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SUCCESSFUL FIRST CALL FOR TENDER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



The Republic of Moldova, a small country located between Ukraine and Romania, still not part of the EU, is the track to become an EU member, as its candidacy as well as the one of Ukraine have been accepted. As a former Soviet Republic, becoming independent in 1991, the country was fully dependent on Russian gas. Today, Moldova needs to diversify its energy mix and has launched in March 2025 the first call for tender for Renewable Energy of 165 MW, with a PPA of 15 years. The results of the competition were presented on the 12th of June 2025 by Moldova's Minister of Energy Mr. Dorin Junghietu and State Secretary in the Republic of Moldova Ms. Carolina Novac. After opening and examining the eight financial bids for the construction of wind farms, five bids with a total capacity of 105 MW were selected. These include the consortium represented a Moldovan company with two farms with a total capacity of 65 MW, which offered a price of 62, 49€/MWh and 66,49€/MWh, respectively; a Czech company with two farms with a total capacity of 12.5 MW and prices of 70,6€/MWh; and a franco Romanian developer with a 27.5 MW farm and a price of 71,49€/MWh.

Inside This Issue

1. Cover Story 2. Global Stories on Smart Grid 3. Member Updates 4. Smart Grid Update 5. Smart Grid Events 6. GSEF at a Glance



The status of large eligible producer is granted by Government Decision, at the proposal of the Ministry of Energy, and the plants are to be installed within 36 months of the publication in the Official Gazette of the Government Decision on the granting of the title of large eligible producer.

Out of the 24 bids submitted for Photovoltaic (PV) parks, the Auction Commission selected six winning bids, within the available capacity of 60 MW. The winners are a Moldovan company with a park having 5.7 MW capacity and a price of 56,99€/MWh, other consortia proposing prices between 57,27€/MWh and 59,5€/MWh. "These auctions will bring direct investments of 200 million Euros over the next three years. We are also pleased that we have good potential among local investors, who have come up with attractive offers at these auctions. Everything is being done with a single goal in mind: to bring investment to our country, to build resilient regional cooperation that reduces risks, connects markets, and protects citizens," added Dorin Junghietu.

Secretary of State Carolina Novac reiterated that the Republic of Moldova has set a target of 30% of electricity consumption coming from renewable sources by 2030. To this end, one of the priorities of the Ministry of Energy is to improve the legal framework and introduce support instruments for investments in energy storage and green technologies. A new round of tenders for the construction of wind farms with an estimated capacity of up to 173 MW is planned for October 2025 and will include, for the first time, storage solutions with a capacity of up to 22 MW (44MWh), with the deadline for submitting bids estimated to be March 2026.

Companies will be able to sell the electricity produced to the central energy supplier, Energocom, for 15 years after the plants are commissioned, at the bid price, which will be adjusted for inflation and other tariff factors. The status of large eligible producer is granted by Government Decision, at the proposal of the Ministry of Energy, and the plants are to be installed within 36 months of the publication in the Official Gazette of the Government Decision on the granting of the title of large eligible producer.

In the Republic of Moldova, there are three support mechanisms for green energy producers, guaranteeing the purchase of surplus energy delivered to the grid and thus helping them to recoup their investments:

Net billing, which replaced net metering on January 1, 2024, applicable to small producers with installations for their own consumption;

Fixed tariff for 15 years – for parks and power plants up to 4 MW wind or biogas (no capacity limit);

Fixed price, also valid for 15 years, for parks and power plants larger than 1 MW photovoltaic or 4 MW wind power, capacities allocated through auctions.

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The process of preparing the tender documentation and consulting with the business community is on-going. Bids are expected to be submitted in January–March 2026, and their evaluation and the selection of winners is expected in June 2026. With these two call for tenders, Moldova shows its political will to become sovereign and significantly step further in the net zero emission roadmap. 30% Renewable Energies are expected for the country in 2030. Other Balkanic countries also have proposed some call for tenders for renewable energies such as Kosovo.

