Procured capacity will allow MSEDCL to meet its non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO).

**India’s KREDL undersubscribed 1.2 GW PV auction closes with winners for a cumulative capacity of 550 MW**

Source: mercomindia.com  
Date: 23 March 2018

KREDL 1.2 GW solar PV auction opened in January 2018 was undersubscribed with winners for 550 MW capacity announced in the end of March 2018 with the lowest tariff quoted at INR 2.91/MWh for 300 MW capacity by ReNew Power. Avaada Energy was allocated 150 MW for INR 2.92/MWh and Azure Power won contract for 100 MW locking the price at INR 2.93/MWh. The capacity was initially auctioned in January 2018.

The remaining 650 MW capacity was retendered on 10th of April 2018.

**India: West Bengal concluded auction for 5 MW of floating solar PV**

Source: mercomindia.com  
Date: 16 March 2018

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCL) has successfully auctioned a 5 MW, grid-connected floating solar photovoltaic (PV) project to be developed in the district of Murshidabad. Auction took place in February 2018. Auction was won by a Gurgaon-based company, International Coil Limited has won the contract.

Five companies participated in the auction, all placed bids for the entire project capacity. The bids ranged between INR 269.12 million and INR 475.48 million. International Coil Limited quoted the lowest tariff of INR 269.12 million.

The project will be developed on turnkey basis and must be completed within six months said the WBPDCL official when asked about project commissioning timeframe. When asked if any grant will be provided by WBPDCL for this project’s development, the WBPDCL official said, "No, there is no provision for any grant for this project.”
Germany announced results of its 2nd offshore wind auction for 1.6 GW capacity

Source: bundesnetzagentur.de  Date: 27 April 2018

Further reading:
- Additional information on offshore wind auctions available here:

On 27 April 2018 The German Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur or BNetzA) announced results of its second offshore wind power auction that took place on 1st of April 2018. According to the announcement 6 bids were selected ranging from EUR 0/MWh to EUR 98.3/MWh. The average winning bid stood at EUR 4.66/kWh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected company</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Price (EUR/MWh)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltic Eagle</td>
<td>Baltic Sea Cluster 2</td>
<td>Information not found</td>
<td>Information not found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iberdrola</td>
<td>Baltic Sea Cluster 1</td>
<td>325 MW - Ostsee Cluster-1</td>
<td>Information not found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innogy Kaskasi</td>
<td>North Sea Cluster 4</td>
<td>Information not found</td>
<td>Information not found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNK Wind</td>
<td>Baltic Sea Cluster 4</td>
<td>Information not found</td>
<td>Information not found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orsted</td>
<td>North Sea, Cluster 1</td>
<td>420 MW - Borkum Riffgrund West-1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>132 MW - Gode Wind-4</td>
<td>98.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Solar beats wind in Germany’s mixed tender with average win of EUR 46.7/MWh

Source: renewablesnow.com  Date: 12 April 2018

Germany’s first mixed tender for onshore wind and solar was won by solar projects only, with the average successful bid arriving at EUR 0.0467 (USD 0.058) per kWh.

Germany’s Federal Network Agency, or Bundesnetzagentur, said today the winning projects have a combined capacity of 210 MW. The lowest successful bid was of EUR 0.0396/kWh and the highest was of EUR 0.0576/kWh.

In a 200 MW solar-only tender completed in February, 24 projects won at an even lower average price of EUR 0.0433 per kWh.

The mixed wind and solar tender allowed photovoltaic (PV) projects on arable land and grassland in less-favoured areas in Baden-Wuerttemberg and Bavaria to compete. The list of winners includes 31 MW in Bavaria and 17 MW in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

In total, the tender targeted 200 MW and received proposals for 395 MW, including 18 onshore wind projects and 36 solar projects. The price offered by wind developers, however, was too high. The average quantity-weighted bid value for wind was EUR 0.0723 per kWh, while for solar it was EUR 0.0482/kWh. Wind’s competitiveness was hurt by rules related to grid limitations in certain parts of the country.

The Bundesnetzagentur has a wind-only tender scheduled for May 1 and a solar-only tender scheduled for June 1.

Tunisia announced winners of 70 MW solar PV auction

Source: energymines.gov.tn  Date: 3 Mai 2018

In Mai Tunisia announced winners of winners of a 60 MW solar PV capacity tender. Tunisian government awarded six 10 MW projects and four 1 MW projects, all of which received preliminary approval from the Ministry. No information on winning prices were found. Tender was lunch in summer 2017.

Armenia issues LoA for 55 MW solar project with a developer selected through auction process

Source: pv-tech.org  Date: 14 May 2018

Armenia’s Ministry of Energy Infrastructure and Natural Resources has issued a letter of award (LoA) to a consortium of Fotowatio Renewable Venture (FRV) and FSL Solar to help bring a 55 MW solar project closer to reality.

The Masrik-1 project, in Gegharkunik province, eastern Armenia, was the first competitively-tendered
independent power project in Armenia, according to the World Bank, which has supported the development. The FRV and FSL consortium won with a lowest tariff of USD 0.0419/kWh among five pre-qualified bidders back in April.

Plant is expected to be commissioned not later than by 2020. PPA contract will be granted for period of 20 years.

**Senegal achieves EUR cents 3.8/kWh tariff for 60 MW solar PV park through Scaling Solar auction**

Source: crse.sn Date: 8 April 2018

Senegal’s Electricity Sector Regulatory Commission (CRSE) has announced the winning bidder under the country’s Scaling Solar program.

In total, CRSE received 14 bids from 8 of the 13 qualified bidders for both locations. ENGIE/MERIDIAM was selected as the winner for both projects with a total capacity of 60 MW, based on the following energy prices:

- EUR cents 3.98/kWh (XOF 26.1/kWh) for the solar plant located in Touba;
- EUR cents 3.80/kWh (XOF 24.9/kWh) for the solar plant located in Kahone.

Last year Engie and Meridiam inaugurated a 30 MW project also in Senegal also within the Scaling Solar Programme.
**Opened auctions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India's SECI expands Uttar Pradesh floating PV auction from 100 MW to 150 MW</td>
<td>tcil-india-electrictender.com</td>
<td>17 April 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 16 March 2018 SECI issued a Request for Selection (RfS) for 100 MW of grid-connected floating solar PV capacity. This capacity was extended to 150 MW mid-April 2018. The capacity is to be commissioned in three 50 MW projects each in Rihand Dam, Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh under Global Competitive Bidding on BOOT (Build Own Operate Transfer) basis.

Selected developers will be granted 25-years long Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). The maximum tariff payable to the Project Developer is fixed at INR 3.5/ kWh for 25 years. Projects have to be commissioned within 12 months from the first valid day of the signed PPA agreement. Delays will be penalised. Document submission by interested parties is open until 31 May 2018.

Auction RFS number: SECI/C&P/SPD/RfS/150MW FLOATING/UP/032018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India issued 1 GW offshore wind call</td>
<td>offshorewind.biz</td>
<td>11 April 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

India’s National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has invited expressions of interest from suitable and experienced bidders for the development of a 1 GW commercial offshore wind farm off the coast of Gujarat.

NIWE welcomes expressions of interest from global entities which have installed offshore wind projects of more than 500 MW, as well as from Indian onshore wind manufacturers or power developers with a portfolio of 500 MW of onshore wind projects in India.

