



EU buyers snap up all Yamal LNG cargoes before ban takes effect

Buyers in the EU have been snapping up all LNG from Russia's Yamal LNG terminal they can secure, just months before a full EU ban on Russian will take effect at the start of 2027. The European Commission President Ursula van der Leyen, meanwhile, proposed gas price caps, enhanced power purchase agreements (PPA) or contracts for difference (CfD) to shield industry and households from soaring energy costs caused by the halt in Middle Eastern LNG deliveries.

In an address to Parliament, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pointed out need to "reduce the cost impact when



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

gas sets the price of electricity." PPAs and CfDs would lock in stable renewable pricing, while state aid and direct gas subsidies aim to ease immediate burdens without full market distortion. Her proposed measures echo the 2022-2025 EU gas price cap, meant to be activated only above €180-275/MWh versus global LNG benchmarks.



Wholesale gas prices on the Dutch TTF hub have jumped nearly 60% since early March 2026, from €30 to over €50 per MWh, eroding industrial competitiveness in Europe. At least four LNG tankers – originally destined for France, Belgium, and Spain – have reportedly been re-routed to higher Asian bidders.

Supply shortages loom are given that EU gas storage are currently at just 62% capacity, trailing last year's levels. Analysts warn gas prices could again reach 2022's peaks of €340/MWh if LNG cargo diversions persist.

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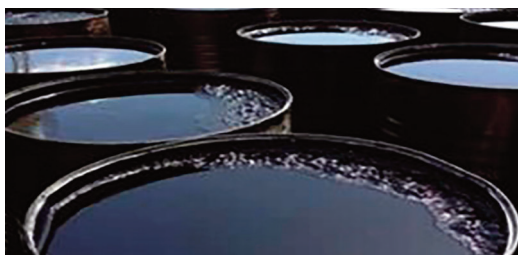
Russia cashes in on halt in Middle East oil and LNG production

With more than 12 million barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) of Middle East crude oil and LNG production taken offline due to the Iran war, Russia emerges as the clear winner of global supply shortages. US President Trump's sanctions relief for Russia's short-term oil was meant to ease supply disruptions, but had little effect.

Critics in Europe dismiss Trump's move, though the US President's sanction relief is narrowly focused on short term seaborne oil already in transit, which caps how much Russia's state-owned oil companies can earn from it.

Finding real alternatives is though: Many refineries are configured for specific crude grades, while sourcing alternative LNG involves detours which adds time and costs. And things could get worse before they get better:

In Rystad Energy's worst-case scenario, Middle East crude output could fall to approximately



6 million bpd, a region-wide reduction of 70% from the pre-conflict baseline. "A potential winner here is Russia, which could provide some additional barrels, as stronger drilling activity may lift Urals supply by around 200,000 to 300,000 bpd, but even

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Russian LNG seems like the logical lee-way to backfill European demand in the face of Middle East supply shortages: In February, 21 cargoes delivered an estimated 1.54 mtpa of LNG from Yamal to European ports – the first time since April 2018 that every shipment was bound to Europe, according to data compiled by Urgewalt using Kpler figures. The analysis exemplifies the EU's continued stark reliance on natural gas from the Russian Arctic nearly five years after the start of sanctions against the Kremlin and Russia's state-dominated energy companies.

Seapeak, a UK shipping company, and Dynagas of Greece carried 17 of the 21 LNG cargoes, while European insurers continue to provide critical coverage for the Russian vessels in what critics perceive as a legal grey area.

"February's numbers tell a stark story. Every single Yamal cargo went to Europe. Russia had no alternative customer and remained fully dependent on access to EU ports," said Sebastian Rötters, sanctions campaigner at Urgewald. No shipments were delivered to China or other Asian mar-

kets in February 2026, compared with four Asia-bound cargoes in the same month last year. According to Urgewalt, these figures show that European LNG import and transshipment infrastructure remains central to Russia's LNG export revenues.

