

WINDWIRES

INDIA



Prices slightly up in second 2GW auction

The second federal auction for 2GW of new wind capacity, organised by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), saw tariffs increase marginally from the historic lows recorded in the recent rounds. Just eight bidders clinched the whole 2GW capacity in the April tender, at tariffs of INR 2,510-2,520/MWh (\$39.3-39.4/MWh). These figures are just above the record low INR 2,430/MWh bid in the Gujarat state auction in December, and the INR 2,440/MWh in the first 2GW auction in February, but are still well below the average rate of thermal power production.

This tender saw several foreign players outbidding entrenched Indian developers. Winners included European companies Actis (300MW) Enel (285MW) and Engie (200MW), Singapore's Continuum Energy (250MW), and domestic firms ReNew Power (280MW), Adani Green Energy and Mytrah Energy (300MW each).

The continued low tariffs, especially with foreign players outbidding Indian players, suggest the industry is able to grow at these prices.

UNITED STATES



SGRE muscled in on 2GW Wind XI cluster

Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (SGRE) has been awarded a 77MW order by MidAmerican Energy for a project in the developer's 2GW Wind XI cluster in Iowa. SGRE will supply the nacelles and hubs for the 25 2.625MW turbines and five 2.3MW turbines from its Kansas facility. The 2GW project had to-date been solely supplied by rival OEM Vestas.

process for turbines and their components. In some cases the design may have to be altered based on the seismic exposure of each site.

Proven record

So far, the country's wind farms have proved notably resistant to seismic movements. Foundations designed to support towers against the blustery conditions that have made Chile one of the hottest markets for wind energy this decade can usually withstand all but the strongest seismic movements.

There is currently 558MW of wind capacity under construction in Chile, with environmental licences granted for another 9.2GW.

When an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale struck the northern region of Coquimbo — the heart of the country's wind industry — in September 2015, no wind turbines suffered significant damage, helping power supplies to be rapidly restored.

Requiring manufacturers to provide specially-reinforced components or even a

specific design for wind turbines to comply with Chile's tougher standards could mean significant cost increases, making wind energy less competitive in the country, the SGRE spokesman warned.

But others are less concerned. Rather than updating standards, the new standard will bring together information contained in existing documents, said Daniel Llanos, engineering manager at developer Mainstream Renewable Power.

Even playing field

The same tough standards will also apply to other generation technologies, so any cost increase would be across the board. Meanwhile, the trend towards larger and taller turbines is requiring the industry to update its existing standards anyway, Llanos said.

Similar standards are being required across the Pacific Rim, where seismic and volcanic activity is common.

"Having a clear standard for renewable-energy projects will mean these are an increasingly safe, reliable and efficient alternative," Llanos added.

ON THE RISE: RUSSIA'S WIND POWER MARKET BEGINS TO THAW



Deep freeze Belgian crane specialist Sarens battled sub-zero temperatures in Russia to install three new turbines. The project, near the village of Ushakovo, 20km south of Kaliningrad in the Russian territory, comprises three Enercon E70 2.3MW turbines. According to the Russian Wind Industry Association (RAWI), temperatures dipped to -18°C, with wind speeds above 10m/s during installation. The modular towers, each 65-metres high, are topped with the nacelle and generator, weighing a combined 71 tonnes. Wind-power capacity in Russia has been minimal to date, but last year's tender resulted in 1.65GW of projects contracted to be added between 2018 and 2022. Enercon is also set to benefit, following its takeover of Dutch OEM Lagerwey late last year. Lagerwey formed a joint venture with Rosatom in 2017 to supply 388 turbines to the tendered projects.