

Mini solar tenders to start next week

» TURKEY'S first mini solar energy tenders are scheduled to start next Monday, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Dönmez has announced.

The 74 mini solar Renewable Energy Resource Zone (YEKA) tenders will cover solar plants with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW) and will be spread across 36 different regions.

The capacities will range from 10 MW, 15 MW and up to 20 MW, and will incorporate more investments from small and medium-sized entities, Dönmez told a webinar organized by Sabancı University's International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC) Wednesday.

A record 709 applications poured in for these mini solar tenders last month.

This equates to an average of 9.6 applications for each tender, totaling 9,440 MW in capacity. Investments in the tenders, known as YEKA GES-3, are expected to reach almost \$1 billion.

Turkey aims to hold at least 1,000 MW of wind and 1,000 MW of solar YEKA tenders each year as part of its National Energy and Mining Policy,

These YEKA tenders are an important brand for Turkey and are a means to expand renewable energy in the country, Dönmez said.

According to the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry's announcement late Wednesday, the first 46 tenders with a cumulative capacity of 610 MW in 23 different provinces, will be held between April 26 and May 7, while the dates for the remaining tenders will be announced afterward.

Turkey has witnessed a great expansion in renewable resources and technology over the 20 years, and according to Dönmez, these tenders are an accomplishment toward the goal of meeting the country's growing electricity demand from local resources.

According to the minister, meeting this demand will not only require an increase in capacity but also in the local production of electrical equipment, which can only be possible from a collaboration between the public and private sectors.

"If Turkey's electricity demand increases by 5%, this would mean an increase of nearly 15 billion kilowatt-hours in demand every year. This equals 7,500 MW of production from solar plants and 4,500 MW from wind plants. Or in another scenario, if our demand increases by 3%, we need to install nearly 4,500 MW of solar energy per year to meet this demand," he explained.

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