Moreover, US President Donald Trump's latest hit to lower sanctions against Russian oil, reportedly aimed at lowering skyrocketing Brent crude and WTI oil prices, has been interpreted by some market observers as an opportunistic gesture towards an undemocratic and war-mongering regime. ■

France's new PPE law favours new nuclear over renewables

France's long-awaited multi-year energy programme (PPE) is slashing wind and solar power targets in favour of nuclear energy, with plans to build six – or possibly eight new reactors. The law also reverses a previous legal mandate to shut down 14 ageing nuclear reactors.

The new energy strategy aims for 60 percent of overall energy consumption to come from decarbonised sources by 2030 and 70 percent by 2035.

The slow-down of renewable build-out has been justified by the government with France's stagnant electricity consumption in an ailing economy, and the slower-than-anticipated electrification of heavy industry and transport.

Baseload nuclear power from EDF's existing fleet of 57 reactors is expected to produce between 380 and 420 terawatt-hours (TWh) by 2030. New nuclear is on the horizon: EDF announced the creation

of an advisory board – called FINABE – dedicated to facilitating financing and investments for new nuclear projects globally.

Net-zero technologies will benefit from a €1.1 billion French aid scheme, approved by the European Commission as part of the EU's Clean Industrial Deal

State Aid Framework. Funding, which takes the form of a tax credit, also covers costs related to key components of future wind, solar and energy storage projects along with costs related critical raw materials.

The scheme is scheduled to remain in place until the end of 2028. ■



French nuclear reactor at Saint Alban

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that would only cover a fraction of any potential loss of Iranian crude," said Rystad's MENA research director, Aditya Saraswat.

Inflation fears

The central worry is inflation, JP Morgan warns. Rate cut expectations have paused as investors gauge how quickly higher energy costs pass through to consumer prices. Some traditional safe haven like 10-year US Treasury yield are up 20 basis point but have not offered a buffer.

"One silver lining in an uncertain backdrop: markets aren't pricing a break in disinflation," analysts noted.

Futures point to a short lived energy squeeze rather than a lasting shortage, with the cost of crude for delivery next month well above longer dated contracts, priced at roughly \$105 for next month Brent versus about \$77 for January 2027 delivery.

"Natural gas shows a similar pattern, but alongside a larger spike in Europe than in the United States. Similarly, market based inflation expectations (break-evens) have moved far less than energy prices.

"Net net, markets (so far) appear to see a detour on the disinflation path rather than a derailment of the economy's trajectory," JP Morgan concludes. ■

US data centre build-out slow as grid logjams bite

Grid bottlenecks, speculative mega-campuses and escalating fossil fuel and electricity prices have substantially slowed the speed of data centre additions in the United States. Addition halved from Q3 to Q4 2025 as load-queue challenges persisted.

CAPEX growth from the largest developers, including the established hyperscalers, have slowed in 2026 for the first time since 2023, down to US\$94 billion or merely 58% of last year's growth. According to Wood Mackenzie figures, capital expenditure remains skewed towards large, speculative projects, with around 2% of planned projects are worth over US\$17 billion.

Per-Megawatt costs declined in the fourth quarter from earlier highs.

"Economies of scale continue to hold, with smaller developers disclosing higher per-MW costs than larger developers," analysts explained, but cautioned: "Even as costs per MW declined, however, rack power densification caused the cost per square foot to rise."

A staggering 116 GW of data centres are currently either under construction (17 GW) or committed through utility agreements (another 99 GW), equivalent to 15.5% of US peak power demand. In addition, Wood-Mac analysts noted 'advanced conversation' on or near-term forecasts of a further 32 GW of capacity, resulting in 147 GW of high-probability load, or 20% of US peak demand.

