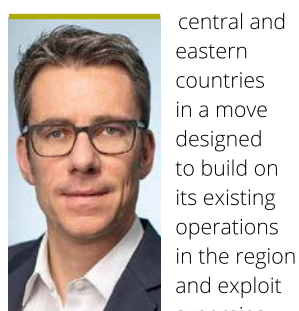


Road to renewables for Swiss natural gas specialist MET Group

Switzerland-based MET Group is targeting construction of 500MW of renewables capacity in Europe by 2023 as part of a new push into the sector.

The energy company will pursue onshore wind and solar PV investments in



central and eastern countries in a move designed to build on its existing operations in the region and exploit synergies between natural gas and renewables.

"The strategy is to enter markets where we already have subsidiaries," said

new MET Renewables chief executive Christian Hurlimann (pictured).

"That gives us a good understanding of those countries and a good basis from which to add to our operations from the renewables side."

Countries in MET Group's sights include those around Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Poland, where the investment environment for renewables is improving thanks to clear climate targets and renewed government efforts to remove barriers, he added.

The 500MW-by-2023 target is "challenging", Hurlimann said, but the company will acquire ready-to-build assets as well as greenfield and brownfield sites to build the

portfolio rapidly. The aim is to continue adding sites to the portfolio and achieve an additional 500MW of operable capacity by 2026.

The new strategy has been driven largely by its stakeholders, Hurlimann told reNEWS.

"There has been a clear drive from the customer and financial sides. Renewable energy production has become a must for the global transition of energy markets."

MET Group has secured 150MW of PV capacity in Hungary that is either in late stage development or under construction, adding to the 100MW of mainly PV assets it already has in operation in the country.

In onshore wind, the company has a 102MW

IN BRIEF

■ Nordex has secured a 45MW turbine order from Swedish developer OX2 for the Huszlew wind farm in Poland.

■ Energiekontor has sold the near-14MW Julich Barmen-Merzenhausen wind farm in Germany to CEE Group for an undisclosed price.

■ Engie has signed a long-term corporate power purchase agreement to supply Belgian battery materials recycler Umicore's greenfield plant in Poland with electricity from an operational wind farm at Pağow in Opole province.

■ Vattenfall, Dutch train operator NS and ProRail have inaugurated the repowered 13.2MW Nieuwe Hemweg wind farm in the Netherlands.

■ Nordex racked up a second-quarter order intake of 1534MW versus 888MW in the same period of 2020.

■ Turkish mobile phone operator Turkcell is to acquire Boyut Grup Enerji, which owns the 18MW Izmir Karadag wind farm, for an enterprise value of €25m.

■ BayWa has purchased compatriot German developer NWind, which has a 700MW portfolio of 60 onshore projects, lifting the acquirer's domestic pipeline to 2.5GW.

■ GE Renewable Energy has secured a 187MW turbine order for its Cypress platform from European Energy for three new wind farms in northern Lithuania.

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development on its books in Serbia and recently acquired a 42MW wind farm in Bulgaria from Enel.

"MET Group's competence in natural gas and gas-based power production reassures us that gas as a transition fuel balanced by renewable

production will be a prevailing business model in the mid-term future," Hurlimann claimed.

"As long as batteries remain uneconomical on a large scale, natural gas is the go-to transition power flexibility provider to the world."



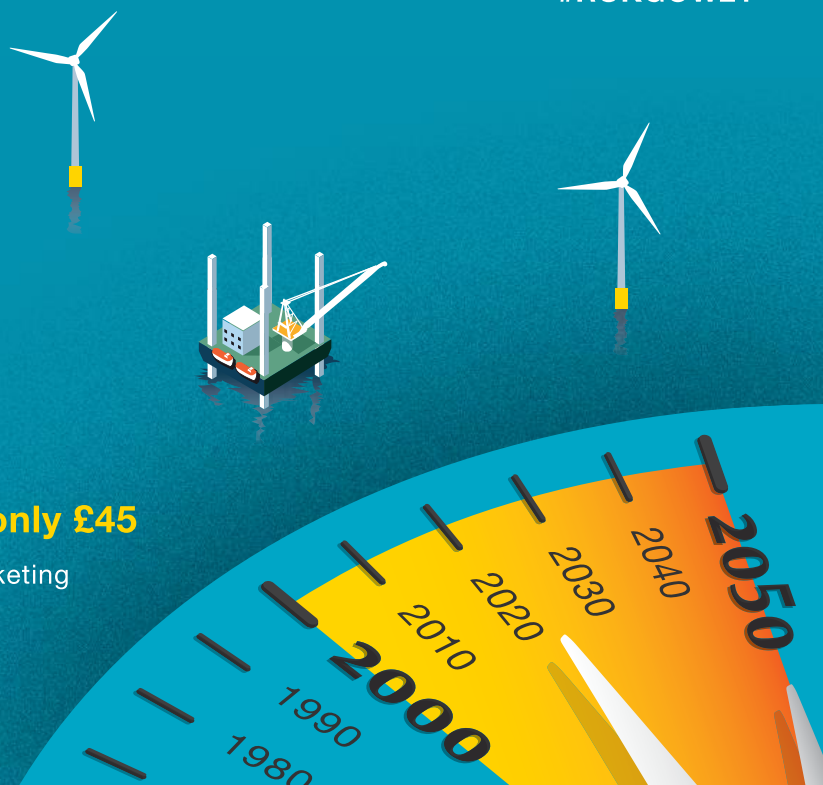
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