The Technical Meeting of WePOWER India Partnership Forum

The Technical Meeting of WePOWER India Partnership Forum held virtually on 14 December 2021 was attended by 27 senior executives from Electricity Distribution Utilities in India. The event was organised by India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) on behalf of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

The World Bank is committed to promoting gender equality in the Indian energy sector. Towards this goal, the World Bank, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, launched WePOWER as a regional network in February 2019. WePOWER’s objectives are to increase participation of women in the power sector to improve the gender balance in the workforce; and to promote normative change for women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education. One of the key goals for WePOWER is to scale up gender activities and increase the number of Partners in India. The WePOWER India Partnership Forum held on 09 November 2021 launched the efforts to scale up the South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India. More than a hundred key stakeholders from the Indian power sector attended the virtual event.
To take the agenda forward and forge ongoing partnerships, the Technical Meetings will be held in with existing and potential WePOWER Partners and create avenues for collaboration with other stakeholders. Expert speakers are invited to speak at the technical sessions based on topics relevant to the industry.

**Indu Maheshswari, Director, NPTI** mentioned about the importance of training of women and said that “Conducting long term programs with module-by-module oriented courses for women will help to increase women participation in the power sector. All utilities to actually make the job description for different job roles more women friendly and also utilities should review promotion trends regularly and make HR policies also more women friendly.”

**Rashi Gupta, Founder & Managing Director, Vision Mechatronics** talked about industry needs by mentioning that “There is need to create safer environment for women to work in the utility sector. Also, need to boost the confidence of women by organizing mentoring sessions for individual as well as for parents to change the mindset. Now it’s time to see from the lens of professionals not from the gender respective.”

**Nilesh Munshi, GM (HR), Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd** appreciated the WePower initiative and mentioned that “equal opportunity and training to be provided for upskilling women in the leadership roles.”

**Shailly Singh, AVP (HR), BSES Yamuna Power Ltd** highlighted the need of “Leadership development programs and other customized programs” that can be organized for women along with cross functional exposure for giving gender parity. She further added that “certain policies like Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) etc. should be there for safe and better environment. Special program like self defence, etc. can be organized to create confidence among them.”

**Anne Kuriakose, Senior Social Specialist, The World Bank** spoke about “focus on STEM education, important to consider succession planning, formal and informal norms should be there at the workplace”.

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Join the Indian Delegation to DistribuTECH 2022 and POWERGEN International 2022 from 23-25 May 2022 at Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas, Texas, USA

ISGF with support from US Department of Commerce (USDOC) of the American Embassy, New Delhi is taking an official delegation from India to the DistribuTECH (DTECH) 2022 and POWERGEN 2022 which will be held from 23-25 May 2022 at Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas, Texas, USA.

DTECH is the leading annual transmission and distribution event that addresses technologies used to move electricity from the power plant through the transmission and distribution systems to the meter and inside the home. The conference and exhibition offer information, products and services related to electricity delivery automation and control systems, energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy integration, smart metering, T&D system operation and reliability, communications technologies, cyber security, gas and water utilities technologies and more. DTECH attracts around 12,000 attendees and around 500 exhibitors from 70+ countries. The event also attracts attendees from electric utilities, water utilities, gas utilities, federal power agencies, energy service companies, energy service providers, energy end users (retailers, hospitals, data centers, etc.) and a wide-range of manufacturers and vendors. Visit the event’s website for additional information: http://www.distributech.com

POWERGEN International 2022 is happening side by side with DTECH 2022 at the same venue. POWERGEN is the largest network and business hub for electricity generators and solution providers engaged in power generation. Power producers, utilities, EPCs, consultants, OEMs and large-scale energy users gather at POWERGEN to discover new solutions as large centralized power generation business models evolve into cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. POWERGEN is the industry standard and resource for electricity professionals to collaborate, connect, and meet with solution providers supporting the clean energy transition through digitalization, decarbonization, and efficiency while continuing to feature unparalleled opportunities in equipment and manufacturing. POWERGEN creates a progressive environment for audiences looking to evolve while attracting new energy professionals embracing the clean movement towards Destination 2050. Visit the event website for more information: https://www.powergen.com/welcome

As part of the Indian Delegation, the delegates will be entitled to the following benefits:

