

## Kosovo microgrids

The CEO of KOSTT, Mustafa Hasani, and the director of Solar Energy Group Europe sh p k, Egbert Schnuse, signed, this week, an agreement for the grid connection of the solar plant, which is planned to be connected to the 110 kV transmission network through a new 110 kV line with a length of about 6.5km, the network operator said in a statement.

The Kosovar government has made several attempts to support small sized and utility scale solar in the past. These efforts, however, have produced little results to date. In December, for example, Kosovo's State Aid Commission (KNSH) deliberated that the feed-in tariff scheme for PV installations not exceeding 3 MW in size, introduced by the country's Office of the Energy Regulator (ZRRE) in late November, was not complying with European state aid regulations.

Kosovo had just 7 MW of installed PV capacity at the end of 2019, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. The country recently raised its renewable energy target to an additional 400 MW of capacity by 2026. That would be enough to meet a quarter of its power demand and would reduce dependence on aging coal-fired power plants.

Most of Kosovo's electricity is supplied as imports or from two lignite-fired thermal power plants, the 40-year-old Kosovo A Power Station (with a 345 MW generation capacity) near Pristina, and the upgraded, 27-year-old Kosovo B Power Station (540 MW) in Obili?.

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A group led by Swiss construction group Orllati has won a 100 MW PV tender in Kosovo with a bid of EUR0.0488 (\$0.0524)/kWh. The consortium has secured a lease for up to 30 years, supported by a 15-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Kostt, the national market operator in Kosovo.

Artane Rizvanolli, the economy minister of Kosovo, has revealed that the winner of a tender to build a 100 MW solar plant in the town of Rahovec is a consortium led by Swiss construction group Orllati.

The authorities pre-selected six bidders for the tender's final phase. The other five bids included two consortia



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from Turkey. One of the groups consisted of Calik Group and Limak Holding, while the other was led by construction engineering company G?ri?. The government also shortlisted Germany-based Notus, French renewables developer Akuo Energy, and Egypt's Elsewedy Electric.

The tender was launched in July 2023. It was Kosovo's first solar auction and attracted more than 160 expressions of interest, according to Prime Minister Albin Kurti.

The plant will be built on public land and leased to the successful bidder for up to 30 years, backed by a 15-year PPA with Kostt, the national market operator.

The subsidy available under the scheme is equivalent to 40% of the investment value, covering up to EUR300 per m<sup>2</sup> of panels, to a maximum EUR4,000 (\$4,443.66).

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