The local onshore wind manufacturers/developers must have ties with global offshore wind turbine original equipment manufacturers or global offshore wind companies which developed 500 MW of offshore wind power.

Interested entities must fulfil certain financial requirements, such as having an annual turnover of INR 500 crore (around EUR 62 million) or more in the last three fiscal years.

The final selection of the developer of the first offshore wind farm will be taken up through competitive bidding between shortlisted parties, NIWA said.

The proposed area covers around 400 square kilometres and is located some 23 kilometres off Pipavav port at Gulf of Khambhat. The FOWIND Consortium deployed a LiDAR on the site in November 2017.

Areas off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are the two identified areas for the development of offshore wind power. The second LiDAR is scheduled to be installed off Tamil Nadu coast by September 2018.

India plans to install at least 5GW of offshore wind capacity by 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India’s MSEDCL invites expression of interest for 1 GW of floating solar PV</td>
<td>mahadiscom.in</td>
<td>21 April 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 21st of April 2018 the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company (MSEDCL) issued an Expression of Interested to 1 GW of floating solar PV power plant on Ujjani Dam while not negatively impacting the ecology of the reservoir. Selected bidders will sign Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with MSEDCL for period of 25 years. Interested parties could submit their Expression of Interests documents until 21 April 2018.

Additional information on bidding conditions were not found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India’s NTPC auctions 2 GW of onshore wind capacity</td>
<td>ntpctender.com</td>
<td>13 March 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 13 March India’s National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) issued an auction notice for selection of developers for 2 GW of onshore wind capacity. The bid-submission deadline was set for 25th of April 2018.
The minimum bid capacity is 50 MW and the maximum bid capacity is 500 MW. This is a global tender, but limited liability partnership (LLP) companies are not eligible for participation.

The project must be designed for interconnection with the ISTS in accordance with prevailing Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regulations. ISTS connectivity and long-term access will be the responsibility of the successful bidders.

Selected projects will enter 25-year long PPA contracts with the NTPC. The wind power projects must be commissioned within 18 months from the effective date of the PPA. In case of delays financial penalties in a form of the bank guarantees realisation will take place.

India’s KREDL retenders 650 MW solar PV capacity in Pavagada Park

Source: kredlinfo.in        Date: 10 April 2018
Further reading:
  • Tender short-term notification is available here;
  • Additional bidding information is available here;

On 10th of April 2018 Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) issued a short-term re-tender notification for 650 MW of solar PV capacity to be commissioned in the Pavagada Solar Park. The re-tendered capacity was first opened for the bidding process in January 2018. Interested parties could submit their documents until 21 of April. Bidding was to take place in May 2018.

The maximum allowed bidding price was capped at INR 2.93/kWh.

India’s Odisha auctions 200 MW grid-connected PV capacity

Source: gridco.co.in        Date: 29 March 2018
Further reading:
  • Tender specification is available here;

On 29th of March 2018 Grid Cooperation of Odisha (GRIDCO) issued Request for Selection (RfS) for 200 MW grid-connected solar PV capacity to be commissioned in the state of Odisha. The submission of required documents was extended to 31 May 2018. Selected projects will sign 25-years Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with GRIDCO. At the time of bidding, projects cannot benefit from any form of fiscal incentives and other governmental support forms.

Bidders can bid for projects no less than 10 MW and not larger than 100 MW capacity.

The responsibility of securing the grid connection relies entirely on the selected bidder. The grid connection should be secured maximum after 9 months from signing Letter of Intent (LoI) and costs of transmission including cost of construction and maintenance of line shall be borne by the developer. Financial closure of the project should also be secured after 9 months from the moment LoI was issued. Selected projects must be commissioned within 18 months from signing necessary documents with GRIDCO, otherwise appropriate penalties will be applied. Winning projects will be selected on the basis of the lowest bid. No maximum bidding tariff was disclosed for this auction.

RFS Number: GRIDCO/Odisha/200 MW/Solar/01
India's Andhra Pradesh tenders 4 MW of grid-connected rooftop solar projects
Source: mercomindia.com  Date: 16 March 2018

The Southern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh Limited (APSPDCL) has tendered 4 MW of grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) projects to be developed in Tirupati and Vijaywada. The bid-submission deadline is 7 April 2018.

The projects will be developed on turnkey basis and the scope of work includes the design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of the grid-connected rooftop solar PV projects. The successful bidders will provide the operation and maintenance (O&M) services for a period of five years and will also be responsible for the material warranty for five years.

According to the tender, the modules should be manufactured in India only. Rest of the components can be procured from any source.

APSPDCL has fixed the upper tariff ceiling at INR 0.07 million (~USD 1,076)/kW for this tender.

Both Tirupati and Vijaywada will get 2 MW of grid-connected rooftop solar PV projects each. Metering and grid connectivity of the rooftop solar PV systems will be the responsibility of the successful bidders. APSPDCL will provide the bi-directional meters for the installation at project sites.

The project completion timeframe is nine months from the date of issue of letter of award (LoA). According to APSPDCL, a single bidder will be awarded a maximum 1 MW. In case the lowest bidder (L1) has bid for more than 1 MW, and no other bidder is willing to match L1 price, then the remaining capacity will be awarded to the L1 bidder.

A single bidder can only bid for one package, either Tirupati or Vijaywada.

If the bidder fails to commission the project within nine months, a penalty on per day basis calculated for the performance security on a three month period would be levied by APSPDCL.

After the three months, the contract will be cancelled and the performance bank guarantee pertaining to the non-commissioned capacity will be forfeited by APSPDCL.

India's SECI tenders 100 MW of grid-connected floating solar PV projects
Source: mercomindia.com  Date: 17 March 2018

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has tendered 100 MW of grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) projects to be developed in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The projects will be developed on the Rihand Dam, also known as Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar Reservoir, located in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. The capacity consists of two 50 MW grid-connected floating solar PV projects. The scope of work includes the design, engineering, procurement, supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of the grid-connected, floating solar PV project.

A single bidder must bid for at least 50 MW and they also can bid for the entire capacity tendered (100 MW).

The bid submission deadline will be announced around 26 of March.
India’s SECI auctions 3 GW grid connected solar PV projects
Source: http://seci.co.in Date: 27 February 2018

On 27 February SECI issued Request for Selection (RfS) document for 3 GW solar PV ISTS-connected projects in 12 projects of 250 MW each. Selected developers will enter 25-year long Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with SECI. The maximum tariff payable to the Project Developer is fixed at INR 2.93/ kWh for 25 years. At the time of auction procedures projects must not benefit from any tax benefits, grants or other governmental support.

Bidders selected by SECI based on this RfS shall submit Performance Bank Guarantee for a value of INR 20 Lakh/ MW within 30 days of issuance of Letter of Intent (LoI) or before signing of PPA, whichever is earlier.

Selected projects shall achieve financial closure seven months after signing the PPA. The projects shall be fully commissioned within 15 months of the effective date of the PPA. Delays will be punished by financial penalised, tariff reduction or capacity reduction or annulment depending on the length of the delay.

The auction was scheduled to take place on 27 April 2018. The results were not yet announced.

