

NEWS FLASH –14th March, 2016

SUGAR

Higher demand sweetens sugar

A sudden spurt was witnessed in sugar market's volumes on back of higher upcountry and local demand. Freight rates increased further by ₹ 5. Sources said on Thursday evening Maharashtra's producers sold about 1.40-1.50 lakh bags (including 3-4 rail rakes of S-grade each of 27,000 bags) to local and upcountry buyers for ready to nearby delivery. Despite higher volumes prices remained unchanged at market, naka and mill level. Arrivals to the Vashi market eased to 58-60 truck loads while local dispatches remained steady 61-62 loads. The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade ₹ 3,260-3,312 (3,260-3,312) and M-grade ₹ 3,312-3,412 (3,312-3,402). Naka delivery rates: S-grade ₹ 3,220-3,270 (3,220-3,270) and M-grade ₹ 3,270-3,340 (3,270-3,340).

(Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/demand-hopes-sweeten-sugar/article8332089.ece>, published on 11th March, 2016)

NCDEX increases margin money on sugar contracts by 5%

The National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has increased the margin money on all sugar contracts; running and yet to be launched, from 4% to 9% effective March 11.

Pallavi Munankar, research analyst with Geogin Comtrade said, "Normally, increase in margin money has a negative impact on trade. However, in case of sugar, there will not be much negative impact as all the fundamentals are bullish."

Additional Margin of 5% on both the Long side and Short side will be imposed on all running contracts and yet to be launched contract in Sugar (SYMBOL: SUGARM) with effect from beginning of day Friday, March 11, 2016.

Sugar demand is expected to go up as summer sets in, while the crushing season is at its fag end in the country. Exports are also expected to be higher than previously projects due to relaxation in conditions by Maharashtra government. All these factors are supporting the upward trend in sugar prices, said analysts.

(Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/policy/ncdex-increases-margin-money-on-sugar-contracts-by-5/articleshow/5134179>, published on 11th March, 2016)

Co-gen/ Power

Can Smart Grids Solve India's Energy Woes? India Smart Grid Week to Offer Answers

- **Supported by the Ministries of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Science & Technology, India Smart Grid Week is an initiative to find smart solutions to India's energy needs**

The viability and cost effectiveness of smart electricity grids in India, progress on future ready smart meters, and steps towards electricity grid modernization to improve power supply, cut transmission leakages and power thefts will be among subjects that will come up for discussion at the India Smart Grid Week that opens next week in the national capital.

Meeting the constantly increasing energy needs of the country and supplying 24x7 reliable powers to all citizens is a major challenge in India. With rapid growth and increasingly rising energy needs of the domestic and commercial sectors, India is working on several futuristic fronts to find credible solutions to meet its energy needs. Smart Grids are one of the several aspects of the solution.

Power utilities, policy makers and other stakeholders are convinced of leveraging the evolving smart grid technologies in resolving some crucial lacunas in electricity delivery and this will be the key theme for the discussions at the India Smart Grid Week (2016) to be held from 16 -18 March, 2016 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, organized by India Smart Grid Forum.

The initiative is being supported by Ministry of Power, Government of India and several other government institutions and international agencies. Pradeep Kumar Pujai, Secretary-Power and Dr.Upendra Tiwari, Secretary – MNRE and Ganesh B. Pradhan, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission are set to be part of the deliberations.

Leading experts in the field of energy, policymakers from the government and leaders from corporate sector from across the globe are set to converge together to discuss the challenges and opportunities and build support towards establishing smart grids in India at the 3-day conclave. The discussions will center on the energy requirements of the country, capabilities of smart grids, their cost effectiveness and benefits to customers and utilities.

Smart Grids comprise a set of technologies that can transform the electricity grid into a more intelligent and reliable grid with integrated control centre that can monitor and control electricity flows in real time up to each individual customers and even up to the smart appliances inside a customer's house, office or factory.

