

NTPC TO GET 250MW SOLAR POWER ON STREAM IN A YEAR

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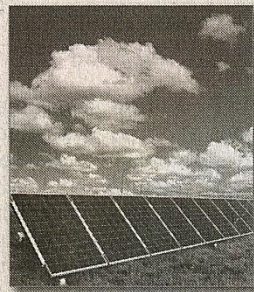
Hyderabad

NTPC, India's largest power producer, will get 250mw solar power on stream in about 12 months. This is the first leg of the total 1,000 mw planned at Kadiri in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.

NTPC recently finalised four developers for the first 250 mw. They include Tata Power Solar Systems (100 mw), Lanco Solar Energy (50 mw), BHEL (50 mw) and Sterling and Wilson (50 mw).

NTPC and the government of Andhra Pradesh signed a memorandum of understanding in September last year to develop 1,000 mw, which was dubbed as largest solar power project at a single location by a single developer.

For the project, 5,400 acres was identified in NP Kunta and P Kottapalli villages. The land required for the first phase of the project has already been made available to NTPC. Notices inviting tenders for phase-1 were issued in September 2014 and tech-



Solar power

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nical bids and price bids were opened on November 2014 and this February, respectively.

NTPC and power utilities Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company (APEPDCL) and Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company (APSPDCL) two weeks ago signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for this 250 mw.

The tariff on levelised basis for energy supplied from this solar plant has been fixed at Rs 6.16 per unit for a period 25 years, NTPC officials said.

The power generation cost may come down with regard to the remaining 750 mw capacity of the project, which would be undertaken through global bidding process unlike in the first phase where only domestic vendors were involved, they said.

"Our scope of work includes design, engineering, supply, installation and commissioning of grid connected 50 mw solar PV project on a turnkey basis," said Bikesh Ogra, president, electrical and solar business, Sterling and Wilson, which is part of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group.

It will also be responsible for carrying out the operation and maintenance of the solar power plant for five years, said Ogra adding that the project would be completed within 12 months from commencement of work. "We will start the work in about three weeks," he said.

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