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Energy & Natural Resources - Croatia



Authors

Government approves new energy investment projects

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As part of its measures to combat the recession and aid economic recovery, the government has approved 30 investment programmes worth a total of €13.85 billion in the areas of energy, tourism, water management and transport infrastructure. The energy projects will be implemented by state-owned companies and local authorities, including Croatian national electricity company HEP, gas transmission system operator Plinacro and oil pipeline system manager JANAF.

There are 18 projects in the energy sector, worth a total of €3.85 billion. They include:

- investments in two thermal power plants (Plomin and Sisak C);
- investments in eight hydroelectric power plants (including Ombla, Molve 1 i 2 and Kosinj);
- the reconstruction of several oil terminals (including Omišalj, Zitnjak and Gazenica);
- the construction of a new oil terminal near Split;
- the construction of a natural gas storage facility near Grubisno Polje, eastern Croatia; and
- the construction of a biomass power plant near Zagreb.

One of the key projects is the construction of the Plomin 3 coal-based thermal power plant in Istria. There are already two coal-based thermal power plants there, Plomin 1 and Plomin 2; Plomin 3 will replace Plomin 1. Plomin 3 is expected to produce 15% of the total electricity generated in Croatia and the investment is worth approximately €800 million. The project will be submitted to a public tender, which is expected to be announced at the beginning of 2011 at the latest. The new plant is expected to be in operation by 2016.

The other significant project which is expected to be realised in the near future is the construction of the Ombla hydroelectric power plant near Dubrovnik, which is worth €125 million. Ombla will be the first underground hydroelectric power plant in Croatia and only the second in the world. An international tender process is expected to be announced at the end of this year.

The state-owned companies in charge of the projects must provide the government with financing plans and timeframes for completion of the investments. The government plans to finance the projects through private investments, public-private partnerships and EU funding.

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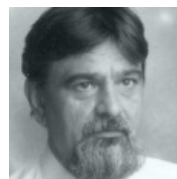
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