Article contributed by Ms Valerie-Anne Lencznar GSEF Ambassador–Europe & Francophone Africa Regions



GLOBAL STORIES ON SMART GRID

**Government of India Approves
INR 54 Billion VGF for 30 GWh BESS**

The Government of India (GoI) has approved a viability gap funding (VGF) scheme of INR 54 billion to support the development of 30 GWh of battery energy storage systems (BESS). The initiative is expected to attract investments worth INR 330 billion and help meet India's energy storage requirements by 2028. This is in addition to 13.2 GWh of BESS already under implementation.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/8rIDK>

**India Plans INR 900 Billion Undersea
Transmission Links to Saudi Arabia
And UAE**

The Government of India will invest approximately INR 900 billion to establish undersea power transmission lines for exporting electricity to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The joint venture agreements have been signed with both countries. The Saudi Arabia link, with a cable length of 1,400 km, is estimated to cost INR 470 billion, while the UAE link, spanning 1,600 km, will require INR 430 billion. Each transmission corridor will have the capacity to carry 2 GW of electricity and forms part of India's broader strategy to enhance electricity exports.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/WwZ7E>

**MNRE Launches INR 23 Million Startup
Challenges for Rooftop Solar Innovation**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India has launched the innovative projects startup challenges with a total prize pool of INR 23 million (~\$265,650) to encourage innovation in rooftop solar and distributed renewable energy technologies. Applications for the challenges must be submitted by August 20, 2025. Results will be announced on September 10, 2025. The initiative is supported by the National Institute of Solar Energy and coordinated in partnership with startup India and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/rJ7bn>

**Uniper and Microsoft form Strategic
Partnership to Accelerate Energy
Industry Transformation Through AI**

Uniper is intensifying its collaboration with Microsoft to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI). Uniper aims to become a global leader in the application of AI in the energy industry. Therefore, AI will be integrated into all major business processes and strategic tasks at Uniper to make them more efficient. The energy industry is undergoing rapid change. The future energy system will be more volatile, decentralized, less carbon-intensive, and more interconnected with other sectors than it is today. AI is a crucial component for transforming the energy system. It helps optimize energy trading and the use of various generation types, makes maintenance and servicing of plants more efficient and cost-effective, and better meets customer needs.

Read More: <https://bitly.cx/UNgdI>

**Meta Becomes the Latest Big Tech
Company Turning to Nuclear Power for
AI Needs**

Meta has cut a 20-year deal to secure nuclear power to help meet surging demand for power for artificial intelligence and other computing needs at Facebook's parent company. The investment with Meta will also expand the output of a Constellation Energy Illinois nuclear plant. The agreement is just the latest in a string of tech-nuclear partnerships as the use of AI expands.

Read More: <https://bitly.cx/0jNqv>

**Aerones Secures \$62 Million to
Advance Robotic Wind Turbine
Maintenance**

Latvia-based Aerones has raised \$62 Million to support the global expansion of its robotic and AI-enabled technologies for wind turbine maintenance. Aerones robotics technology can service wind turbine blades in half the time required for manual maintenance. The funding aims to enhance the upkeep of wind turbines across more than 30 countries.

Read More: <https://bitly.cx/ciXWe>



GLOBAL STORIES ON SMART GRID

Amazon's Zoox Ramps Up Robotaxi Race – Can It Catch Waymo And Challenge Tesla?

Amazon just revealed its robotaxi plans! The retail giant is charging into the self-driving space through Zoox, its autonomous vehicle arm, aiming to produce up to 10,000 robotaxis annually at a massive new facility near Silicon Valley. This bold move is Amazon's bid to challenge Waymo's lead and join in reshaping future transportation.

Read More: <https://tinyurl.com/yexfu96y>

Germany's Regensburg Netz Launches Major Six-Year Grid Digitalization With Corinex

In a significant move towards enhancing energy infrastructure, Regensburg Netz GmbH, a German utility, has initiated a six-year contract with Corinex, a leader in broadband over power line (BPL) technology. The project aims to digitalize the electricity network, providing real-time grid visibility and control. This will optimize energy distribution, improve resilience, and support the integration of electric vehicles and renewable energy. Read Mores.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/PfVrQ>

Octopus Energy and BYD Launch Vehicle-To-Grid (V2G) Bundle in The UK

A new partnership between Octopus Energy and Chinese automaker BYD is set to accelerate the adoption of Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology in the United Kingdom. The collaboration will offer a bundled package that allows electric vehicle owners to sell energy back to the grid during peak times, helping to balance energy supply and demand while providing a financial incentive to consumers.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/tSJM3>

Siemens To Create Digital Twin Of Trieste's Energy Grid In Italy

Italian utility AcegasApsAmga has partnered with Siemens to develop a digital twin of the energy grid in Trieste, Italy. This virtual model of the physical grid will enable real-time simulation and analysis, allowing for improved planning, predictive maintenance, and the optimization of grid operations as the city integrates more renewable energy and electric mobility.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/HqsSn>



EPRI DCFLEX INITIATIVE – FOUNDATION FOR DATA CENTER INTEGRATION WITH THE GRID

Background

EPRI launched the DCFlex Initiative to explore how data centers can support the electric grid, enable better asset utilization, and support the clean energy transition. The initiative's founding members include a cross section of stakeholders from electric utilities to hyperscale data center developers to AI technology companies.

