

Recently, one of the most important factors for investors and regulators alike has become **speed.** The speed of construction. The speed of technological progress and transformation in the global economy. The speed of investment project implementation. The focus of the 3rd conference was on how quickly renewable and hydrogen energy, energy storage systems and other energy transition technologies are moving beyond being a "promising alternative" to becoming practical tools for power system development: Renewable Energy in Russia: Energy Transition Technologies (3rd Conference).

Speed is a key element defining the nature of movement. Yet achieving a goal also requires a **trajectory**, a clear vision of the destination – only then can we chart the right course. Ahead of the update to the principal document setting out the development prospects of Russia's power system – the General Scheme for the Placement of Electric Power Facilities (General Scheme) – one question comes to the fore: ***what direction should Russia's electric power industry take?***

The national power system is entering a period in which conventional long-term planning tools need to be reassessed. Forecast electricity consumption is growing at an accelerated pace amid persistently high capital costs and lengthy anticipated construction periods for fuel-based power generation. At the same time, industry and households require affordable and reliable electricity throughout the planning horizon. New technologies – renewable generation, energy storage, demand response resources and hybrid energy systems – are becoming the most effective and often the only available response to today's challenges.

The 4th conference in 2026 will therefore focus on approaches and options for updating Russia's electric power development plans in light of the new technological and economic realities. It is now more important than ever to define **a direction and a sustainable trajectory.** Rather than an inertia-driven path that leaves renewable generation and energy storage on the margins of the power system, a new, progressive course is needed, with innovative energy technologies at the core of forward-looking planning.

The 2026 conference will provide a platform for leading industry representatives to share their vision of the best approaches to shaping the power system of the future. Experts will present current market trends and regulatory initiatives, share data on the effectiveness of modern technical solutions, and discuss prospects for technological development and international cooperation.

AGENDA

09:30 – 10:00. Registration and morning coffee

10:00 – 10:15. Conference opening. Opening speech by Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA

10:15 – 12:00. Session 1. **Power System Development Trajectory: The Optimal Velocity Vector?**

Discussion topics:

- How can changes in the economics of new generation projects be properly reflected in revised long-term power sector development plans?
- What role can renewable energy and energy storage systems play in addressing future capacity shortages?
- The General Scheme: from advisory guidelines to a long-term construction plan
- What criteria should be considered when designing an optimal mix of new generation capacity?
- Which regulatory decisions will shape the industry's long-term direction?

Moderator:
Vasily Zubakin, Head of the Department of Renewable Energy Sources, Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas (National Research University)
Invited speakers:
Alexander Batrakov, Deputy CEO for Strategy, Generation Portfolio Management and Trading, Vice President, Wind Energy Management Company LLC
Maxim Bystrov, Chairman of the Management Board, Market Council Association
Alexey Zhikharev, Director, Renewable Energy Development Association (RREDA)
Petr Konyushenko, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation
Grigory Nazarov, CEO, Rosatom Renewable Energy
Fedor Opadchiy, Chairman of the Management Board, System Operator of the Unified Energy System
Alexandra Panina, Member of the Management Board, Inter RAO PJSC; Chair of the Supervisory Board, Council of Power Producers Association
Vladimir Khlebnikov, Co-founder, Parus Electro LLC
Igor Shakhray, CEO, Unigreen Energy

12:00 – 12:30. Coffee break

12:30 – 14:00. Session 2. **Investment Outlook: One Horizon, Different Strategies**

Discussion topics:

- How can investment planning strike a balance between sustainable long-term plans and rapid responses to emerging challenges?
- What kind of power system do industrial consumers need?

- Growing electricity demand from new types of consumers: electric transport, data centres and active energy complexes. How can demand response mechanisms and on-site generation facilitate their integration into the power system?
- What power market strategies are being pursued by different players: generators, technology companies and industrial enterprises?
- How can the power sector secure capital? Perspectives from financial institutions and investors
- Which electricity market segments offer the most attractive investment opportunities in the medium term?

Moderator:
Alexey Zhikharev, Director, Renewable Energy Development Association (RREDA)
Invited speakers:
Matvey Airapetov, Deputy Director of the Department of Mechanical Engineering for the Fuel and Energy Complex, Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia
Viktor Balyberdin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, SKM PRO LLC
Oleg Barkin, Member of the Management Board, Market Council Association; CEO, Energy Certification Centre
Vadim Dormidontov, First Vice President, Gazprombank JSC
Timur Kotlyar, CEO, Nord Energy JSC
Andrey Maximov, Director of the Electric Power Development Department, Ministry of Energy of Russia
Vladimir Mlynchik, Entrepreneur, Engineer, Founder of the VOLTS Group of Companies, Head of the Skolkovo Energy Club
Natalia Nevmerzhitskaya, Chair of the Management Board, Association of Guaranteed Suppliers and Energy Retail Companies
Vladimir Tupikin, Director for Energy and Resource Supply, SIBUR Holding; Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Energy Consumers Community Association

14:00 – 15:00. Lunch

15:00 – 15:40. Special session. **The Art of Strategic Thinking: The Game of Go as a Path to Strategy**
Speakers:
Mikhail Emelyanov, Vice President of the Russian Go Federation, founder of a school of strategic Go
Vasily Zubakin, Head of the Department of Renewable Energy Sources, Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas (National Research University)

15:40 – 16:00. Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30. Session 3. **Global Energy Transition: Asia as a Leader in Technological Transformation**

Discussion topics:
- China as a global laboratory for the energy transition: which solutions have already been proven at scale and can be adapted to the Russian market?

- From equipment supply to technological partnerships: which forms of cooperation with Chinese companies hold the greatest promise for the Russian industry?
- How can the experience of China, India and Central Asian countries in integrating large volumes of renewables and energy storage benefit Russian regions facing capacity shortages and growing demand?
- How can technology imports, industrial cooperation and technological sovereignty objectives be balanced?
- Potential for joint Russian-Chinese projects: what scale is attractive?
- Barriers to deeper partnerships: standards, certification, logistics and engineering expertise

Moderator:
Yan Melkumov, Commentator, RBC TV
Invited speakers:
Oleg Budargin, Vice Chairman, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO)
Yerlik Karazhan, CEO, Central Asia Climate Foundation (CACF), Co-founder of ESGQ Rating Agency
Alexey Kulapin, Director General, Russian Energy Agency of the Ministry of Energy of Russia
Taras Kupchikov, Chairman of the Executive Committee, CIS Electric Power Council *(TBC)*
Francesco La Camera, Director-General, IRENA
Yi Yuechun, Director General, China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute *(TBC)*

17:30 – 18:30. Award ceremony for the winners of the all-Russian TextRES competition for media outlets, online resources and bloggers in the field of renewable energy and energy transition technologies, and the Renewables in Focus 2026 photography competition

18:30 – 19:30. Cocktail reception