

Hybrid Wind-Solar Power Projects Get Boost With New India Policy

By Madhur Singh

Posted May 18, 2018, 8:29 AM

- India has goal of 175 gigawatts of installed capacity from renewables by 2022
- Policy could make more renewable power available at competitive prices
- Hybrid projects to improve grid stability

More hybrid power plants that rely on both solar and wind energy to generate electricity could be coming to India thanks to a new policy released by the country's renewables ministry.

And renewable power companies operating there say they are happy.

"This is a very positive step," Ramesh Kymal, managing director of Gamesa Wind Turbines Pvt. Ltd., told Bloomberg Environment by phone May 15.

The renewables ministry has been consulting with the industry for the past six months on the policy, Kymal said. Gamesa, a wind turbine manufacturer and developer of wind farms, was among the first to build hybrid solar and wind power plants in India.

The National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, issued May 14, seeks to provide a framework for promoting large, grid-connected wind-solar hybrid electrical power systems and make more renewable power available at competitive prices, according to a ministry statement. It also aims to improve grid stability and make better use of transmission infrastructure.

India set a goal of having 175 gigawatts of installed capacity from renewable energy sources by the year 2022, which includes 100 gigawatts of solar and 60 gigawatts of wind power capacity, the policy said. The country's current installed capacity is almost 70 gigawatts.

"This policy, with sufficient fiscal incentives and favorable regulatory measures can help hybrid plants to take off in a significant manner," Pratiksha Thakur, a spokeswoman for solar engineering, procurement, and construction company Vikram Solar, told Bloomberg Environment in an email May 15.

Less Intermittent

Solar and wind resources complement each other in India, the policy said, explaining that hybrid plants can make power generation less intermittent.

Regulators will have to formulate the necessary standards and rules for wind-solar hybrid systems, the policy said, and pricing for power from hybrid projects will be determined through transparent bidding.

“The policy is simple and makes no onerous burdens on anyone, rather it facilitates and incentivises power producers,” Vibhav Nuwal, director of data analytics and advisory company REConnect Energy, told Bloomberg Environment by phone May 15.

Additional power from hybrid projects could go for a variety of uses, Nuwal said, including sale to a user or distribution company at prices determined either by the respective state regulator or through a transparent bidding process. The power could also be sold to the distribution company under the renewable energy certificates (renewable credits) mechanism.

“It will definitely make such projects feasible,” he said.

However, Thakur of Vikram Solar said, more details on implementation are required in addition to consistent policy support for improving grid connectivity and the process for getting renewable power onto the grid.

To contact the reporter on this story: Madhur Singh in Chandigarh, India, at correspondents@bloomberglaw.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Rachael Daigle at rdaigle@bloombergenvironment.com

Related Articles

[India Needs More Funding for Green Energy Transmission System](#)

March 21, 2018, 8:23 PM

[Farmers Hooked to Sun Seen Helping Revive India Power Retailers](#)

Feb. 5, 2018, 6:03 PM

**Bloomberg
Environment**

© 2018 The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
All Rights Reserved