According to a recent EPRI white paper, electricity usage by hyperscalers more than doubled in the US between 2017 and 2021 and the rest of the world is being impacted as well. This increase is expected to continue, with data centers projected to consume 5% to 9% of U.S. electricity generation annually by 2030, up from 4% today.

The DCFlex will coordinate real-world demonstrations of flexibility in a variety of existing and planned data centers and electricity markets, creating reference architectures and providing shared learnings to enable broader adoption of flexible operations that benefit all electricity consumers.

For the electric sector, AI advances are key to managing the grid more efficiently by effectively integrating distributed resources, demand response, variable renewables, and energy storage with utility-scale grid resources. This can accelerate the energy transition while keeping electricity reliable and affordable.

"Data centers play a critical role in today's interconnected global information-sharing environment and economy, but along with increased manufacturing and movement towards electrification, they are placing additional power needs on the electric grid," said EPRI President and CEO Arshad Mansoor. "Flexible data center design and operation is a key strategy for accelerating AI development and realizing its benefits while minimizing costs, lowering carbon emissions, and enhancing system reliability."

You can follow progress on the DCFlex Initiative here - <https://msites.epri.com/DCFLEX>

New White Paper

To help support the DCFlex Initiative and to help establish priorities for the demonstrations, EPRI has just released a new white paper on "Grid Flexibility Needs and Data Center Characteristics"—a foundational step in aligning the energy and digital sectors for a more resilient future.

This paper introduces a shared framework for understanding flexibility across power providers, grid operators, and data center stakeholders. It explores:

 A taxonomy of flexibility needs, services, products, and programs	 How the flexibility available from data centers varies by size, workload, reliability, and ownership.	 The technical and operational potential of data centers to provide grid services	 Key factors—economic, environmental, and regulatory—that shape flexibility potential
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Read the full paper here and look into joining the initiative -

<https://www.epri.com/research/programs/063638/results/3002031504>

Article contributed by Mr Mark McGranaghan, Fellow, EPRI






ANNOUNCING INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION TO LATIN AMERICAN SMART GRID FORUM






04 - 05 August 2025 | SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

ISGF & GSEF In partnership with ECOEE is taking an International delegation to The Latin American Smart Grid Forum scheduled from 04 - 05 August 2025 in São Paulo, Brazil. This will be followed by visit to Utilities in Rio De Janeiro on 07 - 08 August 2025

To join the Delegation please contact :
Aashima | Phone: 9871752530 | Email id: aashima@indiasmartgrid.org



ISGF AND AIDA DELEGATES PARTICIPATED AT THE ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM 2025



India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) continued to play a prominent role on the international stage at the **20th Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) 2025**. This year, ACEF celebrated its 20th edition, which was held from 2–6 June 2025 at the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** headquarters in Manila, Philippines, under the theme “Empowering the Future: Clean energy innovations, regional cooperation and integration, and financing solutions.”

ACEF served as a dynamic platform for stakeholders to explore strategies, forge partnerships, and exchange knowledge to accelerate the clean energy transition in the Asia-Pacific region.

During the event **Mr. Reji Kumar Pillai**, President of ISGF, moderated the Thematic Track Session **2.1 on “Regional Energy Planning and Grid Integration”** held on **3rd June**, contributing insights on cross-border collaboration and the importance of integrated energy markets in advancing regional energy security and transition goals.

Ms. Reena Suri, Executive Director of ISGF, was a speaker for the **Thematic Session 2.3** on “Enhancing Regulatory and Policy Frameworks for Power Trade,” and also participated in a **Deep Dive Workshop** on “Digital Innovations for a Just Energy Transition.” Her sessions highlighted ISGF’s pioneering work in promoting smart grid technologies, digitalization, and e-mobility infrastructure for inclusive and sustainable energy transformation.

The All India DISCOMs Association (AIDA) (<https://www.aida-india.org/>) in collaboration with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF), successfully led an International Study Tour to Manila, Philippines, from 1–7 June 2025. The tour was centred around participation in the **20th Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF 2025)**, organized by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. A key highlight of the tour was the visit and meeting with the senior management of Manila Electric Company (Meralco) on 2nd June, 2025.

ISGF’s participation at ACEF 2025 highlighted its leadership in the global clean energy space and showed how India is playing an important role in shaping the future of sustainable energy.



