

Growth Model: Solar Power in Turkey

Turkey still plays something of an outsider role in the economic perceptions here in Germany. Yet major construction projects such as the railway tunnel under the Bosphorus attest to the extent to which the country is pursuing its goals. The main aim: That by the 100th jubilee of the republic's formation, Turkey will stand among the world's ten largest national economies. An important component of this target is a paradigm shift in the country's approach to energy, especially as regards to domestic supply.

The rising demand for energy

The forecasts of the energy market regulatory authority (EPDK) make impressive reading: 7.5 percent annual growth is predicted. This would certainly put the country among the world's most dynamic energy markets. Annual GDP growth rates of four percent also send a clear message. The leadership elite understands that such rates of development are only sustainable through the positive exploitation of sources of renewable energies. Corresponding measures attest to this fact.

Renewable energy made in Turkey

Just a few years ago, the import rate for energy in Turkey stood at 70 percent. The logical consequence of this was a strong dependence on global markets, especially for oil and gas. In addition, the political instability in the countries that were the most important suppliers – Russia, Iran, and Algeria – was a constant burden. With the same fervor evidenced by its numerous construction projects, the government addressed the fundamental aim of developing a new energy policy: By the above mentioned 100th birthday of the Republic, the percentage of electricity produced from gas should have fallen from 44 to 30 percent. At the same time, renewable energies – above all photovoltaic and wind-power – are to be expanded by a further 30 percent.

A suitable framework

The Turkish Government has made successful efforts to create conditions that are as attractive as possible. These include the privatization of the electricity distribution grids as well as the freedom of consumers to choose their energy providers. By the end of this year the new energy exchange Epias is expected to be up and running – making price levels more reliable than was previously the case, not least through close cooperation with the European energy exchanges. The Turkish regulatory authorities have also, since 2013, been accepting license applications for photovoltaic projects. Applications



submitted for projects in excess of one-megawatt capacity have reached a total of more than 9 gigawatts to date.

Strong partners in the sunshine

Because Turkey has underwritten the planning security for these goals by way of corresponding legislation, Talesun took the decision back in 2013 to become active on the Turkish market. A joint venture with the Turkish company Anadolu Enerji Üretim has since contributed to our leveraging of the positive market development. Talesun brings to the table not only its module technology, but also the experience gained over many large-scale projects. According to the Turkish Solar Association GENSED, the market potential in the period to 2023 alone, lies between seven and ten gigawatts. The total potential of the market is seen as an impressive 500 gigawatts. Keeping the country's excellent solar values in mind, it is clear that the commitment to photovoltaic energy in Turkey is worthwhile – for investors, for companies, for consumers, and not least, for the environment.

Yours

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