

## Turkey studying impact of storage on solar LCOE ahead of gigawatt auctions

Advisory and certification house DNV GL is supporting Turkish plans to source 30% of total electricity generated in the country from renewable sources, carrying out a feasibility study for combinations of solar PV and energy storage. The national Ministry of Energy has appointed the Dutch-headquartered group to conduct the study, which will be delivered for the Renewable Energy General Directorate at the Ministry. DNV GL aims to inform the directorate of best practice solutions for including energy storage in forthcoming large-scale solar project tenders.

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## Algerian government approves 200 MW of PV tenders

The Algerian Council of Ministers has approved two new tenders for the deployment of 200 MW of solar that the Algerian Minister of Energy, Mustapha Guitouni had pre-announced in April, and that may be issued over the coming weeks. According to government-owned news portal, Portail Algerien des Energies Renouvelables, of the planned 200 MW, around 150 MW will be tendered in the frame of an international call, to which local private and public entities will be entitled to participate in consortia with foreign players, while another 50 MW will be assigned to local state-owned power and gas utility Sonelgaz for several off-grid hybrid gas/diesel and solar projects.

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## Kuwait 1st Concentrated Solar Power plant 50MW Shagaya solar completed this year

Shagaya 50MW concentrated solar power (CSP) plant in under the Phase One of 2GW Kuwait Shagaya Renewable Park. As Mr. Oliver Baudson, Managing Director of TSK-Flagsol Engineering talks to CSP Focus, “the CSP project is now under construction, and will be fully completed by the end of this year, when Kuwait will have the 1st commercial CSP plant operate.” Developed by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), the Shagaya 50MW CSP project signed EPC contract (USD \$385 million) with a consortium consisting of Spanish EPC company TSK and Kuwait’s Kharafi National in 2015. It takes parabolic trough CSP technology, and has 9 hours molten salt thermal electricity storage.

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## DEWA Seeking IPP Advisory Services For 5th Phase Of MBR Concentrated Solar Power Park

The Dubai Water and Electricity Authority (DEWA) has issued a tender to seek IPP advisory services for the fifth phase of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. The initial steps towards the execution of phase 5 of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum (MBR) solar park has been announced. DEWA is seeking IPP advisory services through a specific tender, to assess how to reach the 5 GW target set for the project by 2030 – interested parties are asked to submit their bids by July 22, reported PV Magazine.

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## The path to US\$0.015/kWh solar power, and lower

While we’ve seen prices for solar power installations globally fall well below one U.S. dollar per watt, it was only relatively recently (later in 2016, early 2017) that those prices were seen in the United States. And with the effects of tariffs on imported solar panels under Section 201, there are some projects that might have been under that number that won’t come to be – yet. GTM Research did the math as part of a presentation by Research Manager Scott Moskowitz at GTM’s Solar Summit, Trends in Solar Technology and System Prices, which projects that utility scale fixed-tilt systems could reach 70 U.S. cents per watt by 2022.

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### **UAE, KSA lead MENA renewable and solar energy sector**

The UAE and Saudi Arabia are leading the Middle East and North Africa's (MENA) renewable energy market, where power requirements will grow by 6.4% each year until 2022. Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP), a development bank focused on the energy sector, found that MENA's major energy-importing companies are working to improve local energy legislation and infrastructure, while most exporting countries have so far "done little to incorporate renewables".

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### **Morocco close to completing the world's largest concentrated solar power farm**

With the world facing an ever-growing threat posed by the dangers of using non-renewable sources of energy, Morocco is among the countries leading the race in Africa to adopt renewable energy in the form of solar power. Morocco is now close to completing the world's largest concentrated solar power farm. When completion is done, which is expected to be at the end of 2018, the power plant will light up and power over one million homes. The most interesting part of the ground-breaking and innovative development is that carbon emissions will be reduced by an estimated 760,000 tons per year.

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### **TSK and Environmena commission Jordan's largest solar project**

A joint venture between Enviromena Power Systems and Spanish firm TSK has commissioned a 105MW solar PV project in Jordan, having received financing from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD). The Quweira Solar Power Plant, the largest in Jordan to date, cost AED550 million (US\$150 million). The project, located in the southern part of Jordan, was inaugurated by Hani Fawzi Al-Mulki, prime minister of Jordan.

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### **Concentrated Solar Power capex costs fall by almost half**

The cost of building new CSP plants has fallen significantly as developers have moved towards China and the Middle East and embraced tower technology with storage, New Energy Update has found. New Energy Update's latest analysis of 16 CSP projects with investment decisions since 2016 shows that capital expenditures (capex) were between \$3,910/kW and \$6,355/kW. Energy storage capacities range from six to 16 hours. In comparison, the capex of plants installed from 2013 to 2015 ranged from \$6,050/kW to 12,600/kW, for plants with four to eight hours' storage, according to a study by the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA). Capex for plants with more than eight hours' storage was between \$7,300/kW and 11,300/kW, IRENA said, while costs for plants without storage were generally lower.