Auction RFS number: SECI-2018-TN000011

Brazil: Over 1000 RE projects (nearly 30 GW capacity) registered for the upcoming A-6 August auction
Source: epe.gov.br Date: 8 May 2018

The Brazilian Energy Research Office announced in early May a list of successfully registered projects allowed participating in the August 2018 auction. Over 1000 renewable energy projects were registered representing in total 29.4 GW capacity. Onshore wind dominated the registry with 926 projects being enlisted, representing 27 GW capacity. Both fossil and renewable technologies were invited to participate with 36 natural gas projects being registered, amounting to 27.6 GW capacity.

Selected projects through the competitive auction will be awarded 20-year PPAs for onshore wind projects, 30-year PPAs for hydropower projects and 25-year PPAs for all other technologies. Winning projects will be obliged to start operation no later than 1st of January 2024.

Further information on the technologies registered to participate in the auction are as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Number of projects registered</th>
<th>Capacity (MW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>27058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large hydropower stations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small hydropower stations</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro hydropower stations</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1080</strong></td>
<td><strong>57959</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Mexico launched 4th long-term power auction**

Source: BNAmericas  
Date: 16 March 2018

Further reading:  
- CENACE auction documents available [here](#);

Mexico's government has kicked off a fourth long-term power auction, the first that energy regulator CRE will manage after the energy ministry handled the previous processes in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The watchdog and national energy control authority CENACE will publish bidding rules for the 15-20 year contracts on March 28. Prequalification requests are due in August and offers in October with awarding scheduled for November and signing in February 2019. Commercial operations under the contracts are due to start January 1, 2021.

Sixteen projects were awarded in the country's third long-term power auction, which produced record low prices of USD 20.57/MWh, or 30% below those in the second auction.

**Tunisia launches calls for 500 MW solar and 500 MW wind capacity**

Source: renewablesnow.com  
Date: 14 May 2018

Additional information:  
- Call for 500 MW solar PV projects available [here](#);  
- Call for 500 onshore wind projects available [here](#);

The Tunisian Ministry of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies has launched two tenders, one for 500 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) power plants and one for 500 MW of wind farms. The ministry on Friday published calls for pre-qualification applications. Bidders will later compete to carry out the projects on build, own, operate (BOO) basis.

The solar tender is for five projects - 50 MW in the governorate of Tozeur, 50 MW in the governorate of Sidi Bouzid, 100 MW in the governorate of Kairouan, 100 MW in Gafsa governorate and 200 MW in Tataouine governorate.

The wind tender covers three projects - 200 MW at Jbel Abderrahmane in Nabeul governorate, 100 MW at Jbel Tbagu in the governorate of Kebili, and 200 MW of capacity at sites proposed by the developers. The sites for the former two projects are provided by the state.

The government has indicated that the solar and wind tenders are upcoming.

Earlier in May, Tunisia authorised 10 PV projects, six of 10 MW and four of 1 MW, as part of the first round of tenders, launched last year.

**Lebanon tenders 300 MW PV project with storage**

Source: lcec.org.lb  
Date: 13 March 2018

Lebanon’s Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC) issued an expression of interest (EoI) for the construction of 300 MW PV project with storage system in Lebanon. According to the EoI document, Lebanon is seeking construction of a total of three solar PV farms with battery energy storage adding up to 210 MW – 300 MW at various locations throughout the country to be commissioned by the end of 2019.

In each project, the minimum power capacity of one given Solar PV farm is 70 MW and the maximum power capacity is 100 MW with Battery Energy Storage of minimum of 70 MW power with a minimum of 70 MWh of storage capacity, regardless of the Solar PV sizing.

Lebanon has national target of 12% of the total electricity and thermal supply by 2020.
Bahrain issues tender for solar IPP project at landfill site
Source: pv-magazine.com Date: 13 March 2018
Further reading:
  • Bahrain’s solar PV tender details available here;

Bahrain’s Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) has issued a Request for Concept (RFC) to selected developers for the construction of an IPP solar power project at the Askar landfill site, in the Southern Governate of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Interested independent power producers will have to submit their concept proposals by April 11, 2018.

According to recent research published in November by the University of Bahrain, the Askar landfill site reached its end use capacity in 2016. However, at the time, it was still operating and receiving municipal waste. According to the website Ecomena, the proximity of the Askar landfill to urban habitats has been a cause of major environmental concern.

Jordan unveils who will participate in 300 MW solar, wind auction
Source: pv-magazine.com Date: 12 March 2018

In an interview with Bloomberg, Jordan’s Minister of Energy, Saleh Kharabsheh said 45 companies have been selected to bid for six solar and wind projects totalling 300 MW.

Overall, four solar PV plants worth 200 MW will be developed. The government has selected 31 companies to compete for these, including Linuo Group, FRV Solar Holdings, ACWA Power, Chint Solar, Total Solar and TBEA Xinjiang Sunoasis, said Kharabsheh. He added that the companies will submit financial and technical details of their bids by the end of March.

Kazakhstan tenders 1 GW of renewable capacity
Source: pv-magazine.com Date: 9 March 2018

The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan has issued a series of tenders for the 1 GW of renewable energy power generation capacity it announced in late January.

According to the ministry’s statement, through the specific auctions for solar energy projects, around 290 MW are planned to be allocated, while the volume expected to be deployed through the tender for wind power is estimated at 620 MW. Another two tenders for hydroelectric and biomass projects are expected to assign 75 MW and 15 MW of capacity, respectively.

A specific auction to allocate 10 MW of solar in the country’s North and West zones will be held on May, 28, 2018; while two more auctions to assign 20 and 50 MW, respectively in the South Zones, will be held on June 6 and 7.

An auction for further 30 MW of solar in the West Zones is planned for August 8, while two more auctions for the same regions, allocating 30 MW and 150 MW, respectively, are scheduled for October 17 and 18.

Several large-scale PV projects are currently being developed in Kazakhstan, all of which are potential candidates to participate in announced auctions.
Ethiopia pre-qualified 12 developers in its Scaling Solar tender
Source: scalingsolar.org Date: 23 March 2018

On 23 of March 2018 names of twelve pre-qualified solar PV developers where announced in the Ethiopian Scaling Solar tender. From 28 submitted application twelve successfully went through the pre-qualification phase and are invited to submit their bids in the second stage if the tender:

1. Access | Total Eren Consortium
2. Acciona | Swicorp Consortium
3. Actis | Mulilo Consortium
4. Acwa Power
5. Al-Nowais | Aldwych | Alten Consortium
6. EDF | Masdar Consortium
7. Enel Green Power
8. FRV | Globeleq | Belayab Consortium
9. KoSPCo | KEPCO Consortium
10. Mitsui
11. Nareva | Adani Consortium
12. Scatec Solar

The above developers will receive a formal invite to access the project’s data room to submit their final proposal for the two solar photovoltaic projects, each with a capacity of up to 125MWac. The winning bidders will be selected primarily on the basis of the lowest proposed tariff.

The Ethiopian tender represents the fifth Scaling Solar tender in Africa to date, with two rounds initiated in Zambia, one in Senegal and one in Madagascar. No information on when the winner of the tender will be announced.

Ethiopia issued its request for proposal (RfP) in October 2017.

Madagascar pre-qualified 6 developers in its Scaling Solar tender for 25 MW solar PV with storage project
Source: scalingsolar.org Date: 28 February 2018

On February 28, 2018, Madagascar’s Ministry of Water, Energy and Hydrocarbons (MEEH) announced the list of pre-qualified bidders for the country’s Scaling Solar tender. The following six developers have been declared pre-qualified for the tender:

1. Acciona Energía SAU
2. Al Nowais Investments LLC / Aldwych Power Holdings Ltd
3. Globeleq Africa Holdings Ltd
4. GreenYellow SAS / Omnicane Ltd
5. Mulilo Group Holdings (Pty) Ltd / Voltalia SA
6. Ormat Technologies, Inc.