Small number of massive, speculative projects

In geographical terms, Texas extended its capacity lead in the fourth quarter of 2025 – while New

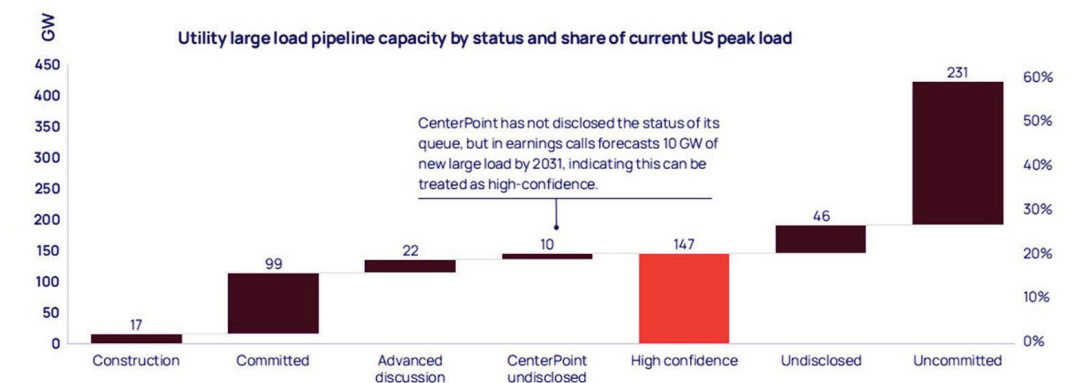
Mexico, Indiana and Wyoming saw greater relative growth. Some 80 GW of capacity is planned in Texas, far more than in Virginia.

A significant share of this is speculative, based on future behind-the-meter (BTM) gas capacity and investor buy-in, resulting in a far more comparable amount of development capacity.

"New developers with a small number of massive, speculative projects, targeting in particular the South and Southwest," analysts stressed, specifying New Mexico owes its growth to a single, massive, speculative project by New Era Energy & Digital in Lea County.

Greenfield markets Wyoming and New Mexico are targets for massive campuses as a result of their natural gas availability, but only initial phases are under development. ■

US utilities have over 17 GW of large loads under construction and have committed to a total of 99 GW of new loads, equal to almost 20% of current US electricity demand



Ansaldo sync' condenser to bolster Norfolk grid

Ansaldo Energia has been awarded a contract by TKS UK to supply a synchronous condenser for Statkraft's Necton Greener Grid Park in Norfolk, as part of a grid stability project.

Necton Greener Grid Park – a project initiated in 2022 under the National Energy System Operator's Stability Pathfinder Programme – aims to maintain system stability as renewable generation increases and conventional thermal plants retire.

The equipment supply contract covers one TRY-L63 synchronous condenser with FW 19-63 flywheel, weighing 157 tonnes and measuring 10.7 metres, along with auxiliary systems, commissioning and operator training. Synchronous condensers provide voltage control, reactive power, short-circuit strength and inertia – services increasing required to balance a growing share of intermittent renewable energy in Britain's electricity mix. ■

Delays to Australia's grid build-out could add \$75bn electricity costs

Wholesale electricity costs in Australia are at risk of rising by 15.7% to 21.5% through 2050, amounting to an additional cost burden of US\$75.45 billion as delayed grid-build out hampers the addition of renewables and increases reliance on costly gas generation, Nexa Advisory warns.

Nexa CEO Stephanie Bashir takes the view that gas should keep a "small back-up role" in the energy transition Down Under. The bulk of electricity demand should be covered by wind and solar power sources, while batteries and energy

storage increasingly substitute for gas peaking plants.

Transmission delays alone could increase wholesale electricity costs by \$84.6 billion compared to an orderly build-out, Nexa modelling finds. If intra-regional delays in Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) persist, this cost could rise to \$115.7 billion.

To counteract delays, Nexa proposes to accelerate interregional hosting capacity in a bid to avoid the need for up to 2.8 GW of additional gas-fired capacity. Private, mar-

ket-led power transmission, as well as non-network and virtual transmission solutions, can reduce costs and accelerate project delivery.

