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Abstracts

BMI View: Non-hydropower renewable power will receive the bulk of new investments, while nuclear power will remain France's dominant electricity source. More stringent emission targets, combined with thermal power becoming increasingly unprofitable, will cement the position of the cheaper nuclear- and renewable power sources.

Latest Updates and Structural Trends

After discovering weak spots in the vessel of the European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) for the planned Flamanville 3 nuclear power plant, French nuclear regulator ASN has stated it is delaying its decision on how to proceed until end-2016. This could potentially lead to further delays to the nuclear reactor as well as higher costs, which is already estimated to cost EUR10.5bn, an increase from the initial EUR3bn.

The Bouchain combined-cycle power plant, currently under construction, will receive the first 9HA unit from GE, which is being touted as the world's largest and most efficient gas turbine with a generating capacity of over 61%.

Electricite de France (EDF) is planning to shut down all its fuel oil-fired power plants by 2018. The current low power price environment has made the operation of oil-fired power unprofitable.

In the absence of new hydropower projects, we are maintaining our current forecasts for hydropower in France, with total generation expected to shrink from 56.18 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2016 to 52.9TWh in 2025.

The Cestas solar farm in Bordeaux has been commissioned and connected to the grid. At 300MW in capacity, It is officially Europe's largest solar power plant.

The winners of a total of 200 solar power projects, totalling up to 800 megawatt (MW) in capacity, have been announced by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy. Feed-in-tariffs (FiT) will apply for the projects at EUR129/MWh for rooftop and EUR124/MWh for groundmounted solar panels.

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