Laayoune green electricity

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The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks the commencement of a feasibility study aimed at decarbonizing ONEE"s La?youne Power Plant through the utilization of green hydrogen. Let’s delve into the details of this transformative initiative and its potential implications for Morocco’s energy landscape.

The primary goal of the collaboration is to explore the feasibility of transitioning the La?youne Power Plant, currently fueled by heavy oil, to operate on green hydrogen. By leveraging GE Vernova"s 6B gas turbines, the project aims to pave the way for the first hydrogen-powered facility in Africa. Through techno-economic evaluation studies, the partners seek to develop an integrated solution that enables the production and utilization of 100% hydrogen by volume, thereby achieving significant decarbonization of the power plant.

At the heart of the project lies the utilization of green hydrogen as a clean and sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. GE Vernova"s advanced gas turbine technology, coupled with hydrogen conversion capabilities, presents a viable pathway towards achieving carbon neutrality in power generation. The feasibility study will explore the integration of the full production value chain, including hydrogen production, storage, and utilization, to enable seamless operation of the power plant on hydrogen during peak demand periods.

The successful implementation of the project holds immense potential for Morocco’s energy transition efforts. By embracing green hydrogen technology, Morocco can reduce its carbon emissions, enhance energy security, and accelerate the integration of renewable energy sources into the national grid. Moreover, the project aligns with Morocco’s ambitious targets to expand renewable electricity capacity to 52% by 2030, positioning the country as a leader in sustainable energy practices within the region.

Laayoune’s province is experiencing rapid development of projects focused on renewable energy, and there is growing interest in hydrogen as a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Morocco aims to expand renewable electricity capacity from its current share of 40%, to 52% by 2030.

"NAREVA will build on its recognized experience in renewable power to actively contribute to the advancement of the country’s energy goals, as well as to the competitive decarbonation of the continent," said M. Aymane Taud, CEO, Nareva. "We are thrilled to explore the complementary opportunities between renewable energy, hydrogen production, and efficient gas-fired combustion technologies to provide our country with efficient, flexible power plants that also produce less CO2.”

GE Vernova"s Gas Power business (GE), the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE), and Nareva, a Moroccan company specializing in independent power generation projects, have announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake a feasibility study aimed at decarbonizing ONEE"s La?youne Power Plant in Morocco.

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The La?youne Power Plant, currently powered by three GE Vernova 6B heavy-duty gas turbines, is poised to become the first facility in Africa to utilize green hydrogen to fuel gas turbines. This collaboration reflects Morocco’s commitment to accelerating its energy transition towards a lower-carbon future, particularly in the power generation sector.

The province of La?youne is witnessing rapid development in renewable energy projects, with growing interest in hydrogen as a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Morocco aims to increase its renewable electricity capacity from the current 40% to 52% by 2030.

Mr. Abderrahim El HAFIDI, CEO of ONEE, stated, “This first pilot project will help reduce carbon emissions of the plant and enable Morocco to advance its power sector decarbonization efforts.”

Mr. Aymane Taud, CEO of Nareva, emphasized the company’s commitment to leveraging its expertise in renewable power to contribute to Morocco’s energy objectives and continental decarbonization.

Joseph Anis, President & CEO for GE Vernova’s Gas Power business in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration, highlighting the potential of highly flexible gas turbines to complement renewable energy sources and stabilize the grid with reliable power supply.

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