Latvia solar energy

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Of the 300 MW, about 53% were micro-generation plants, and the rest were solar power plants. Microgeneration saw its biggest breakthrough in 2022, but 2023 has become a turning point in the development of solar power plants.

The total number of solar plants connected to “Sadales Tīkls” was 700 late last year, of which around 500 with a total production capacity of around 130 MW were connected in 2023.

The rate of development of micro-generation was also still relatively rapid last year – the total number of solar micro-generators connected to the distribution system reached 19,000 at the end of 2023, of which nearly 8,000 with a total production capacity of nearly 70 MW were connected in the last year.

ST Board Chairman SandisJansons said that solar power has been a notable addition to the country"s total energy portfolio in recent years – solar panels generated more than 128 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity in 2023. In Latvia"s total electricity production balance, itis still a small part – about 2%.

However, it is expected that this will change as development of the network continues. Capacity reserved for prospective solar power plants at the distribution system operator currently is 830 MW.

A Latvian developer is building a large-scale PV facility near the Russian border. The plant will provide some of the electricity that the Baltic country will no longer receive from Russia, following the planned desynchronization of the two energy systems in 2025.

Latvian renewable energy developer PurpleGreen Energy B plans to build a 400 MW solar power plant in Balvi, in the northern Latgale region of Latvia, on the border with Russia.

The company expects to begin construction on the facility next year, as reported by the Public Broadcasting of Latvia. The plant will be situated on an agricultural surface owned by the local farmer Koti?i.

The media outlet said that the location choice was influenced by the proximity of a high-voltage power line currently connected to Russia, which is set to be disconnected soon. Latvia has plans to transition away from Russia"s high-voltage electricity lines by 2025, according to the article.

This is not the first large-scale PV project under development in the Baltic country. In January, Green Genius said it was set to build a 100 MW of unsubsidized solar in Jekabpils, southeastern Latvia. The Lithuanian renewables developer said this solar park could sell electricity to the spot market or via power purchase agreements.

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Lithuania-based Ignitis announced a plan in September to invest up to EUR270 million ($273.8 million) in acquiring an undisclosed Latvian renewables company. The company holds the rights to develop a 200 MW hybrid wind-solar project at an undisclosed location in Latvia. Ignitis, which currently operates a 4 MW solar park in Obeniai, Lithuania, will increase its total capacity to 7.4 MW this year, according to a company spokesperson cited by pv magazine.

Latvia had 56 MW of cumulative solar capacity by the end of last year, with the majority, 49 MW, deployed in 2022, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The country currently supports rooftop PV through a net metering scheme.