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SOUTH AFRICA'S TRANSMISSION EXPANSION PLANS GAIN MOMENTUM WITH POTENTIAL \$500 MILLION WORLD BANK BACKING



South Africa is courting private investment for an ambitious plan to add 14,500km of new lines and enhanced transformer capacity over the next decade, at an estimated total cost of \$25bn, as it looks to emerge from a decade of crippling power cuts that have battered the economy. The proposed credit guarantee vehicle aims to help overcome transmission infrastructure bottlenecks that have held back some 20 gigawatts of renewable energy from connecting to the national electricity network, according to Standard Bank. Many of the renewable projects are situated in the sun-baked Northern Cape or windswept Western and Eastern Cape regions, far from existing transmission corridors linking most of South Africa to the coal-powered generation plants in the north.

Operating as a stand-alone entity, the credit guarantee vehicle would issue guarantees instead of South Africa's treasury and would cover payment defaults, for instance, should something go awry during the roll-out. "We could cover or be committed to finance half a billion US dollars of the government of South Africa's first loss or junior capital participation," Yadviga Semikolenova, a senior World Bank manager, said late on Thursday, 19 June 2025.

Link to the article: <https://pressportal.co.za/stream/story/344232c05d0ff15d-20250623.html>

Article Contributed by Nick Singh, GSEF Ambassador - Anglophone Countries in Africa

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AI WIDENS THE BLACK BOX MODEL



See AI development efforts across many verticals and services. The concern that AI will displace jobs is also ringing true in most business circles. This article explores the key benefits and issues for the electric utility industry.

AI applications are making headway in all fields (healthcare, energy, finance, transportation). It is fast becoming the “go-to-tool” to seek answers. In about 80 years we went from using formulae (mathematical expression) to computer algorithms (method to solve a problem) to now AI solutions mimicking human cognitive functions such as learning, reasoning and problem solving.

AI is not a tool but an agent. An AI agent is a software program (or system) designed to perceive its environment, make decisions, and take autonomous actions to achieve specific goals. Unlike a software tool, AI solutions may not be exactly repeatable due to their learning ability. They seldom stall (crash). The only way to limit its unbounded actions is to define very narrow specific goals forcing it to seek human supervision. A complex large solution will need many AI agents working together. This poses the problem of how to control “runaway” actions or prevent it from providing obscure or esoteric solutions.

Computing power, data store and robotics, are driving AI productivity. We will likely use less human cognitive capabilities, learning and experience and rely more on machine “cognitive” abilities and its “learning” and “experience”. In other words, faster and cheaper humanoids will replace slower and less efficient human work functions. While this will be beneficial in general, we need to ask ourselves, at what point do we purposefully force AI to stop and seek human intervention. Also, how would we differentiate human learning/experience versus machine learning/experience and know when to employ each.

Understanding what AI can do for us is important. For example, (a) it widens the search dramatically giving us a richer body of options; and (b) it brings shared experiences of other similar situations thereby helping us reason better. If these are enacted using robots for complex and risky tasks (with human supervision), then they become very useful. A good example is damage risk assessment and remotely guided mitigative actions (e.g. O&G, Nuclear, BESS, Thermal). This pursuit of robots has been active for a decade.

In recent years, the AI reach and computational prowess has substantially increased and widened to include autonomous actions (“seek and enact”). A few areas include (a) driverless vehicles; (b) stock trading; and (c) military tactics (missile defense, drone warfare). In each such case, AI has been given autonomy to perceive, learn, decide and act.

The electric power industry is rapidly moving towards AI agents to solve its legacy problems (grid congestion, reliability, defect identification, manage volatile weather patterns). In each case, the data is provided by another automated machine system (cameras, sensors, Lidar, weather data) and not created by humans. Such data sets now include electrical, mechanical, civil, thermal, weather and air-quality, posing a 50x explosion in real-time data that cannot be handled by humans.

A few examples of AI efforts currently underway in the electric power industry include:

- (a) **Managing Old Power Assets:** Old assets (transformers, cables, lines) in the Torrid zone (between Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) are the worst affected. They were purchased 50 years ago to (then) standards requiring 40 deg C maximum ambient temperature. Today, the temperature is as high as 45-47 deg C for short periods in the summer. Instead of de-rating (by 15%), AI based real-time solutions (using current load, projected temperatures and load ramp) allow for better dynamic limits and better health of old assets.
- (b) **Grid Situational Awareness:** High penetration of RE makes the grid vulnerable to weather swings. These severe weathers impact RE power generation (PV and wind), load variability (hot, cold, humid) and the steepness of the ramp in both generation and load. A wide-area situational awareness that integrates both weather and grid parameters offer better real-time management with risk assessments.
- (c) **Condition Based Maintenance:** Maintenance has undergone many changes, from periodic to usage-based to now reliability centric practices. In each case, defects were spotted and rectified during maintenance shut-downs. The focus now is to identify abnormalities while assets are in operation. This is done using generative AI (images, videos, Lidars, satellite imagery, infra-red, others). This allows for true condition-based maintenance.



