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Under the proposed Kraftwerkssicherheitsgesetz, loosely translated as the Power Plant Safety Act, the Ministry for the Economy and Climate Change (BMWK) would seek resources, including 12.5GW of new power plants and 500MW of LDES.

The consultation was opened for six weeks from the 11 September announcement and follows the European Commission approving the plan"s rollout and the German Federal government coming to an agreement in early July.

The strategy will see procurements of a combination of so-called "hydrogen-ready" gas power plants, a handful of power plants running on hydrogen from their start of operation, as well as a fleet of gas plants and the LDES technologies. BMWK’s tender plan documents can be found here (PDF, in German).

The 500MW LDES procurement will take place as part of a first tranche, alongside 5GW of hydrogen-ready power plants, 2GW of modernisations to make existing plants run on hydrogen, and 500MW of pure hydrogen plants.

BDEW, Germany"s biggest trade association for the energy and water industries, welcomed the opening of the consultation and the drawing up of the draft law by BMWK.

"We must make rapid progress here so that the tendering process and thus the concrete realisation of H2-ready and H2-sprinter power plants and long-term storage facilities can finally begin," BDEW executive board chair Kerstin Andreae said.

Companies need "a reliable investment framework," Andreae said, adding that the planned integration of the Power Plant Safety Law with the new capacity market mechanism from 2028, "is an absolutely necessary building block for investment security."

Lars Stephan, policy and markets director at Fluence noted in a LinkedIn post last week that BMWK is planning to require LDES technologies to provide up to 72-hour discharge duration with a minimum 1MW power rating.

The government said it is looking for resources to plug gaps in variable solar PV and wind energy generation, including the infamous "dunkelflaute" periods when low sunlight and low wind could persist over days at a time.

As mentioned by Lars Stephan"s post, the German government’s definition of "long-duration" goes way further than the more typical 8-hour duration commonly associated with the term. The 8-hour discharge

threshold has been adopted by governments in the UK, Italy, Ireland and California as each has also moved to begin their first procurements for LDES.

Developers will receive a government contribution to Capex costs, paid across 10 annual installations, with bids awarded on a lowest cost of storage per MW/MWh basis, Stephan said.

The energy storage system integrator"s European policy and markets director added that the door could be open for much more LDES in the proposed second tranche of Power Plant Safety Act procurements.

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