• Complimentary Pre-Registration for the show (value of the exhibit hall access is $125)
• Discounted Registration for full conference
• Pre-arranged and facilitated briefings, meetings (including Meet and Greet meetings) with U.S. Exhibitors and U.S. industry associations, customized according to the delegates interests.
• List of exhibitors who export or indicate an interest in exporting to the group’s country and/or region of the world
• Optional site visits to smart grid project sites and technology companies

To join the delegation or for more information, please contact: Ms Parul (parul@indiasmartgrid.org)

ISGF Welcomes New Member

ITRON has joined ISGF as an Industry Member
INDIA

Goa Launches Electricity Mobility Promotion Policy

The Government of Goa launched the Goa Electricity Mobility Promotion Policy 2021 in December 2021 to promote usage of e-vehicles (EVs). The main objective of the policy is to promote use of EVs and create jobs for the people of the state. The benefits being provided under the policy include incentives on manufacturing and waiver of road tax up to five years applicable to all classes of EVs registered in Goa. The state government will also provide subsidy to the buyers of EVs and set up charging infrastructure. The policy will lead to creation of 10,000 direct and indirect jobs in the state and the demand for EVs will help attract investments in the state.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5577

Himachal Pradesh Approves Draft Electric Vehicle Policy

The Himachal Pradesh government approved the draft electric vehicle policy which aims to promote sustainable transport system for making Himachal a global hub for electric mobility development and manufacturing of EVs besides creating public and private charging infrastructure for such vehicles, along with providing subsidy and incentives to the electric vehicle manufacturing industries.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5578

Kolhapur Municipal Corporation to Offer Concessions in Property Tax for Setting up Electric Charging Stations

In line with Maharashtra government’s policy of promoting electric vehicles (EVs) and to accelerate the adoption of EVs in the state so that they contribute to 10% of new vehicle registrations by 2025, Kolhapur municipal corporation wants to lead by example in implementing the policy and becomes the first to offer concessions in property tax for housing societies and individuals setting up EV charging stations. The tax concessions would be made available starting immediately and can be availed either by shared housing facilities (such as co-operative housing societies) as well as individuals residing within the Kolhapur municipal limits.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5579

Mission 500 GW Action Plan to be Drawn Up

A joint committee of the ministry of power and ministry of new and renewable energy will be set up for the purpose to take up India’s renewable energy (RE) capacity to 500GW by 2030. A ‘Mission 500 GW’ action plan will be drawn up soon by the government to take forward the announcement made by Prime Minister Modi at the COP26 climate conference at Glasgow in November 2021. Besides looking into the regulatory framework required for the scale-up of RE and to draw in the crucial foreign investment into the sector, the panel will also assess the issues of transmission, the various types of technology to be used, the energy mix for the 500 GW target and storage requirements.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5581

Detailed Rules on Bundling Renewables with Thermal and Hydropower

The Ministry of Power has outlined a detailed mechanism allowing the bundling of thermal and hydropower projects with standalone renewable energy projects or renewable energy projects with battery energy storage systems either through setting up renewable energy generation capacities themselves or through developers by inviting bids. The generated power can also be supplied to distribution companies (DISCOMs) under existing power purchase agreements (PPAs). DISCOMs can count the renewable energy procured under the new mechanism towards their renewable purchase obligation (RPO) without the financial burden of a separate power purchase agreement (PPA).

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5582

Draft Regulation – “Connectivity and General Network Access to the ISTS Regulations, 2021”

Open Access Renewable Energy Generators to have easy access to ISTS Network. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued a draft regulation. The regulations will apply to open access consumers, distribution licensees, and generating companies. The proposed regulations provide the framework to facilitate open access power to consumers, generating companies, and distribution licensees for ISTS use through General Network Access (GNA). These regulations will come into force on a date to be specified by the Commission.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5583

India Enhances Solar Module Manufacturing Incentive to $3 billion

India has increased its incentive package for solar module manufacturing by a factor of 5, to $3 billion. Initially, the incentive package was worth $600 million. The scheme incentivizes companies to set up module manufacturing units with backward integration of up to polysilicon production. They would receive incentives based on annual production and the efficiency of modules.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5585

RBI Weighs Priority Sector Loans for Electric Vehicles

The Reserve Bank of India is considering a proposal from the NITI Aayog to categorise loans to purchase electric vehicles under the priority sector lending (PSL) segment. If the proposal is accepted, it will help the segment get credit at lower interest rates. Currently, these loans are given under the auto retail category, but lenders are wary about financing purchase of EVs as they are unsure about the risks in a segment which is still in a nascent stage. The inclusion of EVs under PSL would not only reduce cost of finance but also provide finance to more people, thus increasing penetration of EVs in India.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5586
INTERNATIONAL

