

# Power Generation - Top Five Trends for 2018 and Beyond

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## Abstracts

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### SUMMARY

Power generation is experiencing a series of trends which will shape the market for decades to come. Coal is seemingly on a terminal decline, to be replaced by natural gas, and renewable energy is making substantial strides to become more commercially relevant. Advances ensure new power sources are moving closer to becoming part of the mainstream, with problems such as using renewable energy on demand now being solved. Leading companies in power generation must stay ahead of the development curve in these areas; failure to do so will mean allowing rivals to gain crucial competitive advantages at a time of great change.

### KEY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What advances have occurred in renewable energy?

What future is there for coal in the modern power market?

Can energy storage realize the full potential of renewable energy?

Why is gas now overtaking coal in the developed world?

Can next generation renewable technology be successful?

## SCOPE

Explores developments in the next generation of renewable technology

Looks at the condition of conventional renewable energy

Assesses the impact of gas on the international market

Analyses the future of coal as a source of power

## REASONS TO BUY

Whilst exciting advances are being made in the next generation of renewable technologies, conventional renewable energy is also making large strides towards becoming a major part of the global power generation market.

Able to release energy over a sustained period of time, rather than short bursts achieved with batteries, molten salt is now being combined with renewable energy, enabling access on demand to renewable energy.

Power producers are increasingly moving away from coal, creating merger and acquisition activity as firms diversify into natural gas. No longer is coal a sustainable business for power companies on a long-term basis.

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Catalyst

Summary

Conventional renewable power is experiencing rapid change

Solar energy advances increase performance, facilitating wider usage

Subsidies are beginning to drop, causing renewable energy to stand unsupported

Advances in technology exert downward pressure on prices, driving progress towards wider use

Next generation renewable energy to shake up power grid

Solar furnaces are becoming more powerful, creating a new option in renewable energy

Tidal and wave power generation moves closer to commercial viability, potentially transforming energy markets

Geothermal energy is edging towards mainstream power generation, helping developing countries

Capacity to store energy could change power generation

Molten salt does what alternatives do not – supply energy over prolonged periods of time

Experimental power storage systems brings energy storage into homes, potentially turning homes into micro-power stations

Energy storage can aid energy systems in developing world

Natural gas is catching coal amid push for lower carbon emissions

Natural gas fired power plants overtake coal in developed nations

Coal power plants are closing as energy providers move elsewhere, leaving way open for natural gas

Liquefied Natural Gas playing increasing role in speeding up transition from coal to gas

Despite quickening decline, Coal remains important and is becoming more efficient

Ultra-supercritical coal finds significant gains in efficiency, slowing decline in usage

Coal is in decline but will continue to be dominant power source

Conclusions

Conventional renewable energy is making strides in commercial viability

Next generation of renewable energy has substantial potential – successfully tapping it shall become more important

Energy storage can change the nature of energy production, heralding an era of renewable energy

Transition from coal to natural gas is gathering pace – power generation companies are switching across

Despite decline, coal will remain relevant in many countries

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