

**INDIA TO START INSTALLATION OF 20,000 MW SOLAR POWER CAPACITY BY APRIL****SATURDAY 7, 2015****STEELGURU****★ India to start installation of 20,000 MW solar power capacity by April**

423 times viewed.

Saturday, 07 Feb 2015

**TCS SOFTWARE TECHNO PARK, CHENNAI****Plazma**

(Follow @PowersGuru on Twitter for important updates)

Reuters reported that India could start installing 20,000 MW of solar power capacity as early as April after companies pledged to support the government's drive for clean energy.

Mr Upendra Tripathy, secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, said that "Details of the plan, which has drawn commitments from US, German and Chinese companies, will be announced on Friday."

He said that "We have got commitments from very established industry, both foreign and domestic for next year. Foreign companies will be allowed to decide where they manufacture the required equipment."

The rapidly falling cost of solar power, which is expected to reach parity with conventional energy by 2017, has ignited interest in its potential in India.

Mr Narendra Modi PM of India has looked to industry for help in funding what could be a USD 100 billion expansion in clean energy.

For its part, the government will have to find the land required to build the solar panels on.

Mr Modi aims to make India one of the world's largest renewable energy markets, targeting 100,000 MW of output by 2022 from just 3,000 MW currently.

1 MW can power roughly 1,000 US homes although this varies widely, depending on the amount of heating or cooling needed, for example.

Despite more than 300 days of sunshine a year, India relies on coal for 3/5 of its energy needs while solar supplies less than 1%.

US-based First Solar and SunEdison Inc, Canadian Solar and China's JA Solar are among the companies keen to expand into India.

Yet analysts said that India's target will be difficult to reach given the weak finances of electricity distribution companies that would buy in solar energy and the slow pace at which land for plants is made available.

Mr Ajay Goel, CEO of TATA Power Solar, one of India's largest solar manufacturers and a unit of TATA Power Limited, said that "There's a lot of interest but there are concerns as well. Who is buying the power and do they have the ability to pay?"

Source - Reuters