EU Approves Renewable Energy Development Funding Policy in Croatia

The new approved scheme in Croatia will provide premium power tariffs for renewable energy projects, including geothermal. Under the EU State aid rules, the European commission has approved a Croatian aid scheme to support electricity production from renewable sources. It will help Croatia reach its renewable energy targets, including those set in its Recovery and Resilience plan, and contribute to the European objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, without unduly distorting competition in the Single market. The scheme will help Croatia increase its share of electricity produced from renewable energy sources and reduce CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions. It will support Croatia’s commitment to achieve the European climate targets and environmental objectives.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5587

EU Approved New Renewable Energy Support Scheme of Greece

EU Commission approves Greece’s EUR 2.3 billion renewable energy scheme. Greece can now support geothermal power projects through direct awards with some tendering procedures. The measure will help Greece reach its renewable energy targets, without unduly distorting competition, and will contribute to the new European objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The new scheme focuses on electricity produced from various renewable energy sources, namely onshore wind, photovoltaic, wind and photovoltaic with storage, biogas, biomass, landfill gas, hydroelectric power, concentrated solar power and geothermal power plants. The scheme will also support high efficiency combined heat and power.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5588

Poland Launches Scheme to Improve Consumer Energy Efficiency

The scheme will contribute to objectives of the Clean Air Priority Programme (CAPP), launched by the Polish government in 2018 to improve air quality in the country. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Polish financial institution (BNP) have reached an agreement on a EUR 100 million loan that will be used to implement energy efficiency projects in Poland. The aim is to address market woes such as the high energy and carbon density within the Polish housing sector, as well as enable the country to achieve a low-carbon economy by reducing consumer energy usage, bills and greenhouse gas emissions, according to the statement. Apart from improving energy efficiency and renewable capacity, Poland is also working with the US government to build nuclear energy capacity for security and decarbonisation.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5589

Malaysia Launches Innovative Scheme for Buying Renewable Energy by Residential and Industrial Customers

The new scheme enables consumers to buy renewable energy where, the consumers will be charged an additional MYE0.037 ($0.087) for each kWh of renewable energy purchased. Through the Green Electricity Tariff (GET) program, the government will offer 4,500 GWh of power to residential and industrial customers each year. The energy is sold in 100 kWh blocks for residential customers and 1,000 kWh blocks for industrial consumers. Nine Malaysian corporations have already submitted applications to be provided exclusively with renewable energy.

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Singapore Launches Temporary Electricity Contracting Support Scheme

The new scheme applies to large energy users to buy electricity at fixed prices. Bulk consumers such as shopping malls and manufacturing facilities, will be cushioned from the recent volatility in the electricity market under a new scheme that will enable them to buy electricity at fixed rates. The new scheme will allow such users to pay for electricity at a rate capped at 39.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). This fixed-price contract will be valid for the month of January 2022, although it could be extended if there is demand in the months ahead. It is not mandatory for large consumers to participate in this scheme.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5591

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GRID MODERNIZATION

World Bank Approves USD 500 million to Expand, Modernize Bangladesh Electricity Distribution System

The World Bank approved USD 500 million to help Bangladesh expand and modernize the electricity distribution system and support its sustainable transformation. The Electricity Distribution Modernization Program will deliver improved electricity services to about 40 million people in Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions. It will upgrade and construct more than 31,000 km of distribution lines, 157 distribution substations, and related infrastructure and incorporate measures to increase climate resilience of network infrastructure in 25 rural electric cooperatives (Palli Bidyut Samitis) in the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board. Network investment will be paired with new and advanced technologies to help modernize and transform the electricity system. In the last decade, Bangladesh achieved a more than fourfold increase in electricity generation capacity and delivered electricity connections to more than 99% of its population.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5592

Indian State of West Bengal Gets USD 135 million World Bank Loan to Improve Efficiency and Reliability of Electricity Supply

The World Bank’s Board of Directors approved a USD 135 million loan to the Indian state of West Bengal to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of electricity supply in selected areas in the state. West Bengal is strategically located along the corridor to the Northeast and to Southeast Asia and plays an important role in facilitating and promoting regional power trade. The state is already facilitating electricity trade with Bangladesh. Rapid economic growth in West Bengal has resulted in a growing electricity demand at a rate of 4.5 percent in the past five years. The project aims to reduce distribution system losses, increase the capacity of the distribution network to meet the growing load demand, improve the overall reliability of the system, make the network resilient to climate disasters, and improve the institutional capacity of WBSEDCL.