The pre-qualified developers will receive a formal invite to access the project’s data room and to submit their final proposals for the 25 MWac solar photovoltaic project located near the island nation’s capital of Antananarivo.

The winning bidders will be selected based on the lowest proposed tariff.

The Madagascar tender represents the fourth Scaling Solar tender in Africa to date. Other Scaling Solar tenders are also underway in Senegal and Ethiopia, with a second round also underway in Zambia. Madagascar represents the first Scaling Solar project to be tendered that includes battery storage requirements in addition to solar PV generation.

Madagascar issued its request for proposal (RfP) in October 2017.
Seychelles announces utility-scale floating solar tender
Source: pv-magazine.com Date: 9 April 2018

The Government of the Republic of the Seychelles (GRS) is gearing up to launch a tender for a 4 MW floating solar PV plant, to be installed in the Lagoon le Rocher, a shallow body of water separated from the sea by the Providence Industrial Estate, on Mahé Island, and located 4 km from the Seychelles International Airport.

The tender, set to be launched on April 26, will take the form of a sealed-bid, reverse auction with a separate prequalification stage. The successful bidder will be granted exclusive right to develop, finance, own and operate the project for a period of 20 years.

The Seychelles Energy Commission (SEC) is hosting the tender, with support from the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) of the African Development Bank and the Clinton Foundation. Trinity International and Multiconsult are serving as the transaction and tender advisors.

The Public Utility Corporation (PUC) will be the eventual off-taker of generated solar energy from the project, which will be awarded to the successful bidder for a period of 20 years.

Zambia issues RfQ for 100 MW of solar under GET FiT programme
Source: pv-tech.org Date: 10 April 2018

The government of Zambia has issued a Request for Qualification (RfQ) for up to 100 MW of solar under the first round of the GET FiT Zambia programme.

German development bank KfW, which is representing the Zambian government, is implementing the tender on behalf of the Ministry of Energy.

The capacity will become available via a reverse bid, competitive auction process. The maximum project size will be 20MW and each applicant can apply for up to two projects.

A maximum of 20 projects and bidders will be shortlisted and invited to submit full technical and financial Bids during a Request for Proposal (RfP) stage.

In December 2017, GET FiT Zambia became the official implementation programme for the Zambian Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT) Strategy, which was formally launched by the Ministry of Energy in October 2017.

The programme offers a standardized set of bankable legal documents, risk mitigation, procurement and financing support as well as technical assistance solar PV grid integration. Along with KfW, other key partners in the development of the programme included state-owned utility ZESCO and the Energy Regulation Board.

Scheduled/future auctions

Greece to auction 2.6 GW of wind and solar PV in 2018
Source: bloomberg.com Date: 30 April 2018

Greece is preparing to auction 2.6 GW of solar and wind projects to attract investment and beef up the Mediterranean country’s clean-energy credentials.

“From now on renewable energy production and prices will be determined by competitive tender process,” said Energy Minister George Stathakis. The “move should encourage investments in renewable energy of EUR 2.5 billion to EUR 3 billion, especially in wind.”

The government published the final rules for its first competitive tenders, which outline the timeline and size of the projects that will awarded. The first tender will be held July 2 and will hand out permits to build 300 MW of wind power and 300 MW of solar photovoltaics. The shift to auctions from feed-in-tariffs follows a move most renewable markets have made.
**Italy to launch series of mixed wind-solar auctions totalling 4.8 GW**

*Source: pv-magazine.com  Date: 12 March 2018*

New auctions for wind and solar projects exceeding 1 MW in size will be part of a new incentive scheme for renewable energy for the period 2018-2020, which is now under review by local authorities. In the first auction, planned for November, around 500 MW of wind and solar projects over 1 MW are expected to be assigned. The incentive scheme will also support solar and renewables up to 1 MW through specific tenders.

According to the draft decree, to which PV Magazine gained access, the first auction for large-scale solar and wind is expected to be held this coming November, and will assign around 500 MW of capacity.

Three similar auctions are set to be held in 2019, in March (500 MW), July (700 MW) and November (700 MW); while another three auctions are planned for 2020, in March (700 MW), July (800 MW) and November (800 MW).

Overall, through the mixed auctions for wind and solar over 1 MW, around 4.8 GW are expected to be allocated in Italy in the period 2018-2020, while other power projects over 1 MW, relying on different renewable energy technologies, are expected to see a total share of just 245 MW, which will be assigned in separate auctions.

Furthermore, MISE is planning to tender 490 MW for existing renewable energy power plants that will be partially or entirely retrofitted, provided these plants have surpassed at least two thirds of their life-cycle, and are not currently receiving incentives.

**Denmark preps tender scheme for PV projects up to 1 MW**

*Source: pv-magazine.com  Date: 14 March 2018*

The Danish Energy Agency (Energistyrelsen) is planning to hold a tender of price premiums for electricity from solar PV with an installed capacity of less than 1 MW in 2018. The tender scheme, which is now under public consultation, will have a total budget of 105 million DKK (around $17.4 million).

According to the draft document showing the conditions for the tender procedure, the competition will be open to projects where work has not yet started, while solar PV installations grid-connected in self-consumption systems will be excluded. The premium tariff granted through the tender will have a validity of 20 years. Price premiums, however, will not be granted for production during hours when the spot price for electricity is not positive, the agency stressed in the document. Winning developers will have to complete the project within two years after signing the PPA.

**Turkey pre-selects sites for offshore wind projects to be tendered later in the year**

*Source: renews.biz  Date: 26 March 2018*

Turkey has revealed details of possible sites for its first offshore wind farm, a tender for which will be held later this year, according to local media.

A report said that sites at the Saros gulf off the coast of Gelibolu in the Canakkale region of the country and offshore of Kiyikoy in the north-western Marmara province of Tekirdag have been identified as potential locations for the country's first offshore project.

Turkey’s Renewable Energy Directorate is carrying out feasibility studies of the three areas to decide which one provides to best opportunities for the wind farm, the report added. Once a final decision on the area has been made, the tender details will be drawn up, the report said.
Montenegro prepares for 200 MW solar tender
Source: pv-magazine.com Date: 11 May 2018

As a first step towards executing a 200 MW solar tender, the Montenegrin government has planned a public invitation to lease land owned by the state at the Briska Gora – Ulcinj Municipality, where the array is planned. Montenegro’s Ministry of Economy announced that it will launch a tender for the construction of a 200 MW solar park in the municipality of Briska Gora, in the Ulcinji district, in the southernmost part of the country.

As a first step for the tender, the ministry is planning to call a public invitation to lease land owned by the state in the area. The selected project, the ministry said in its press release, is expected to sell power to the local grid through a long-term PPA. “This will avoid the possibility of taking over the risk from the state in terms of the impact on the increase in electricity prices for consumers in Montenegro,” the government added.

Peru to auction solar PV and other renewable projects in the second half of 2018
Source: pv-magazine-latam.com Date: 16 March 2018

In an interview with PV Magazine, president of the Peruvian Society of Renewable Energies, Juan Coronado, spoke about the auction for solar and renewables that the government is obliged to convene this year, and the different options that the site has large scale to resume its path in the Andean country. According to him, when some obstacles that are currently limiting contracting between private parties are eliminated, large photovoltaic projects could also start out of the auction mechanism.

