



“WIND ENERGY IS AN ATTRACTIVE PROPOSITION FOR IPPS”

Tulsi Tanti, Chairman, Suzlon Group

What has been the growth trend in demand for wind energy equipment over the last two years in India?

The global renewable energy sector has witnessed rapid growth in the last decade, driven by 3 key factors - widespread deployment of renewable energy technologies at increasingly competitive costs, efficiency brought in by hi-tech products driven by new age technology and new business models for distributed generation and services. Driven by the vision to mitigate climate change, world leaders are championing the cause of energy security, affordable energy and energy accessibility for all. The situation in India is no different.

The government has set targets of 175GW of renewable energy by 2022, of which wind will constitute 60GW. We have also committed, at COP21, to the targets of 30 per cent to 35 per cent carbon emission reduction and contribution of renewables

to be 40 per cent of the energy mix by 2030. All this has led to an increased demand on renewable, especially wind which has been the primary source of renewable energy until now.

There has been a 30 per cent year on year growth in wind installations and this will only increase with the annual target of 5,000 MW required to meet the larger goals set by the government. Most of the wind energy supply chain has already been indigenised to India. This means that our demands will be met by local production. At the same time, we are looking to increase exports as a primary activity under the Make in India initiative. The industry has already witnessed high technology advancement as we strive for higher generating products. An increasing number of IPPs have also invested in the sector, which is a clear indicator of its attractiveness. All these developments point to strong growth in the demand for wind

energy equipment as well as the potential that exists to meet this demand.

What are the emerging trends in wind energy equipment technologies?

We are witnessing a lot of innovations in wind energy technology as a result of this. The drivers of this innovation remain maximising wind energy generation with limited resources and reducing the cost of energy. The latest movement has been towards taller towers – the taller the towers, the higher the reach and the stronger the wind. But taller towers have limitations such as excessive weight, which leads to logistical and installation problems. Hence, the technology of the hybrid tower such as Suzlon’s S97 120m wind turbine generator (WTG) combines a lattice tower base with a tubular tower top, connected by a unique transition piece.

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