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Lithuania and Poland Tests Emergency Support on Electricity Interconnection

Litgrid and PSE, the operators of the Lithuanian and Polish electricity transmission systems, carried out the emergency support test on the Polish-Lithuanian interconnection. The test was aimed at verification of Lithuanian system restoration and black-start capabilities using the interconnection together with newly installed auto-transformers in Alytus substation. The emergency support test simulated a situation where the largest Lithuanian power plants that are shut down and have the possibility to black start after supply of electricity from Poland. This is a historic test not only for energy independence but also for national security. This is the geopolitical turning point, preparing for the final connection of the Lithuanian electricity system to the networks of continental Europe in 2025.

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SMART METERING

Smart Grid Ready Chip Under Development For Smart Meters, USA

The chip, which is intended for incorporation in smart meters, is designed to provide a new level of situational awareness and real time control at the grid edge to enhance resiliency and support the further integration of distributed energy resources. Utilidata’s machine learning software leverages real-time data from smart meters and other distribution grid devices to detect anomalies. This is being combined with NVIDIA’s Jetson edge AI computing platform and AI Enterprise software to deliver an enhanced computational and analytical capabilities.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5568

Smart Metering Systems Extends Exclusivity Agreement With Shell Energy Retail

Energy infrastructure company Smart Metering Systems has extended its exclusivity agreement with Shell Energy Retail for the installation and funding of smart meters until December 2025.

Shell Energy Retail CEO added that with the company significantly growing its UK market share in recent months, the extension of its partnership with SMS was “key” to it safely continuing to deliver the smart meter roll-out programme - “a critical enabler to digitalise and decarbonise the UK energy system”.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5570

Installation of Smart Meters In Indore And Other Cities

Work of installing smart meters in cities has been expedited by MP West Zone Electricity Distribution Company. Apart from Indore, 1,05,000 radio frequency smart meters have been installed in Mhow, Ratlam, Ujjain, Khargone and Dewas. Managing Director of MP West Zone Electricity Distribution Company Indore Amit Tomar said that 1.20 lakh smart meters were first installed in Indore city. After this, 20,000 meters are being installed for consumers above 10 kilowatts.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5571

Arizona Utility Selects Landis+Gyr to Expand Smart Metering With New Prepayment System

Salt River Project, a community utility based in the US state of Arizona, will be modernising its grid and billing system with a new prepayment system. Landis+Gyr and PayGo have partnered to deliver and manage the new prepayment and electronic billing system for the third-largest community-based utility in the US. Salt River Project signed a 10-year deal for the implementation and operation of the system with Landis+Gyr as part of its M-Power prepay programme, which is designed to optimise consumer billing, revenue collection and customer services.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5572
ELECTRIC VEHICLES

ETO Motors Deploys over 50 e-Rickshaws in India’s First EV City

ETO Motors, the country’s leading electric mobility solutions and Services Company commenced operations of over 50 e-rickshaws at Kevadia in Gujarat, India, in partnership with the Statue of Unity Area Development and Tourism Governance Authority (SOUADTGA). The company would further look at deploying over 350 electric vehicles in the next four to six months. The entire fleet of the 50 TriLux e-rickshaws is being operated by women. The operations would cover all of Kevadia, making it truly India’s first electric vehicle city.

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PFC Enters Pact to Finance 350 Electric Buses in Uttar Pradesh, India

PFC, India’s leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in the power sector, has signed an agreement to lend INR 275 crore for the deployment of 350 electric buses across nine cities of Uttar Pradesh. The agreement was signed with GreenCell Mobility, which is an e-mobility platform supported by Governments of India and the United Kingdom to boost the adoption of electric vehicles in the country. The buses will be deployed in key cities of Uttar Pradesh including Agra, Meerut, Aligarh, Bareilly, Ghaziabad and Mathura. The government of India has launched the FAME-II scheme with an allocation of INR 3500 crore for the promotion of the adoption of electric buses.