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### **ACWA Power, Shanghai Electric Sign Contract For Dubai CSP Project**

ACWA Power, a Saudi Arabia headquartered power and water developer has signed a new contract for the fourth phase of the Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest Concentrated Solar Power investment project in the world. The Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract for the 700 megawatt (MW) fourth phase was signed in Shanghai, China, with Shanghai Electric, the project's main contractor.

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### **ABB technologies to enable expansion of solar park in Dubai**

ABB has won an order worth more than \$90 million from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), the leading power utility in United Arab Emirates (UAE), to build the Shams 400 kV substation that will integrate solar power from upcoming phases of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum solar park into the city's electrical grid. This will be ABB's second substation for the park, exemplifying the company's commitment to deliver reliable power to consumers and serve the building and infrastructure sector alongside utility and industry customers.

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### **Lebanon issues tender for 300 MW of large-scale solar-plus-storage**

Lebanon's Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC) has issued an expression of interest for the tender involving the construction of 300 MW of solar PV plants combined with storage systems, which it announced in early February. According to the document, the LCEC is seeking developers interested in installing between 210 – 300 MW of large-scale solar-plus-storage capacity across three different sites in Lebanon. "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," the LCEC said in the document. The deadline to submit the EoI is July 12, 2018.

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### **Egypt seeks to define new auction mechanism for solar and wind**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which is now assisting the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC) for the tendering of two solar PV projects, is seeking consultants to help the country's transition from FITs to auctions. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has issued a tender for consultants to help the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC) with financial and technical assistance for the procurement of large-scale renewable energy projects.

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### **Oman reveals pre-qualified developers for 500 MW solar tender**

The Oman Power and Water Procurement company (OPWP) has published a list of the 12 developers, which have pre-qualified for the final phase of the 500 MW solar tender it launched in late December. Included in the list are single bidders, such as Spanish solar developer, X-ELIO Energy, S.L.; Japanese industrial conglomerate, Marubeni Corporation; Japan's trading company, Mitsui & Co., Ltd; Japan-based trading and investment business conglomerate, Marubeni; Saudi power and water utility, ACWA Power; International Power S.A. (IPSA), which is a unit of French energy giant Engie; and Hanwha Q Cells Corporation.

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### **DEWA to tender 300-MW concentrated solar power (CSP) by the start of 2019**

The CSP unit will be tendered with storage, Saeed Al Tayer, Dewa managing director and chief executive, said on the sidelines of the opening of the first part of the 800MW phase three of the solar scheme in the Seih Al Dahal desert to the south of Dubai. A consortium led by Abu Dhabi's Masdar and France's EDF Group are set to complete the third phase by 2020, for which they have secured \$650m in financing arranged through banks, according to Fawaz Al Muharrami, executive managing director of Shuaa Energy, the joint



venture by both partners.

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### **Tunisia launches calls for 500 MW solar, 500 MW wind**

This is a good start for the production of electricity from clean energies. Only one week after the granting of 10 authorizations for 1 and 10 MW power plants, and the signing of the energy purchase contracts by STEG, on Thursday May 10, the Tunisian government is taking the next step. Thus, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energies launched, one after the other, two calls for pre-qualification application for the realization in concession totaling 1000 MW through 8 plants, the first for photovoltaic solar power plants (5) with a total capacity of about 500 MW, and the second for wind power plants (3) with a total capacity of about 500 MW.

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### **Saudi Arabia, SoftBank Discuss Financing Of Mega Solar Project**

Officials from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) and Japan's SoftBank Group have met for preliminary talks on the funding possibilities for the recently announced solar power project in the Kingdom. Both parties have been meeting over the past few weeks along with key international banks to determine the best financing strategy that suits a project of this magnitude. In March, Softbank and PIF signed a deal to create the New Solar Energy Plan 2030, the world's largest solar project of its type. Despite pessimism from a section of industry experts who see it as overly ambitious, Saudi Arabia is determined to push forward with the 200GW solar project, expected to cost \$200bn.

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### **Sterling Wilson to launch 4 solar projects next year**

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### **Oman Edges Closer To North-South Interconnection Grid**

Oman is making steps towards plans for building the North-South interconnection grid which aims at reducing generation investments and optimal use of natural gas. Oman's Nama group has held its last meeting with stakeholders to present the final results of a study to explore the possibility of interconnecting power grids between the North and South areas of the Sultanate. Study proposals for the grid interconnection project have also been presented. Stakeholders discussed the benefits of the interconnection project, which is expected to support Oman in achieving its short and long term strategic and economic objectives. The grid will link the Main Interconnected System (MIS) of Nama Group in the north with the Duqm industrial area and the Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) network in the central region of the sultanate, as well as Nama Group network in Dhofar.

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