

## TATA POWER SOLAR EXPECTS STRONGER FOCUS ON SOLAR IN BUDGET

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# Tata Power Solar expects stronger focus on solar in budget

By [Debjoy Sengupta](#), ET Bureau | Updated: Jan 25, 2017, 03.44 PM IST[Post a Comment](#)
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KOLKATA: Tata Power BSE 0.99 % Solar is expecting stronger focus on solar manufacturing with clear long-term outlook in the [budget 2017](#).

"We hope for lower, better restructured taxes and better access to finance and capital at a competitive rate. We also look forward to streamlining of import duties on panels and system components. These measures will not only provide a more level playing field for domestic players against subsidized imported panels, but also help in investment in R&D technology upgrades and safeguard the Indian manufacturing industry," said Ashish Khanna, executive director and & chief executive officer at Tata Power Solar.



*While rooftop solar systems attract subsidies, the disbursement process is not streamlined and standardized across the country, thus, reducing the impact of the same.*

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According to Khanna 2017 should continue to be a strong year for solar and in line with the ministry's solar mission. "To achieve the ambitious 100 GW target, we hope the upcoming budget will provide impetus to the solar industry in four areas of focus," he said.

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Tata Power is also hoping for increased focus to promote solar rooftops, which has not been leveraged to its full potential till now. "The budget should make solar adoption easier, economical and viable keeping in mind the 100% upfront cost. With commercial and industrial customers being a key proponent of the growing solar market, we expect that the government reconsider its decision and reverts to the earlier incentive of 80% accelerated depreciation, versus the revised 40%. Exemption of rooftop systems from GST will help encourage adoption, especially at a consumer and retail level," he said.

Streamlining and improvement of subsidy disbursal should be another key focus area. While rooftop solar systems attract subsidies, the disbursement process is not streamlined and standardized across the country, thus, reducing the impact of the same. "We should analyse alternative ways for subsidy disbursement through approaches like tax-based incentives," he said.

"We hope that the Government uses solar's scalability to reduce the current energy divide by focusing on proliferation of distributed, off-grid solar power generation. They should give strong incentive for adopting microgrids, especially in areas with limited grid connectivity," said Khanna.

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**Budget Expectations by Tata Power Solar**

2017 should continue to be a strong year for solar and in line with the MNRE solar mission. To achieve the ambitious 100 GW target, we hope the upcoming budget will provide impetus to the solar industry in four areas of focus.

We expect a stronger focus on solar manufacturing, with clear long-term outlook. We hope for lower, better restructured taxes and better access to finance and capital at a competitive rate. We also look forward to streamlining of import duties on panels and system components. These measures will not only provide a more level playing field for domestic players against subsidized imported panels, but also help in investment in R&D technology upgrades and safeguard the Indian manufacturing industry.

Secondly, we hope for increased focus to promote solar rooftops, which has not been leveraged to its full potential till now. The budget should make solar adoption easier, economical and viable keeping in mind the 100% upfront cost. With commercial and industrial customers being a key proponent of the growing solar market, we expect that the Government reconsider its decision and reverts to the earlier incentivisation of 80% accelerated depreciation, versus the revised 40%. Exemption of rooftop systems from GST will help encourage adoption, especially at a consumer and retail level.

Streamlining and improvement of subsidy disbursal should be another key focus area. While rooftop solar systems attract subsidies, the disbursement process is not streamlined and standardized across the country, thus, reducing the impact of the same. We should analyze alternative ways for subsidy disbursement through approaches like tax-based incentivisation.

Lastly, we hope that the Government uses solar's scalability to reduce the current energy divide by focusing on proliferation of distributed, off-grid solar power generation. They should give strong incentive for adopting microgrids, especially in areas with limited grid connectivity.



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India has over 8.5 gigawatts (GW) of solar power capacity and is targeting 100GW by 2022. Of this, 40GW will come from rooftop solar projects.

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**New Delhi:** The world's largest solar power plant, coming up in Madhya Pradesh, has caught the interest of clean energy companies from around the world.

Twenty leading firms, including Italy's Enel Green Power SpA, SoftBank-promoted SBG Cleantech Ltd, Canadian Solar Energy Holding, Singapore3 Pte Ltd and Green Infra Wind Power Project Ltd, promoted by Sembcorp Industries Ltd, have expressed interest.

"The 20 firms will bid for three units of 250 megawatts (MW) each that make up the project in the second round of auctions to be held in about 10 days," said a person with direct knowledge of the development, speaking on condition of anonymity. The first round of auctions was held earlier this month.

The 750MW plant is being set up in Rewa district by Rewa Ultra Mega Power Ltd, a joint venture between Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd and Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. In the second round, companies will compete on the tariff at which they can sell power.

Shapoorji Pallonji Infrastructure Capital Co. Ltd, Torrent Power Ltd, Hero Future Energies Pvt. Ltd, ReNew Power Ventures Pvt. Ltd, Azure Power Global Ltd, Aditya Birla Renewables Ltd, Mahindra Renewables Pvt. Ltd and Orange Renewable Power Ltd are among the bidders.

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A spokesperson for Sembcorp India said renewable power projects in India that are large scale and offer adequate coverage of payment and development risks will be attractive for long-term investors. "India is one of Sembcorp's key markets and an integral part of the company's emerging market strategy. We are constantly on a lookout for suitable opportunities in the country. However as a policy, we do not comment on any specific opportunities," the spokesperson said in response to an emailed query.

India has over 8.5 gigawatts (GW) of solar power capacity and is targeting 100GW by 2022. Of this, 40GW will come from rooftop solar projects. With the renewable-power purchase obligations of power distribution utilities, falling prices of imported solar panels from China and concessional taxation on solar panels, the industry has been growing rapidly, resulting in falling tariffs and a boost for electrical equipment manufacturing and services.

According to a report issued this month by clean energy research firm Mercor Capital Group, renewable energy project development has changed significantly over the last quarter largely due to Chinese module price declines. "The average selling prices of Chinese modules in India have declined about 10% since August and by about 30% over the last 12 months. This has provided a much-needed boost to developers which won projects at low bids and were struggling to make project economics work," said the report.

According to Ashish Khanna, executive director and chief executive of Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd, a stronger focus on solar panel and equipment manufacturing, better access to finance and streamlined import duties on panels and system components will go a long way in reaching the 100GW target.