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World’s First Public EV Inductive Charging Trial Underway in UK

British pioneer of on-street EV residential charging Chargy has begun a “world-first” public EV inductive charging trial that will complement the company’s lamp post-embedded EV charging stations as a second technology route for electric car owners. Inductive charging has the potential to revolutionize the way electric vehicles charge and could serve as a massive step change for the EV industry. The trial underway in Marlow in the south east of England uses a low-power inductive charging installation provided by technology partner IPT Technology.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5598

Toyota to Roll Out 30 Electric Vehicle Models

World’s largest carmaker Toyota will invest USD 35 billion as it aims to introduce 30 new electric vehicle models globally by 2030. It aims to also increase global sales of EVs by 3.5 million units a year by the end of the 2030. Most of Toyota’s current electric vehicle sales are hybrid electric cars that are powered by a combination of an internal combustion engine and battery-operated electric motors. The Japanese automaker will increase new investments into battery technologies by USD 4.4 billion.

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ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

AGL Breaks Ground on 250 MW Torrens Island Battery Project in South Australia

Australian power retail and generation company AGL has broken ground on a 250 MW/250 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) project in South Australia. The preparations have begun at the site of Torrens Island Power Station, so that construction can begin on the AU$180 million (US$128.51 million) project. It will be AGL’s first in a planned 850 MW portfolio of grid-scale BESS projects that it intends to deploy to participate in Australia’s National Electricity Market (NEM) by the 2024 financial year. In August, Finnish energy technology company Wärtsilä was selected as BESS supplier for Torrens Island. Although the initial duration of the battery system will be one-hour (250MWh), there is scope for it to be eventually expanded to four-hours (1,000 MWh) if market conditions make the longer duration system economically desirable.

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World’s Biggest Solar-Charged Battery Storage System Unveiled in Florida

Construction on the Manatee Energy Storage Center in Florida’s Manatee County was completed in just 10 months, having begun in February 2021. The 409 MW/900MWh BESS is co-located with Florida Power and Light (FPL)’s existing 74.5 MW Manatee Solar Energy Center ground-mounted PV plant. Allowing solar energy to be used in evenings and at night or on cloudy days, the utility company a subsidiary of electric utility holding company NextEra Energy has placed 132 battery containers onto a 40 acre plot of land. The BESS will charge at off-peak times with abundant solar energy and then discharge to the local grid at peak times, when power is most expensive and often at its most carbon intensive.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5601

Vingroup Starts Construction of Battery Plant in Vietnam

The People’s Committee of Ha Tinh Province and Vingroup officially began construction of the VinES Battery Manufacturing Factory in the Vung Ang Economic Zone (Ha Tinh), Vietnam. The battery plant is backed by VND 4,000 billion (nearly 173.7 million USD) in investments and is being developed on 8 hectares in its initial phase. The establishment of this factory represents an important milestone in VinFast’s strategy of self-production and supply of batteries with global standards for its electric vehicles. The VinES Battery Manufacturing Factory will provide Lithium batteries for VinFast’s electric cars and buses. In Phase One, the factory will scale 8 hectares, funded by a total investment of more than VND 4,000 billion. The entire infrastructure of the factory, including a casting shop, a welding shop, and a packaging (battery pack) shop, is designed to produce 100,000 battery packs per year.

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Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Awarded India’s Largest BESS Project to TATA Power

SECI awarded India’s largest BESS project at Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh to Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (Tata Power Solar), India’s largest integrated solar company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, for 100 MW (AC) Solar PV Project with 40 MW/120 MWh Battery Energy Storage System. Tata power has received Letter of Award (‘LoA’) from Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) to build 100 MW EPC Solar project along with 120 MWh Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The total contract value of the project is approximately INR 945 crore. The project will be executed within 18 months.