Cancelled auctions

India’s Gujarat’s 500 MW solar PV auction oversubscribed three times and then cancelled
Source: mercomindia.com Date: 22 March 2018
Additional reading:
- Mercom India on the announcement of winners (22.03.2018) available here;
- Economic Times of India on auction cancellation (18.04.2018) available here;

Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL)’s March 2018 500 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) tender has been oversubscribed by over three times. In total, auction attracted technical bids for 1.6 GW of capacity. Capacity was awarded to Kalthia Engineering (50 MW), Gujarat State Electricity Corporation (150 MW), Acme (100 MW) and Azure Power (200 MW). Winning bids ranged between INR 2.98/kWh and INR 3.06/kWh. The auction was cancelled as prices were judged to be “on the higher end” as they were higher than prices achieved in September 2017 auction when they had ranged between INR 2.67/kWh and INR 2.69/kWh.

A number of factors are responsible for the tariffs going up, including the rising cost of imported solar panels and modules, as well as the threat of safeguard duty and antidumping duty being imposed on such equipment. Around 90% of solar equipment used in Indian projects is imported, mainly because local manufacturers cannot compete on either volume or price.

It is likely that the capacity will be re-auctioned however timeline for this was not released.
Other renewable energy news

India: Solar project developers ask ministry to defer auctions
Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com    Date: 13 May 2018

Solar project developers have urged the ministry of new and renewable energy to postpone auctions, which NTPC and the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) have scheduled for the next few weeks, until transmission issues are sorted out.

Developers are worried as final rules relating to grant of connectivity to the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) as well as the regulations for General Network Access for renewable energy projects have not yet been announced, causing uncertainty over grid connectivity for the projects.

India adopts Scheme to Support Promotion of Biomass Based Cogeneration in Sugar Mills and Other Industries in the Country (up to March 2020)
Source: mnre.gov.in    Date: 11 May 2018

On 11 of May 2018 the government of India adopted the Scheme to Support Promotion Of Biomass Based Cogeneration In Sugar Mills And Other Industries In The Country (Up To March 2020). The programme will provide a Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for projects utilizing biomass like bagasse, agro-based industrial residue, crop residues, wood produced through energy plantations, weeds, wood waste produced in industrial operations, etc. Municipal Solid Waste is not covered under the programme.

Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will be provided at the rate of Rs.25 Lakh/MW (for bagasse cogeneration projects) and Rs.50 Lakh/MW (Nonbagasse Cogeneration projects) under the scheme. The CFA will be back-ended and will be released in one instalment after successful commissioning and commencement of commercial generation and performance testing of the plant. The CFA will be released to the term loan account to reduce the loan component of the promoter.

India drops duty on solar modules
Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com    Date: 10 May 2018

India has scrapped a duty on solar modules, making it easier to import the products after a sudden change in customs policy last year led to a logjam of shipments at Indian ports.

Several consignments of solar modules, worth more than USD 150 million in total, were held up for more than three months at ports after Indian customs' officials in August demanded that some of them be classified as "electric motors and generators", carrying a 7.5% import duty. Previously they were subject to no duty.

The finance ministry reversed the policy last month, stating in a notice seen by Reuters that most solar modules should revert to their original classification and that no tax should be levied on them.

India announced the new Wind and Solar Hybrid Policy
Source: pib.nic.in    Date: 16 May 2018

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy on 14 May 2018. The objective of the policy is to provide a framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land. It also aims at reducing the variability in renewable power generation and achieving better grid stability.

On technology front the Policy provides for integration of both the energy sources i.e. wind and solar at AC as well as DC level. The Policy also provides for flexibility in share of wind and solar components in hybrid project, subject to the condition that, rated power capacity of one resource be at least 25% of the rated power capacity of other resource for it to be recognised hybrid project.

The Policy seeks to promote new hybrid projects as well as hybridisation of existing wind/solar projects. The existing wind/solar projects can be hybridised with higher transmission capacity than the sanctioned one, subject to availability of margin in the existing transmission capacity.

The Policy provides for procurement of power from a hybrid project on tariff based transparent bidding
process for which Government entities may invite bids. Policy also permits use of battery storage in the hybrid project for optimising the output and further reduces the variability. It mandates the regulatory authorities to formulate necessary standards and regulations for wind-solar hybrid systems.

With significant capacity additions in renewables in recent years and with Hybrid Policy aiming at better utilisation of resources, it is envisaged that the Hybrid Policy will open-up a new area for availability of renewable power at competitive prices along with reduced variability. A scheme for new hybrid projects under the policy is also expected shortly.

(Press Release ID: 179270)

**India is working on various policy measures to support further growth**

Source: pib.nic.in  Date: 16 March 2018

The Government of India is currently working on various policy measures to support further growth of solar PV in the country, as it was stated in the press release (ID: 177515) issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on 15th of March 2018.

The government is working on the following list of supportive measures:

1. Provision of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) under the National Tariff Policy;  
2. Notification of the long term growth trajectory of RPO for solar and non-solar energy for next 3 years from 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19;  
4. Development of power transmission network through Green Energy Corridor project;  
5. Making roof top solar as a part of housing loan provided by banks;  
6. Waiver of Inter-State Transmission Charges and losses;  
7. Repowering of Wind Power Projects for optimal utilization of wind resources;  
8. Offshore wind energy policy for development of offshore wind energy in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone;  
9. Supporting research and development on various aspects of renewable energy including with industry participation;  
10. Financial incentives for off-grid and decentralized renewable energy systems and devices for meeting energy needs for cooking, lighting and productive purposes; and  
11. Permitting 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment in sector through automatic route.

India has target of 175 GW renewable capacity to be reached by 2022. As of 28 of February 2018, a total installed capacity in India reached 65 GW. Government of India takes various efforts to speed up the deployment of renewables in order to reach its established target within a set timeframe.

**India plans to launch KUSUM program to solarize India’s agriculture sector**

Source: pib.nic.in  Date: 16 March 2018

The Government of India is preparing to launch the *Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan* (KUSUM) program with an aim to solarize the agricultural sector using solar-powered water pumps and provide solar-powered electricity to rural areas, announced in the press release (ID: 177489) by the MNRE on 14th of March 2018.

The press release states that the government is working on formulating the program. It is expected that the program will support off-grid and on-grid installations. Grid-connected projects of up to 2 MW will be eligible for the support. Surplus of power generated will be allowed to be fed back to grid in exchange for the additional remuneration.

Solar off-grid applications as water pumps for irrigation and other agricultural purposes will be also supported.
### India plans demonstration offshore wind farm in Tamil Nadu

**Source:** offshorewind.biz  
**Date:** 19 March 2018  

India’s Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will install four to five 6 MW offshore wind turbines at Arichamunai in the state of Tamil Nadu, according to The Hindu. The wind turbines will be set up as a demonstration facility and the investment to build the project and put it into operation would cost around INR 300 crore (approx. EUR 37.4 million).

### Uttar Pradesh releases draft EV Manufacturing Policy

**Source:** niveshmitra.up.nic.in  
**Date:** March 2018  

Uttar Pradesh is currently working on its EV Manufacturing Policy releasing in March 2018 its draft version. Uttar Pradesh aims to reap benefits of the growing EV market by attracting investments in the EV battery manufacturing & assembling capacity as well as in the development of charging stations for the EV machines in the state by putting in place various incentives and concessions. The Policy is in line with India’s National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) and The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles Scheme (FAME Scheme) launched in 2015.