- (d) **Managing Grid Congestion:** Grid congestion causes an asset to be overloaded and cannot be resolved without load shedding. The congestion is often exacerbated by power flows (active and reactive power) in other circuits. There is limited capability to reroute power quickly. So, to avoid these scenarios, the entire grid is modeled as a single large digital twin and potential congestion locations are studied by tweaking grid parameters.
- (e) **Grid Resilience:** With the advent of inverter-based, distributed power generation (IBRs) with energy storage systems (ESS), studies are underway to have grid break-up at predetermined points during a weather calamity and operate as independent microgrids. The fractures are then restored (re-synchronized) once normality returns. This allows for better climate resiliency with limited load loss. The fracture points need to be studied by modeling the entire network together with relevant weather parameters

AI offers the power industry more agility to manage and operate the grid. However, the key hurdle would be ensuring AI behavior for safe and valid autonomous action. AI needs to exhibit trustworthy behavior driven by assurance that (a) acknowledges truthful learning; and (b) discerns real versus fake data.

In the words (paraphrased) of Prof. Yuval Noah Harari, Professor of History at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, (AI and human evolution | Yuval Noah Harari), AI will become untrustworthy if it learns from humans to lie, cheat and manipulate. Secondly, since it has no conscience or ethics (no feeling of pain, love, hate, guilt), any wrong or damaging solution will not have consequences for it to re-learn. Thirdly, AI has immense intelligence, but merely mimicking humans does not validate trust and cooperation.

The power industry needs to focus on these critical basic trustworthy issues as they develop AI agents for our industry. Electric utility is a capital-intensive industry serving critical areas of our daily lives and so we need to get this right. We need to provide confidence that our AI agents are trustworthy and hence their solutions. Till then, it is better for AI to be supervised by humans even if it means less productivity.

Article contributed by Ravi Seethapathy, GSEF Ambassador for Americas



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International Events

02nd - 06th June 2025

Asia Clean Energy Forum, Manila, Philippines
<https://asiacleanenergyforum.adb.org/>

3rd - 4th June 2025

Brussels, Belgium
Eurelectric 2025 Power Summit
<https://www.eurelectric.org/events/power-summit-2025/>

3rd - 4th June 2025

Denver, CO 2nd Annual National Virtual Power Plant Summit
<https://energyconferencenetwork.swoogo.com/vpps25/6802249>

16th - 19th June 2025

CIREN, Geneva, Switzerland
<https://www.cired2025.org/>

18th - 20th June 2025

Japan Energy Summit & Exhibition, Tokyo
<https://www.japanenergyevent.com/>

9th - 10th July 2025

Solar & Storage Live Vietnam 2025, Vietnam
<https://solarandstoragelive.com/>

4th - 5th August 2025

17th Latin American Smart Grid Forum, São Paulo, Brazil
<https://www.smartgrid.com.br/eng>

9th - 11th September, 2025

Enlit ASIA, Bangkok, Thailand
<https://www.enlit-asia.com/>

30th Sept - 02nd October, 2025

APUA Annual Event New Cairo, Egypt
www.congresasea.com

07th - 08th October, 2025

Innovation for Cool Earth Forum, Tokyo
<https://www.icef.go.jp/>

27th - 31st October 2025

Singapore International Energy Week, Marina Bay Sands
<https://www.siew.gov.sg/>

18th - 20th November, 2025

Enlit Europe, Bilbao, Spain
<https://www.enlit-europe.com/>

02nd - 05th February 2026

DistribuTech International, San Diego, CA, USA
<https://www.distributech.com/>

10th - 14th March 2026

12th India Smart Utility Week (ISUW 2026), New Delhi
<http://www.isuw.in/>

25th - 27th March 2026

ASEAN (Bangkok) Smart Energy & Energy Storage Expo 2026, Bangkok, Thailand
<https://www.aseancleanenergyexpo.com/>

17th - 18th September 2025

Data Center Asia, Jakarta International Expo Convention, Jakarta 2025
<https://www.datacenter-asia.com/jakarta/>

17th - 19th March 2026

EN26 Conference & Exhibition, Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia
<https://www.energynetworks.com.au/events/en26-conference-exhibition/>



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