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RENEWABLE ENERGY, GREEN HYDROGEN AND MICROGRIDS

Finland’s Energy Transition to Accelerate with 455 MW Wind Project

Siemens Gamesa has struck a 455 MW deal with Swedish developer OX2 to supply its leading Siemens Gamesa 5.X platform to the Lestijärvi site for what will be Finland’s largest ever wind farm helping the country to take a giant leap in its energy transition. The wind project will deploy 69 of the SG 6.6-170 turbines to be installed in 2024 at the site in Central Ostrobothnia. The wind turbines are equipped with a 170-meter rotor and 6.6 MW generator providing one of the lowest Levelized Cost of Energy (LCoE) in the industry. This is the second Finnish site that will use the Siemens Gamesa 5.X following an 81 MW deal signed for the SG 6.6-155 variant in early 2021.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5604

Masdar to Develop Largest Solar Power Plant in Armenia

Masdar has signed an agreement with the Government of the Republic of Armenia to develop a 200 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant. The Ayg-1 project will be Armenia’s largest utility-scale solar plant. The Ayg-1 project will be developed on a design, finance, build, own, and operate basis and the project company will be 85 percent owned by Masdar, with the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF), a government-owned investment vehicle, holding 15 percent. The Ayg-1 plant will be located between the Talin and Dashtadem communities of Armenia, in an area where solar radiation is high and land is unusable for agricultural purposes. The plant will span over 500 hectares and will create numerous direct and indirect jobs.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5605

First Green Hydrogen Plant in New Zealand Starts Operations

The first green hydrogen plant in New Zealand has officially started production. The 1.5 MW green hydrogen plant, located in Taupo, was established by Halcyon Power and uses electricity generated by the nearby Mokai geothermal power plant. Halcyon Power is a 50/50 joint venture of Tuapaki Trust and Japan-based Obayashi Corporation. The commissioning of the plant has now been completed. The green hydrogen plant has been under development since 2018 and started construction in 2020. The plant is expected to begin wholesale of hydrogen domestically by January 2022 and will produce about 180 tonnes in its first year. The long-term goal is for the plant to contribute to a complete hydrogen supply chain that includes transportation, storage, and refueling.

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STANDARDS AND CYBER SECURITY

Guidehouse Report Outlines Cybersecurity Priorities for Distributed Energy Resources

A new report from Guidehouse Insights examines how distributed energy resources (DER) deployments are expanding the attack surface for cyberattacks, discusses the updated IEEE Standard 1547-2018, and provides recommendations for industry stakeholders. New global DER deployment capacities — including distributed generation (DG), distributed energy storage, plug-in EV chargers, demand response (DR) and energy efficiency — are expected to continue to exceed the deployment of new centralized generation capacity growth. Unfortunately, without government regulation or widespread demand signalling from customers, cybersecurity is often an afterthought for rapidly scaling and distributed technologies.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5607

US Department of Energy Proposes to Impose “Backstop” Efficiency Standard on Most Lamps

Building on steps taken earlier in 2021, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is pushing ahead with new, more stringent efficiency requirements for most lightbulbs on the market. In August 2021, DOE proposed reinstating the Obama Administration’s revised definitions of general service lamp (GSL), general service incandescent lamp (GSIL), and other supplemental definitions that imposed federal efficiency standards on a wide array of lamps. Now, DOE proposes to apply a more stringent 45 lumens per watt (lm/W) standard to all of these lamps, a change with major implications of lamp manufacturers, distributors, and retailers across the United States.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5566
DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Finland to Collaborate with Karnataka in AI, Energy Sector Projects

The government of Finland has expressed interest to collaborate with Karnataka in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI), energy, career placement among others. In the Finland-Karnataka innovation corridor, an MoU steering committee meeting held between the delegation of Finland headed by Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Ambassador of Finland and C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Minister for Higher Education and IT/BT.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5609

Romania’s Restart Energy to Fund Renewables on Blockchain

Restart Energy Innovative Technologies AG is launching a security token offering (STO) to raise CHF7.99 million (US$8.5 million) on the blockchain.

The STO is being launched on the Swiss daura platform and will raise the funds via digital participation certificates. The funds will be used for acquiring operational renewable assets and developing the downstream energy supply business of the Romania integrated private energy supplier Restart Energy One SA. In addition, they are intended to support the global expansion of the company’s recently launched RED blockchain platform offering an end to end tokenised carbon offset system and carbon marketplace for companies and individuals.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5611

India-US Collaboration Backs Innovations Tackling Climate, Clean Energy Challenges

India and the United States have collaborated for a programme to support science and technology (S&T) based entrepreneurial initiatives for the development and implementation of next-generation clean and renewable energy to tackle climate and clean energy challenges. The programme also involves energy storage, and carbon sequestration (the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide), according to official sources.

Titled “Technology-based Energy Solutions: Innovations for Net Zero” the programme calls for Ignition Grants – designed to stimulate commercialisation of research discoveries by providing very early-stage grants by the United States-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF).