“Smart grids are crucial to some of Indian government's key projects: 100 Smart Cities, 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022, 40% Renewable energy by 2030, electric vehicles (to combat air pollution) and 24*7 power supplies. They are a key enabling infrastructure to develop smart solutions to resolve India's energy woes, and address troublesome issues such as massive transmission and distribution losses and power thefts. At the India Smart

Grid week we are bringing together the latest updates from across the world in these fields and experts to discuss their feasibility and cost effectiveness in India. We are looking forward to experience sharing from utilities, policy makers and technology companies on deployment of large smart grid projects in North America, Western Europe, Japan, South Korea etc which will be fruitful for stakeholders in India for planning and rollout of smart grid projects," said Mr. Reji Kumar Pillai, India Smart Grid Forum President.

Although India operates one of the largest electricity grids in the world with 290 GW generation capacity, over 250 million people are not connected to the grid and several parts of the country experience frequent power cuts. India's per capita consumption of electricity which is one-third of world average is expected to increase as the economic development of the country progresses. With an ever-increasing need of energy and challenges such as need to control power theft and transmission losses, India has launched ambitious missions to establish smart grids and smart cities. Making energy supplies efficient is key to power the country's industries and growth but the power infrastructure in India faces challenges in capacity.

Key themes of the conference include Role of Smart Grids in New programs of Government of India; Smart City Mission in India; National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM); 21st Century Electric Grids – Evolving trends towards 100% renewable and Disruptive Innovations; Smart Grid Project Outcomes: Experiences and Lessons learned, Climate Change and Impact on Utilities, Cyber Security, Advanced Analytics, Security for IoT devices, etc. There is also a Special Plenary Session on Recap of RE-INVEST in association with MNRE; and a Special Workshop on Smart Grids as Anchor Infrastructure for Smart Cities for the Municipal Commissioners from 20 selected Smart Cities.

(<http://indianpowersector.com/2016/03/can-smart-grids-solve-indias-energy-woes-india-smart-grid-week-to-offer-answers/>, published on 12th March, 2016)

US roadshow to visit four Indian cities, focus on clean energy

"We are talking about the fact that the Indian government has said that about 80 per cent of the infrastructure, energy infrastructure is yet to be put in place."

Aimed at nurturing innovation in clean energy technologies in India, a US road show will visit four Indian cities next week, a statement said today.

The roadshow will visit New Delhi, Gurgaon, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

A high-powered US delegation led by the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Charles Rivkin and comprising of US energy and infrastructure companies will engage with government officials, civil society groups and entrepreneurs, the statement said.

"We're going to focus this trip on clean tech in particular with an emphasis within that on infrastructure," the Special US Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Zaid Haider told a group of Indian reporters in a media round table.

"We have an agreement on emissions, but at the same time now every country needs to do its part in the clean energy space, and so that's a key focus for us," said Haider who would be accompanying Rivkin to India for the "American Innovation Roadshow" from March 14.

Haider said the US is focused on this because the Indian government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is focused on it.

"We all know the goals that Prime Minister Modi has laid out. We're talking about 175 gigawatts by 2022. We're talking about a deficit of about \$ 100 billion in terms of financing to hit that goal," he said. "We are talking about the fact that the Indian government has said that about 80 per cent of the infrastructure, energy infrastructure is yet to be put in place," Haider said.

"So this is a real opportunity for us as part of our partnership to help India as part of its urbanisation trend to develop a lower carbon urban infrastructure, and we want to be a part of that effort, intimately so," he added.

The US delegation among others comprises of representatives from 8-Minute Energy, a solar energy company based in Los Angeles; General Electric, AES, a global power company with electricity generation and distribution business; First Solar, solar-focused customised energy solutions, applied materials; and Praxair, an industrial gases company.

Responding to a question, Haider said the US is looking forward to the release of draft national IP policy.

"We are working toward the high standards with India which will be important providing that regulatory certainty, investment certainty for US companies that want to do business in India in this manner," he said.

Noting there is no question that India is an extremely innovative entrepreneurship country, Haider opined that that there are certain things that could allow even greater potential to flourish.

"That goes back to these questions of investment for the regulatory - the investment certainty. So if foreign countries want to, for example, do R&D in India, it'll be important for them to have the kind of assurances that a high standard allows," he said.

(Source: <http://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/us-roadshow-to-visit-four-indian-cities-focus-on-clean-energy/51367723>, published on 12th March, 2016)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow." - Helen Keller