Coal power extensions are deemed "incompatible" Australia's emissions trajectory, given that coal is responsible for 77–84% of total electricity sector emissions through to 2050. Forward contract mechanisms could support the timely closure of coal-fired power stations – enhancing the need to invest in clean energy sources instead. ■

China, Korea, Japan lead on energy storage patenting

Energy security through battery storage has move to the forefront of policy-making, with most patents for lithium-ion batteries filed from companies in China, Korea and Japan.

Batteries account for nearly 45% of all energy patenting and in solar innovation, patenting has shifted toward perovskite solar cells which now account for over 70% of solar cell patents by material.

Fusion, nuclear fission and geothermal are emerging as new growth areas. Funding on CO2 removal and other clean energy sources has expanded sharply since 2021, offsetting much of the decline in electric mobility investment, IEA analysis finds.

Corporate R&D spending rises

China continues to expand its footprint

across corporate R&D and patenting in energy storage and industrial efficiency, figures by the International Energy Agency (IEA) show. Japan, meanwhile, remains highly specialised in batteries, while advancing in perovskite solar, hydrogen-based fuels and fusion.

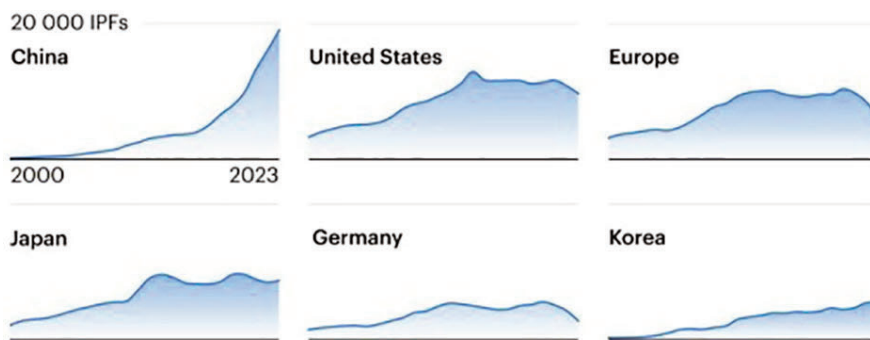
Europe's public energy R&D intensity is reaching around 0.08% of GDP, exceeding that of other major advanced economies. Analysts pointed out "the bloc's start-up ecosystem has become more dynamic even as patenting has softened in some major economies."

Venture Capital investment falls

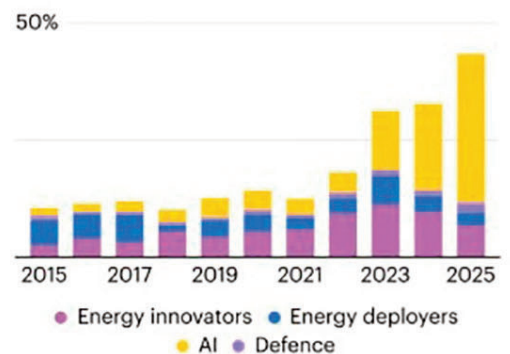
Funding is getting increasingly difficult to come by as high interest rates, macroeconomic uncertainty and competition from AI ventures weigh on energy-related capital flows. Public energy R&D spending in 2025 was estimated at \$55 billion globally, down 2%, while corporate R&D growth eased to 1%.

Venture capital investment in energy technology start-ups fell for the third consecutive year, to \$27 billion. This downward trend is particularly pronounced in the United States, home to nearly half of energy-related VC. ■

Energy patenting of the five countries with the most applications, plus Europe, 2015-2023



Total VC and shares of energy, AI, defence



KAYTUS set new 'speed & quality' benchmark for AI data center

Singapore-based KAYTUS delivered a 100-cabinet high-density liquid-cooled AI data center in Europe in just four months. By combining deployment and commissioning, KAYTUS got the unit up and running up to 80% faster than traditional deployment models.

The customer is a European infrastructure unicorn delivering compute, storage, and networking services to the e-commerce, fintech, and digital media sectors.

