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22 may DTEK opens wind farm in Ukraine amid war to build back greener after russian attacks



The world's only wind farm being built in a major conflict zone has officially opened, DTEK, Ukraine's largest private energy company, said on Monday.

Phase I of the Tyligulska Wind Power Plant (WPP), which lies just 60 miles (100 km) from the frontline in the Southern region of Mykolaiv is already generating green power. The plant's 19 turbines have an installed capacity of 114 MW, generating up to 390,000 kWh – enough to power 200,000 households a year. DTEK invested \$200 million in the construction process of phase I. The project is one of the first to deploy 6 MW Enventus turbines from Danish manufacturer Vestas.

Phase II plans envisage adding up to 64 turbines to raise potential output to 500 MW. The 500MW capacity at that point, will make it Eastern Europe's largest WPP

and provide secure energy for homes and businesses in the south of Ukraine.

DTEK's plans to expand Tyligulska – part of the company's broader strategy to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 and help Ukraine become a clean energy exporter to the European Union – remain dependent on it securing an additional \$450 million in funding – mostly from foreign investors and crucially from state-backed international financial institutions.

The decision to build Tyligulska WPP was taken in 2020, as part of DTEK's strategy to expand its renewables portfolio. The project will eventually boost DTEK's green energy capacity from 1 GW to 1.5 GW.

Ground was broken in late 2021 and the first wind turbine was erected in December 2021. However, DTEK halted construction after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, with 6 turbines installed, as enemy forces advanced on Mykovaiv and foreign partners were forced to evacuate staff and equipment.

By summer 2022, and with financial support from DTEK shareholder Rinat Akhmetov, work resumed with an all-Ukrainian crew of 650 people at its peak. Staff worked in bullet proof vests and spent over 300 hours in bomb shelters from August 2022 until April this year, under the constant threat of missile strikes.

In 1,5 years, the team installed 114 MW of generating capacity – twice the usual speed for a project on this scale and an outstanding achievement in uniquely difficult circumstances.

Rinat Akhmetov, investor at SCM, said:

"11 years ago, we started building green energy in Ukraine. We started to change the energy system of the country. Since then, despite all the obstacles, we never changed course, having invested more than 1 billion euros in solar and wind farms. In 2022, we had big plans to build a new Tyligulska wind power plant. However, the Russian invasion temporarily halted the project. Today I want to say: we made a decision to resume the construction of the wind power plant and the first stage of the station

started working at full capacity. The war will not stop us. We continue to create jobs, pay taxes, generate electricity, restore grids, fight for our energy independence and invest in the future. We will win the war,".

Commenting on Tyligulska’s official opening, DTEK CEO Maxim Timchenko said:

“The Tyligulska wind farm is a symbol of Ukraine’s resistance to Russian attempts to freeze Ukraine into submission. With projects like Tyligulska, we can build Ukraine back greener and cleaner and become a key partner in Europe’s energy future. And by developing an infrastructure based on distributed rather centralized generation, we create an energy supply that is more resilient and stable.”

"DTEK is getting ready for the construction of stage II. The company will continue to contribute to the implementation of Ukraine's strategy to build 30 GW of RES capacity by 2030. The Tyligulska wind farm is our practical step towards developing clean energy in Ukraine and intensifying energy security in Europe. But already having completed phase I, we send a signal to our international partners that they can invest in Ukraine today without waiting for the war to end. "

Fast facts on Tyligulska WPP

- Location: Mykolaiv Oblast, 60 miles from the frontline and 25 miles from enemy-occupied territory.

PHASE I

- Construction workforce: Up to 650 at peak periods.
- Turbine type: Vestas EnVentus V162-6.0 MW turbines.
- Blade length – 79m
- Blade weight – 23 tonnes
- Blade rotation diameter – 162m

- Total turbine weight – 730 tonnes.
- Installed capacity: 114 MW (19 turbines, 6MW each)
- Electricity generation: 390 million kWh a year

PHASE II:

- Planned capacity: 500 MW (83 turbines) – making it Eastern Europe's largest wind power plant
- 64 more wind turbines, providing 384 MW of capacity
- Cost: \$450 million
- Sustainability impact: emissions of 400,000 tonnes of CO2 to be saved each year.

UKRAINE'S ENERGY FRONTLINE:

- In the war to date, DTEK facilities have been targeted 250 times by russian forces.
- DTEK thermal power plants have come under attack at least 30 times since September 2022
- 90% of wind and 50% solar generation infrastructure remains in occupied regions of Ukraine.