

TPP Bobov Dol Negotiates to Purchase General Electric Natural Gas Turbines

The Executive Director of TPP Bobov Dol, Eng. Lyubomir Spasov, announced that TPP Bobov Dol has entered into an agreement with GE Vernova to make Bobov Dol power plant more efficient and greener by replacing the existing coal operated units with two high-efficiency gas turbine units.

Spasov noted that deal was exciting on several different levels, "Let me say that it is really exciting for me, as an engineer and energy professional, to be collaborating with a company like General Electric. It was founded by an inventor like Thomas Edison, a man who literally changed the world with his genius. We are about to do something very serious with them. We are talking about 2 new gas engines that operate with the latest technology as well as meeting of all the environmental requirements in Europe. I sincerely hope that we will conclude this great deal because it will be a key one in the process of the energy transformation of TPP Bobov Dol. Our entire team is highly motivated to make the energy transition happen in the best way without forgetting the human capital we have at our disposal. We will not allow such an important energy capacity to be sacrificed because of a wrong approach or a misunderstanding of the Green Deal objectives and leave thousands of people in the region without jobs. Switching to natural gas, building a photovoltaic farm and the other smaller projects at the plant can actually secure a future and prosperity for this part of our country. Because we do not want our children to seek their fortune abroad, we are negotiating with the best foreign company in the energy sector. We are looking for the best facilities from the best."

The management of TPP Bobov Dol said that the transition to natural gas is part of the company's long-term investments which will be accomplished through the use of financing.

Spasov said that at this stage he could not yet provide more detailed information on the parameters of the discussions which are still ongoing, but said that he expects to receive an official offer from General Electric in the coming weeks.

Hristo Kovachki, a long-time leader in the Bulgarian energy sector, has participated in the discussions with global energy leader General Electric Vernova as a leading expert on sustainable transformation. The entire project will be implemented in two major phases and according to the company's director, its full implementation is expected to take about 2 years.

This project will move TPP Bobov Dol to the forefront of Bulgaria's efforts to join the rest of the European Union in reducing carbon emissions. In 2019, Bulgaria ranked at the bottom of the EU in natural gas consumption. It now hopes to use natural gas as one of the methods to reach decarbonization goals. The same transition has already been accomplished by other economies. For example, The U.S. reduced its coal consumption from 52% of its power generation in 1990 to 18% in 2022, in part by moving its usage of natural gas for power generation from 12% to 40% in the same time period.

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