"Speed and quality" benchmark

To meet the aggressive delivery timeline, KAYTUS used a prefabricated, cabinet-level liquid-cooling delivery. The model integrates pressure testing and coolant conditioning for all core components – enabling a "cabinet-as-a-system" architecture with prefabricated packaging. The approach eliminates need to build complex secondary-loop liquid-cooling networks on site.

During installation, KAYTUS replaced the conventional centralized node-by-node

deployment model with its PODsys parallel deployment technology. As a result, deployment of 20 cabinets and 360 nodes was completed in just 40 minutes, some 7.8 times more efficient than traditional methods.

For testing and tuning, KAYTUS combined validation with large-scale verification, completing proof-of-concept (POC) testing for two cabinets ahead of schedule. This approach increased the POC pass rate by 300% and accelerated overall project delivery.

Through this turnkey service KAYTUS completed the installation, deployment, testing, and delivery of a 100-cabinet high-density liquid

cooling cluster in just four months. This 80% efficiency increase not only helped the client cope with the urgent challenges of business rollout – it also set a new service benchmark of "speed and quality". ■



Close-up of KAYTUS liquid cooling

Kenya forges ahead with 1.2 GW gas power project near Mombasa

Kenyan authorities have launched a \$2.9 billion initiative to develop a gas-fired power plant near the port city of Mombasa. The 1.2 Gigawatt (GW) plant will run on imported LNG, provided it can secure attractively-priced term deliveries.

The Kenyan energy minister has asked transaction advisers to design and structure the project ahead of procurement. Stated-owned Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) is expected to will participate alongside private investors under a public private partnership model.

Electricity demand in Kenya is rising as industry electrifies, and more households are lifted out of energy poverty. According to government figures, Kenya recorded a peak power demand of about 2,439 MW in December 2025 – underscoring the

urgency of building new baseload power generation capacity.

The Dongo Kundu project is part of a broader strategy to expand installed capacity. the government sees an immediate need for around 300 MW of additional generation before 2027 and another 300 MW by 2028 to keep pace with industrial, data centre and urban demand growth.

Policymakers Nairobi also support preparations towards Kenya's first nuclear power plant, initially planned at about 2 GW with the option to scale up to 6 GW over time. Commissioning is envisaged around 2035. ■



View of Mombasa Port

BKR Frame 5 turbines to power data centres in Georgia, Texas

Baker Hughes (BKR) has won an order from Twenty20 Energy to supply ten Frame 5 gas turbines and associated generators with 250 MW capacity combined. Initial deliveries are due in 2027, with the turbines designated for data centre projects in Georgia and Texas.

The order is part of a wider agreement whereby Baker Hughes will supply multi-gigawatt (GW) power generation equipment. The collaboration is aimed to deliver resilient, reliable and sustainable electricity for decentralized factories and the Big Data industry.

"Securing this initial order is a significant milestone for our business (...) and a clear demonstration of our momentum as we work toward finalizing a major strategic agreement for multi-gigawatt power capacity," said Twenty20 Energy CEO Geoff Lawrence.

"By obtaining turbine capacity at this stage, we are well positioned to advance our efforts in delivering essential power generation infrastructure to support AI-driven data centers and digital industries across the United States. ■

B&W to proceed with \$2.4bn AI power project

Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) has received full notice to proceed on a \$2.4 billion design-build agreement with Base Electron to deliver a 1.2 GW combined-cycle gas power capacity. The CCGT will supply electricity to Applied Digital's AI Factory campuses.

The CCGT will be powered by four 300 MW boilers and steam turbine generator systems. B&W will engineer, procure and construct the facility, with design and manufacturing already underway. Siemens Energy will design and deliver the turbine generators.

Base Electron focuses on developing and owning generation assets that provide grid connected and dedicated capacity to contracted clients, including Applied Digital's high density data centers.

Data centers accounted for about 4% of U.S. electricity use in 2024, a figure expected to more than double by 2030, according to Pew Research Center. Natural gas supplied over 40% of that electricity,



the International Energy Agency (IEA) findings, as is expected to remain the dominant

source of peaking power for years to come. ■

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