

Tashkent pumped hydro storage

Uzbekistan's state hydro developer Uzbekhydroenergo (UGE) and EDF of France could jointly develop the first pumped-storage project in the country, after reaching preliminary agreements on operational ventures and organizational collaboration.

At a meeting held on 14 April, UGE's senior management, including Sanginov Abdu-gani, Chairman of the Board, and representatives of EDF, took steps towards the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding.

A preliminary agreement specifically covered: construction of a 200 MW pumped-storage plant in the Bostanlyk district of the Tashkent region; installation of floating solar panels on reservoirs; and the creation of special working groups to discuss key organizational issues.

"It was our honour to have such constructive dialogue with an esteemed company such as EDF, and we look forward to continuing our conversations," said Abdugani. "Uzbekistan's hydropower potential is growing, and we want to work with renowned international partners who can help us achieve optimal use of Uzbekistan's natural resources, boost energy efficiency and increase renewable energy's share in our country's energy mix."

The meeting was also attended by Makhmudov Fozil, UGE's Deputy Chairman of the Board, and Khasanov Khasan, Head of the Division for Prospective Development and Investments, as well as Beatrice Buffon, Group Executive Director in charge of EDF's International Department, Marc Girard, EDF's Senior Executive Vice-President and Laurent Paganon, Office Head for CIS countries.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Niger approved on 20 April a bill authorizing US\$ 150 million of funding from the World Bank Group's International Development Association (IDA) for the Kandadji dam and associated 130 MW hydro plant on the river Niger.

Australia's Genex Power has formally begun construction of the 250 MW Kidston pumped-storage project (K2-Hydro) in the northeastern state of Queensland, after achieving project and finance document contractual close.

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Uzbek hydroelectric power producer JSC Uzbekhydroenergo (UGE) is planning to join forces with French energy giant EDF to build pumped hydro storage facilities and floating PV plants in Uzbekistan.

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