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5612

Kenya Power to Use Drones in Inspecting Energy Lines, Plants

Kenya Power plans to procure drones to inspect its power plants and lines across the country as part of a fresh plan to increase efficiency and cut costs. This is a step up for Kenya Power which currently relies on a single helicopter to inspect its critical infrastructure and conduct aerial repairs. The utility said on Tuesday that the high-end unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) will speed up monitoring tasks including responding to emergency situations like blackouts which cost the firm billions of shillings a year.

“The company intends to implement…a pilot UAV based technology platform that will be used to carry out various services for the company,” said Kenya Power in tender documents published recently. The services to be offered will include inspection of powerlines and substations, vegetation management, corridor mapping, digital terrain modelling and line construction.

Read more: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5613

SMART WATER AND SMART GAS

PNGRB Receives 430 Bids in 11th City Gas Distribution Round

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has received more than 430 bids in the 11th round of bidding for setting up city gas distribution (CGD) in 61 geographical areas (GAs). This initiative will help in creating a robust CGD infrastructure and play a significant role in transforming to a gas-based economy. This would also bring investment of more than ₹80,000 crore and generate employment.

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5614

GoI Allocate Rs 10,180 Crore Fund to Rajasthan in 2021-22 Under Jal Jeevan Mission

Government of India approved the allocation of Rs 10,180 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2021-22 to Rajasthan, a four-fold increase from Rs 2,522 Crore allocated in 2020-21. “To assist the State of Rajasthan, to achieve ‘Har Ghar Jal’.”

Read More: https://indiasmartgrid.org/viewnews.php?id=5615

Appointments and Transfers

Tarun Kapoor has been appointed as the Chairman of the Energy Transition Advisory Committee

Anjani Kumar Tiwari has been appointed as Member of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

Karuna Gopal has been appointed as Independent Director on the Board of Engineers India Limited

Radhika Jha has been appointed as the Managing Director of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)
## Ongoing Tenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>Tender Details</th>
<th>Submission Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<td>Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company</td>
<td>Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider (AMISP) for Smart Metering on Design-Build Finance-Own-Operate-Transfer (DBFOOT) basis on Hybrid OPEX model</td>
<td>22nd January 2022</td>
<td><a href="https://bit.ly/3rhTN5d">https://bit.ly/3rhTN5d</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited</td>
<td>Appointment of AMISP including design of AMI system with supply, installation and commissioning of 10 Lakhs Smart Prepaid Meter with corresponding DT Meter along with DT level energy accounting with FMS in area specified by the DISCOM under DBFOOT model (HYBRID Model, CAPEX Plus OPEX)</td>
<td>28 January 2022</td>
<td><a href="https://bit.ly/34Qd71X">https://bit.ly/34Qd71X</a></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited</td>
<td>Appointment of AMISP including design of AMI system with supply, installation and commissioning of 26 Lakhs Smart Prepaid Meter with corresponding DT Meter along with DT level energy accounting with FMS in area specified by the DISCOM under DBFOOT model (HYBRID Model, CAPEX Plus OPEX).</td>
<td>28th January 2022</td>
<td><a href="https://bit.ly/34Qd71X">https://bit.ly/34Qd71X</a></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitan Company Ltd, Indore, Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider (AMISP) for Smart Metering on Design-Build Finance-Own-Operate-Transfer (DBFOOT) basis on Hybrid OPEX mode</td>
<td>16th February 2022</td>
<td><a href="https://bit.ly/3A10TyT">https://bit.ly/3A10TyT</a></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh Poorv Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited, Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider (AMISP) for Smart Metering on Design-Build Finance-Own-Operate-Transfer (DBFOOT) basis on Hybrid OPEX model</td>
<td>10th March 2022</td>
<td><a href="https://bit.ly/3trs2tN">https://bit.ly/3trs2tN</a></td>
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- Blockchain Application for Utilities
- Robotic Process Automation (RPA) for Utilities and Smart Cities
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- Disruptive Innovations for Utilities and Smart Cities
- New Services and Revenue Streams for Utilities
- Voice of the Customer - What the Digital Customers Wants?
- Grid Interactive Buildings and Campuses
- New and Emerging Technologies and Trends: Green Hydrogen, District Cooling System, Electric Cooking, Urban Air Mobility Systems (UAM)
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