Among others, the policy outlines details of capital interest, infrastructure interest, industrial research subsidies, electricity duty exemption and various tax waivers or reductions for manufacturers and users of both passenger and public transportation vehicles.

The secondary market for battery production will be battery equipment for growing PV installations for commercial and residential applications.

When adopted, the policy will come into effect on the date of its notification and will remain in force for the period of 5 years.

### India reached nearly 2 MW of installed capacity from solar micro-grids

**Source:** pib.nic.in  
**Date:** 16 March 2018  

Under the Solar Off-grid and Decentralized Applications Programme, so far 63 solar micro-grids of 1899 kW aggregated capacity have been reported to be installed in India with financial support from the MNRE. The Ministry provides financial support for up to 30% of the cost of micro and mini-grids systems to be installed in rural areas.

(Press Release ID: 175300)

### Japan approves draft offshore wind plan

**Source:** windpoweroffshore.com  
**Date:** 16 March 2018  

A draft bill, light on specific details, for encouraging marine renewable energy was passed by the Japanese Cabinet this month. The prime minister would be required to prepare a basic policy regarding offshore wind, and the government would launch a consultation on the plan, according to the bill.

After guidelines are drawn up, project operators could apply to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) for leases of up-to 30 years, according to the bill. This 30-year "occupation" would include a project’s construction and decommissioning phases, as well as its time in operation, the Japanese Wind Power Association (JWPA) said.

The ministries would then select "the most appropriate plan", and successful bidders would apply for feed-in tariff certification. The JWPA initially requested the government to draft a new law for offshore wind in December 2017.
**Vietnam raising environmental tax on petrol, affects biofuel**

Source: biofuelsdigest.com  Date: 29 April 2018

In Vietnam, the Ministry of Finance’s amendment to the Environment Protection Tax Law is drawing protests from biofuel producers as it impacts E5. Starting in July, every liter of petrol will be charged an additional VND 1000 in environmental tax.

Tran The Truyen, CEO of Saigon Petro, told VietNamNet Bridge, that if the tax rates are raised as planned by MOF, the price will be only be a little higher than E5 petrol, about VND200 per liter. The modest gap will prompt people to turn their backs to bio-petrol. Truyen suggested applying a lower tax rate on E5 to help encourage the use of biofuel, stressing that most E5 users are low-income earners who need protection.

According to VietNamNet Bridge, “MOF doesn’t think this idea is reasonable. It has rejected the idea of applying preferential tax rates on petrol and oil products meeting Euro 4 and higher standards.”

**Thai B10 policy could be ready for early 2019**

Source: biofuelsdigest.com  Date: 19 March 2018

In Thailand, the Bangkok Post reports that the government plans to implement a B10 mandate by early 2019, up from the B7 policy currently in place, in order to help absorb 43% of the palm oil glut on the domestic market that is weighing on prices. The Department of Energy Business launched a B10 trial in locomotives on a 30km stretch, that on top of PTT’s previous B10 road trial, is meant to demonstrate to the public the fuel’s viability and that it won’t cause problems to their vehicles.

**Bangladesh: World Bank Increases Support for rural electrification and renewable deployment**

Source: worldbank.org  Date: 10 April 2018

The World Bank approved USD 55 million to expand use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily.

The additional financing to the Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project will install 1,000 solar irrigation pumps, 30 solar mini-grids, and about 4 million improved cookstoves in rural areas. The project, including the additional financing, will enable about 10 million people living in villages, shoals, and islands to access electricity and use energy efficient cookstoves. These interventions will help the country reduce carbon emissions.

**European Investment Bank loans IREDA EUR 150 million for further renewable energy deployment in India**

Source: EIB  Date: 10 March 2018

Ahead of the International Solar Alliance summit in New Delhi the President of the European Investment Bank today signed a new EUR 150 million long-term loan with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) to support renewable energy investment across India. More than 1.1 million Indian households expected to benefit from clean energy produced by renewable energy schemes financed by the new initiative.

The new EUR 150 million EIB credit line will support EUR 500 million of renewable investment and support construction of both new photovoltaic solar power schemes and on-shore wind farms at sites across the country.
China's NEA will launch first spot electricity trading market
Source: enerdatalnet Date: 24 April 2018

The Chinese National Energy Administration (NEA) will launch the first domestic real-time spot electricity trading markets in eight Chinese regions - namely Inner Mongolia, Zhejiang, Shanxi, Shandong, Fujian, Sichuan, Guangdong and Gansu - in a move to speed up the liberalization of power prices currently set by the government. This announcement comes after these regions launched power markets in 2017 for both monthly and quarterly prices. The timeline was not given but the scheme is likely to be introduced by the end of 2018.

The new trading platforms will set new prices for the cash market along with those for a day ahead, which will in turn allow power generation and distribution companies to trade electricity in real time. According to the NEA, the total combined power generation of these eight regions reached 2,600 TWh in 2017, i.e. 42% of the country's total.

Key players in the market are expected to be the Chinese major utilities such as China Huadian Corp, China Datang Group, China State Grid Corp and China Three Gorges Corporation.

China's NEA announced Renewable Electricity Quota and Assessment Method (draft)
Source: nea.gov.cn Date: 23 March 2018

On 23 March 2018 China’s National Energy Administration (NEA) announced a draft version of Renewable Electricity Quota and Assessment Method. The draft version of this document was in consultation until 30th of March 2018. The draft version of the document contains mandatory provincial-level quotas of renewable electricity over total electricity and specific non-hydropower renewable electricity quotas accompanied by “Renewable Electricity Certificate” system. Quotas are being established for 2018 and 2020.

The certificates will be issued to renewable power producers and traded to the buyer of renewable electricity in order to certify levels of renewable electricity acquired and consumed.

For the policy details please consult the NEA source provided in the title as an URL.
Serbia plans to add around 250 MW renewable capacity by 2019 in efforts to reach its targets
Source: serbia-energy.eu    Date: 26 March 2018

Serbian Minister of Energy and Mining Aleksandar Antic said that Serbia has commissioned over 100 MW in RES capacity in the past few years, while additional 250 MW will be put into operation by the end of this year.

According to Minister Antic, the plan is to commission another 200-250 MW in renewable energy sources (RES) in 2019 in order to reach the target of 27 % RES share in total electricity consumption by 2020.

Out of 1000 MW currently being built in Serbia, over 500 MW is in renewable sources, mostly in wind energy – 450 MW. 250 MW of installed capacity in wind energy is expected to be commissioned by the end of this year: 48 MW in Alibunar wind farm, 105 MW in Kovacica wind farm and 105 MW in Cibuk wind farm, while additional 250 MW in wind power will be commissioned in 2019.

Albania to fully liberalise power market by 2025
Source: renewablesnow.com    Date: 26 March 2018

Albania will achieve full liberalisation of its power market by 2025, energy and infrastructure minister Damian Gjiknuri said on Monday.

Albania and Kosovo, supported by the US agency for international development (USAID) and the Energy Community Secretariat, are working for the integration of the two electricity markets and the establishment of a joint power exchange with long-term objective of integration into the European market, Gjiknuri said in a statement following presentation of Albania’s national energy strategy 2030 in Tirana.

