

Gaining Interest

Green hydrogen plans of leading clean energy developers

Green hydrogen has become a critical area of interest in India. It is being seen as a game changer in decarbonising sectors where hydrogen can be used. There are several applications of hydrogen across sectors, most notably in the petroleum refining, metals and fertiliser industries. There are also plans to use it as a fuel in the transportation sector and as a storage technology. At the 2nd edition of the Green Hydrogen in India conference organised by *Renewable Watch*, leading renewable energy developers discussed their views on the green hydrogen market, technology options, policy and regulatory interventions, and future plans. Edited excerpts...

Akshay Bhardwaj

Over the past few years, ACME has forayed into the hydrogen business with the announcement of a project in Rajasthan. The integrated facility will produce 1 tonne of green hydrogen and 5 tonnes of green ammonia. The company recently signed an MoU with the Government of Oman to set up green ammonia projects. The projects will produce 0.9 million tonnes (mt) of green ammonia by 2024. Our choice of Oman was driven by the fact that it has both solar and wind resources. The government was also receptive to our request and even offered several policy incentives to set up those projects, including easy approvals and environmental clearances. We are also in talks with the governments of Australia and Chile, among other countries.

ACME's target is to produce around 10 mt of green ammonia by 2030. We are in touch with other governments and hopefully, will announce some large-scale projects soon. Solar is our core area, but, there are certain locations where wind is desirable. With solar being intermittent,

there are benefits of diversifying energy sources, which is why ACME is open to diversifying its portfolio. To ramp up ammonia production, we need power stability, which is offered by combining multiple power sources.

ACME welcomes the Government of India's steps to promote a hydrogen economy and we are working together to promote hydrogen, especially green hydrogen, as this will be the way forward. We are aware that a draft for a hydrogen mission has been put forward and it is under review by multiple ministries. Soon we also expect policies and mandates to be announced by the government to help developers. An important issue that needs to be addressed is the formulation of an export parity price, similar to that in the oil and gas sector. We also request the government to come up with a mechanism for the aggregation of land for project development. Open access is another aspect that needs to be addressed when a hydrogen policy is released.

ACME also wishes to implement a project

in India similar to the one executed in Oman. The first step towards this is an enabling policy. I do not see technology being a challenge in developing hydrogen. However, taxes and high customs duties could harshly impact prices, and hence not allow it to be competitive.



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