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Turkey aims to reach \$5 bln wind investment by year-end

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Turkey plans to achieve around \$5 billion in wind energy investments by the end of the year with the help of 1 gigawatt (GW) from the Turkish Renewable Energy Resource Zone Project (YEKA) along with finalized wind energy tenders of around 3 GW, according to the Turkish Wind Energy Association (TÜREB) head on Nov. 24.

In an exclusive interview with Anadolu Agency, TÜREB President Mustafa Serdar Ataseven said Turkey's wind energy installed capacity will be boosted through ongoing projects and planned tenders that will be finalized by the end of December.

The next pre-license tender for 2,130 megawatts (MW) will be offered over a five-day period starting Monday, Dec. 25 to help generate electricity at competitive prices for Turkish consumers, Ataseven said.

He explained that the projects would take around three to four years to complete, after which operations can start to benefit consumers.

Turkey can reach 7 GW

"These projects are significant but Turkey can do much better," he asserted, adding that Turkey could reach 7 GW of installed capacity by the end of the year.

He advised that investments should continue in order to tap into Turkey's wind energy potential, which he said is more than double that of the current installed capacity.

According to the General Directorate of Renewable Energy studies, the techno-economic wind energy potential for Turkey is 48 GW but currently, only 11 GW of the project stock is available.

Nonetheless, progress has been made and Ataseven said the Aegean and Marmara regions have seen an expansion in capacity in the country that is one of the biggest onshore wind markets in Europe.

Turkey has 11 GW of wind power stock on hand and has a national target of 20 GW of installed capacity by 2023, Ataseven said.

The country's total energy target for 2023 is 100 GW of capacity.

During the three-day period between June 21 and 23, wind energy pre-licenses were put up for tender, and over 200 renewable energy firms attended the rally for a total of 710 MW in wind capacity throughout Turkey. Turkish Electrical Transmission Company (TEİAŞ) awarded the tenders for 11 regions in Turkey in the company's office in Ankara during this time. On Aug. 3, Turkey's first 1,000 MW wind tender was realized in Ankara in which a Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy - Türkerler - Kalyon Energy consortium won the tender offered by YEKA.