"Potential investments related to the implementation of the strategy amount to EUR 2.7 billion for the 2018-2030 period," Gjiknuri added.

According to the targets set in the strategy, Albania will aim to reduce power distribution losses from 26.4% in 2017 to 10% in 2030. The collection rate of power bill payments will also improve to 98% in 2030, from 90% in 2018.

Renewable energy consumption will increase to 42% of the total consumption in 2030, greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced to 11.5% and the penetration of natural gas will reach 20% of the total supply of primary energy sources, the statement added.

Albania plans to scrap VAT on imports of PV equipment
Source: seenews.com    Date: 17 April 2018

Albania plans to abolish value added tax (VAT) levied on imports of photovoltaic equipment, finance and economy minister Arben Ahmetaj has said. The standard VAT rate in Albania is 20%. Taxable transactions include goods and services supplied domestically as well as imports. The plan will be discussed by the government mid-May.

Uzbekistan signs first PPA with an independent power producer to build and operate 1 GW PV capacity
Source: renews.biz    Date: 8 May 2018

Canadian solar developer SkyPower is to build 1GW of photovoltaic capacity in Uzbekistan. The government of Uzbekistan has signed a power purchase agreement with the company to buy the electricity generated by the projects. SkyPower will be the first independent power producer to work in the central Asian country and will collaborate with the state-owned utility Uzbekenergo.

SkyPower chief executive Kerry Adler said: “This is a historic partnership that will benefit both the government of Uzbekistan and SkyPower, and we are happy to be building Uzbekistan's first solar power installation.” The solar farms will bring Uzbekistan’s renewable to capacity to about 10%, the company added.
### Europe

**Danish government proposes to procure (through tender) 800 MW offshore wind farm**  
Source: thelocal.dk  
Date: 26 April 2018

The Danish government has presented plans to build a giant 800MW offshore wind farm over the coming decade which will generate enough electricity to supply 800,000 households. The farm, which will be twice the size of Denmark’s current largest, will be put out to tender in 2021 and built between 2024 and 2027. The government has yet to decide on where the farm will be based.

The farm is the most eye-catching scheme in a government proposal published on Thursday, which it hopes will form the basis of a future energy agreement with opposition parties setting the direction for Denmark's energy policy from 2020 to 2030.

"The government's long-term climate target is that Denmark must be a low-emission society by 2050 which does not emit greenhouse gases and is completely independent of fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil," Energy Minister Lars Christian Lilleholt said in a press release.

“We must be able to cover at least half of Denmark’s energy demand for renewable energy by 2030.”

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**Poland is working on amending its Renewable Energy Law**  
Date: 26 April 2018  
Additional reading:  
- Gram w zielone article [PL] available [here](#);

Sejm, the lower house of the Polish parliament, began works on the amendments to the Polish Renewable Energy Law. In the end of April 2018 it was announced that comments and suggestions done by the Polish Energy Regulatory Office (URE), responsible until now for organisation and the auction process, will be taken into the account by the policy makers. The purpose of the amendment will be to adjust the auction process by adjusting the rules on the public support and to implement a new support mechanism in the form of guaranteed tariff for small biogas and hydropower stations.

Passing the amendments will allow for scheduling of the subsequent auctions and unlocking the renewable energy market in Poland.

Additionally, Polish Ministry of Energy intends to repeal current taxation rules and distance obligations for the wind mills and restore the law to its previous version, as the regulations in the current form block any new growth in the onshore wind in the country.

At this stage, the final version of the amendment draft is unknown and there is no clear timeline when the amendment is planned to be adopted.

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**Ireland announces 10% biofuel blending from 2019**  
Source: biofuelsdigest.com  
Date: 23 April 2018

In Ireland, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten, T.D., has published a draft order increasing the biofuel obligation rate to 10% (by volume) from 1 January 2019.

The Minister also published a Policy Statement outlining the proposed future development of the Biofuels Obligation Scheme. The Policy Statement is intended to provide certainty to industry and stakeholders thus facilitating the longer term planning necessary to increase the use of biofuels.

In 2017, circa 225 million liters of biofuel was placed on the Irish market.

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**UK doubles its biofuels targets in the updated UK RTFO**  
Source: biofuels-news.com  
Date: 13 April 2018

Changes to the UK’s Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will ‘double’ the use of renewable fuels in the UK transport sector, according to a statement from the Department of Transport.

Included in the revised (RTFO) are new biofuel targets set to come into force on 15 April.
Transport fuels owners who supply 450,000 litres a year or more will be compelled to make sure their mix is at least 12.4% biofuel by 2032. At present the target is 4.75% biofuel. The legislation will affect suppliers to transport companies such as haulage firms and airlines.

**Netherlands distributed all available budget of EUR 6 billion in its autumn 2017 SDE+ programme round**

Source: rvo.nl Date: 9 May 2018

Further reading:
- Summary of projects awarded available [here](#);

Autumn 2017 SDE+ programme round had EUR billion budget. In early May the Dutch government announced that all budget was distributed to 4215 projects with a split as follow:
- 4163 contracts were signed with renewable power capacity projects;
- 46 contracts were signed with renewable heat and CHP projects;
- 6 contracts were signed with renewable gas projects.

Solar PV was awarded contracts for 1.9 GW capacity followed by onshore wind with 1.1 GW capacity. Geothermal secured contracts for 149 MW, surpassing bioenergy. In total 3.3 GW of renewable energy capacity was contracted through the round.

Average price of contracts awarded is EUR 117/MWh.

**Netherlands renewed SDE+ scheme**

Source: lexology.com Date: 13 March 2018

In a December 6 2017 letter to Parliament, the minister of economic affairs and climate announced that the new government has reserved EUR 12 billion to grant subsidies in 2018 for the production of renewable energy under the Renewable Energy Grant Scheme (SDE+). The SDE+ subsidies, which will be made available to applicants in two EUR 6 billion tranches, aim to accelerate the development and use of sustainable energy production technologies. The first tranche will be available from March 13 to April 5 2018. The second tranche is expected to become available in Autumn 2018.

The SDE+ programme is one of the various measures taken by the new government to meet its ambitious climate goals. These are set out in the government's coalition agreement for 2017 to 2021, titled Confidence in the Future, under which the Netherlands aims to have reduced its carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by no less than 49% by 2030. The government recognises that although sustainable energy production technologies are rapidly improving and becoming more efficient, energy from renewable sources remains, in most cases, more expensive than energy from fossils. Therefore, new subsidies have been made available to stimulate the production of energy from renewable sources.

**French Senate rejected proposal to renegotiate tariffs granted to offshore wind projects auctioned in 2012 and 2014**

Source: offshorewind.biz Date: 15 March 2018

The French Senate has voted against a proposed amendment which would allow the government to renegotiate the feed-in tariffs of the six offshore wind projects selected in Round 1 and Round 2 tenders. As reported earlier, the French government submitted to the Senate a proposal to allow the renegotiation of the terms of the offshore wind projects with a combined capacity of 3 GW selected in the first two tender rounds in 2012 and 2014. The proposed amendment would also allow the government to cancel the projects in case the renegotiations failed.

Currently, the projects benefit of 20-years long FIT contracts.
### Vattenfall wins Dutch zero subsidy offshore wind tender

**Source:** offshorewind.biz  **Date:** 19 March 2018

The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy has selected Vattenfall as the winning bidder in the country’s first non-subsidized offshore wind tender – the 700 MW to 750 MW Hollandse Kust Zuid I & II.

