

## Energy storage investment kosovo

Minister of Economy Artane Rizvanolli revealed plans for auctioning 950 MW in the next two years, in line with the energy strategy until 2031. The investments will be worth EUR 1.2 billion in total, she said at the opening of applications from six companies and consortia for a 100 MW solar power auction.

The upcoming auctions will be for public, public-private and private projects, according to Rizvanolli. She said calls are expected to be issued this year for battery energy storage projects in cooperation with the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC) of the United States.

In addition, procedures are scheduled to be announced in the fourth quarter for a solar power plant of 100 MW for government-controlled power utility Kosovo Energy Corp. (KEK) and a solar thermal system for district heating in Prishtina, according to Rizvanolli. The contracts will have a combined value of EUR 180 million, she added.

“With the same enthusiasm, we will also develop other competitive projects as part of this package, starting with the 150 MW wind auction, which we will launch later this year,” Minister Rizvanolli stressed. It would be Kosovo’s first wind power auction.

Targets from the energy strategy include a 35% share of renewables in electricity consumption. Also, the government aims to add 1.2 GW in wind and solar power capacity. It includes 100 MW in the prosumer segment, with an intermediary goal of 30 MW by 2025.

The government of Kosovo this week announced it will build a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a capacity of 200MWh-plus to deal with the country’s energy crisis.

The country’s economy minister Artane Rizvanolli tweeted that the government has approved a program that will make use of a US\$234 million grant to build the BESS and increase women’s inclusion in the energy sector.

The money was initially going to be used to build a new gas pipeline from Kosovo to neighbouring North Macedonia but recent high gas prices have made that uneconomical, the government said. Reports say some of it will go to smaller energy projects too.

Rizvanolli has been quoted by local media as saying the BESS power would be at least 150MW with an energy capacity of 200MWh. Reports add that it will help stabilise the fluctuating frequency of electricity, shift load and help the integration of renewable generation assets in the grid like solar and wind.

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