

## North macedonia energy storage for grid stability

A new gas-fueled power station co-developed by GEK-TERNA and Motor Oil in Komotini, northeastern Greece, is set for trial runs, expected to start next week, ahead of its commercial launch in four months" time, sources have informed.

Final details are being fine-tuned before the facility, Thermoilektriki Komotinis, a state-of-the-art combined cycle power plant with a combined capacity of 877 MW, is put to the test.

Although the new power station, built in the industrial area of Komotini with a total project budget of 375 million euros, is scheduled for extended testing over the next few months, contributions to the grid during this trial period are possible, especially since testing will coincide with the higher energy demand of winter.

The trial period will involve gradual production increases, meaning the power station could contribute to cover energy demand, if needed.

Though the new plant will be powered by natural gas, future plans entail incorporating a blend of natural gas and hydrogen.

Given the power station's strategic location in the northeastern part of the country, near key interconnection points with neighboring countries Turkey and Bulgaria, and, to the west, North Macedonia, it holds added significance for the national transmission system.

Thermoilektriki Komotinis, an 877-MW combined cycle, gas-fueled power station co-developed by GEK-TERNA and Motor Oil Hellas in the industrial zone of Komotini, northeastern Greece has received its first gas quantities in order to undergo a test run ahead of its commercial launch, planned for February.

According to data provided by gas grid operator DESFA, the facility, an investment estimated at 375 million euros and constructed by TERNA SA, a member of the GEK-TERNA group, received a small gas quantity of 587 KWh last month.

Powered by a state-of-the-art gas turbine, Thermoilektriki Komotinis offers energy efficiency reaching 64 percent.

It is the second gas-fueled power station to be developed in Greece in recent years, following a unit built in Viotia, northwest of Athens, and operated by Metlen.

The Komotini plant, whose capacity ranges from 877 to 240 MW, is capable of operating at a very fast rate of

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85 MW per minute, meaning it may hit its full-capacity level of 877 MW within just a few minutes after ignition, or drop to 240 MW just as fast.

Given its location in the country's northeast, near key interconnections with Turkey, Bulgaria, and North Macedonia, the power station holds strategic significance for the stability and integration of the Greek grid.

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