The Netherlands opened the first phase of the tender for sites I and II in the Hollandse Kust Zuid offshore wind zone on 15 December 2017. The zero subsidy tender round attracted major offshore wind players such as Vattenfall and Statoil.

### Turkey postpones wind power license applications by 2 years to 2020

**Source:** enerd DATA.net  **Date:** 19 March 2018

The Turkish energy regulator EPDK has decided to postpone by two years applications for preliminary wind power licenses: the deadline for applications will thus be postponed from 2-6 April 2018 to 6-10 April 2020.

### North and South Americas

#### USA: EPA delivers proposed 2019 RFS volumes to White House

**Source:** biodieselmagazine.com  **Date:** 14 May 2018

On May 11, the U.S. EPA delivered its proposed rule to set the 2019 Renewable Fuel Standard blending obligations to the White House Office of Management and Budget. OMB review marks a final step before the proposal is released for public comment.

The proposed rule includes 2019 renewable volume obligations (RVOs) for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel and total renewable fuel. It also includes a proposed 2020 RVO for biomass-based diesel. The 2019 RVO for biomass-based diesel was finalized last year.

#### USA: California becomes first state to order solar on new homes

**Source:** bloomberg.com  **Date:** 9 May 2018

California just sent the clearest signal yet that rooftop power is moving beyond a niche market and becoming the norm.

On 9th of May, California became the first in the U.S. to require solar panels on almost all new homes. Most new units built after 1st of January 2020, will be required to include solar systems as part of the standards adopted by the California Energy Commission. While that’s a boost for the solar industry, critics warned that it will also drive up the cost of buying a house by almost USD 10000. Solar shares surged on the decision. Homebuilders fell.

The move underscores how rooftop solar, once a luxury reserved for wealthy, green-leaning homeowners, is becoming a mainstream energy source, with California - the nation’s largest solar market - paving the way. The state has long been at the vanguard of progressive energy policies, from setting energy-efficiency standards for appliances to instituting an economy-wide program to curb greenhouse gases. The housing mandate is part of Governor Jerry Brown’s effort to slash carbon emissions by 40% by 2030, and offers up a playbook for other states to follow.
**USA: Iowa legislature renews biofuels infrastructure program funding**

Source: biodieselmagazine.com Date: 3 May 2018

Iowa’s legislature voted May 2 to fund the Iowa Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program another year. Senate File 2414, which includes USD 3 million in funding for RFIP out of the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund for fiscal year 2019, is headed to Gov. Kim Reynolds for signing.

The program provides retailers cost-share dollars to install blender pumps and other equipment to offer higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel.

**USA: Connecticut has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for offshore wind projects**

Source: windpoweroffshore.com Date: 5 February 2018

This would indicate a site or sites with a total capacity of about 200 MW. Successful projects must start delivering power to the grid between 1 July 2019 and 31 December 2025, Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) wrote in the RFP. Bidders are required to provide wind resource data for their proposed project as well as predicted production levels, and environmental assessments.

The RFP also calls for fuel cell, fuel cell with combined heat and power (CHP), and anaerobic digestion projects, with a combined production of no more than 899,250 MWh/year.

**USA: New Jersey backs 3.5 GW by 2030**

Source: windpoweroffshore.com Date: 1 February 2018

The state’s Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will launch a tender for 1.1 GW, the governor’s office announced — though a date for this has not yet been set. A solicitation could only take place after a process has been created for the state agency to approve developers’ initial plans, the governor’s office conceded.

New Jersey will also engage with neighbouring states — including New York, which this week published a roadmap for 2.4 GW of offshore wind — to "explore the potential benefits of regional collaboration on offshore wind".

The Garden State had passed the Offshore Wind Economic Development Act in 2010, encouraging the creation of a certification program for the sector. But since then "little progress" has been made on offshore wind development in New Jersey, Murphy said. "We cannot allow for stagnation in this growing sector of our energy economy and we cannot lose sight of the tremendous opportunity for offshore wind at the Jersey Shore," he added.

"With this executive order, we begin the process of making New Jersey a leader in offshore wind, a critical step toward achieving our clean energy goals." OWEDA authorised the New Jersey BPU to craft an Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credit program (OREC).

**USA: Minnesota’s B20 mandate to come into effect as of May 1**

Source: biofuelsdigest.com Date: 9 April 2018

In Minnesota, effective May 1, all diesel sold in Minnesota must contain at least 20% biodiesel as the state officially implements the B20 mandate passed in 2008.

Once implemented, the B20 mandate will be in effect during the state’s “summer months” of April through September. October through March, the biodiesel requirement will remain at 5%.

Originally scheduled to go into effect in 2015, the B20 mandate had been delayed amid concerns from the trucking and petroleum industries regarding diesel engine gelling, clogged fuel and filter lines, availability and fuel mileage. Gov. Dayton thinks these issues have been addressed for the summer months.
Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

South Africa finally signs 27 outstanding renewable PPAs
Source: pv-magazine.com Date: 4 April 2018

After a farcical amount of toing and froing, the 27 outstanding renewable PPAs under the country’s Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) have today been signed.

Overall, the PPAs represent 2.3 GW of generation capacity, which is expected to be added to the grid over the next five years, 58,000 new jobs, and an investment of R56 billion (around US$4.7 billion).

Kenya cuts power tariffs for state-owned solar farm by half
Source: bloomberg.com Date: 12 April 2018

Kenya slashed its fixed-price purchase contract for a state-owned 50-megawatt solar plant by half because the project was financed using concessional funds, Energy Regulatory Commission Director-General Pavel Oimeke said.

The farm being developed by the Rural Electrification Authority, or REA, in the eastern Garissa region will be Kenya’s biggest yet. It will sell electricity at 5.49 U.S. cents/kWh, down from the 12 cents agreed on with Kenya Power & Lighting Ltd. in September 2016. Kenya received USD 135.7 million from the Export-Import Bank of China, Oimeke said.

The solar farm should start supplying electricity to the national grid by the end of September, REA said last week. Its break-even point based on the previous tariff was expected after 17 years of operation. Kenya has a feed-in tariff of 12 cents for solar projects not exceeding 40 MW.

The government is exploring the possibility of handing over operations of the solar farm once the facility is switched on to the Kenya Electricity Generating Co. Ltd or Kenya Power, which have expertise in running plants, REA Chief Executive Officer Peter Mbugua said.

Kenya considers to replace feed-in-tariffs with auction system for renewables
Source: kbc.co.ke Date: 12 April 2018

Kenya considers closing its feed-in tariff system for renewable power capacity and replacing it with auction system in order to cut the prices. This is an echo of the same voices heard from Kenya already last year, reaffirming potential policy switch in coming years. Currently, no timeline for the policy replacement was given.

South Africa plans carbon tax as of January 2019
Source: thegreentimes.co.za Date: 23 February 2018

South Africa is expected to pass its long-awaited Carbon Tax Bill this year and implement the tax in January 2019. The bill, which was released in draft form in December 2017, will be the subject of parliamentary hearings this year.

To reduce littering and discourage customers from buying plastic bags, the state is also upping the plastic bag levy by 50% to 12c per bag. This will take effect on April 1 2018.

For more information on renewable energy legislation please go to:

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