

# Power Generaton: Top Five Trends for 2019 and Beyond

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## Abstracts

Power Generaton: Top Five Trends for 2019 and Beyond

### 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 HIGHLIGHTS

Most signs point towards natural gas continuing to become the dominant form of energy production in the near-future.

New generations of renewable power generation technology are predicted to shake-up the energy mix of whole nations on a long-term basis.

The development of lithium-ion battery arrays capable of filling in gaps in power supply, and molten salt power plants able to provide renewable energy on demand for hours at a time, reveals the commercial breakthrough moment is

drawing near.

## **SCOPE**

Examines the sale of nuclear technology around the world

Looks at the future of renewable technology

Assesses the long-term future of coal fired power-stations

Assesses the rise of natural gas as a power source

Examines the commercial potential of new energy storage solutions

## **REASONS TO BUY**

Will energy storage solutions become commercially viable?

Do coal-fired power plants have a future?

Will natural gas dominate coal?

How significant is the sale of cheap nuclear reactors?

Will new generations of renewable energy technology achieve commercial relevancy?

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Summary

Russia and China nuclear exports are thriving - both will continue to do so

Chinese nuclear power plants are growing global force in power generation

China is developing critical interests in the United Kingdom, demonstrating the desire from Beijing to spread to wealthy economies<sup>7</sup>

Russia is leading exporter of nuclear power technology, enabling new countries to develop networks

Efforts to revitalize coal are unlikely to succeed as natural gas expands

Coal is in decline as a means of generating power - latest US policies are unlikely to change that trend

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

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

Mass scale energy storage is becoming commercial reality

Tesla battery in South Australia has proven commercial worth - it is likely to be replicated elsewhere

Battery technology is gaining serious attention in California, suggesting a long-term trend is just beginning

Molten salt energy storage is advancing at speed, offering power generation capabilities batteries cannot match

Costs of molten salt energy storage are coming down at speed, making the business case for much wider use

Despite 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 the dominant power source

Conclusions

Power generation industry is entering a challenging period of significant change

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Table 3: CSP plants with molten salt

## About

Leading companies in power generation face numerous challenges in 2019 and the years beyond. The industry is experiencing a period of highly significant change.

In developed economies coal continues to slowly decline – its place taken by natural gas. Yet efficiency gains show the fossil fuel will remain in power mixes for a long time to come.

Meanwhile, to secure domestically produced power, many countries are buying nuclear power plants from Russia and China. Both countries are exporting designs around the world, changing how many countries source power. Whilst Russia remains the leading country for nuclear exports, China is catching up fast.

MarketLine analyst, Christopher Leyman-Nicholls comments:

"Changes here will eventually transform the power generation industry. Companies must keep on top of developments or risk being left behind in what is a period of swift technological change."

### **Key Questions Answered:**

Will energy storage solutions become commercially viable?

Do coal-fired power plants have a future?

Will natural gas dominate coal?

How significant is the sale of cheap nuclear reactors?

Will new generations of renewable energy technology achieve commercial relevancy?

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