



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

**15.01.2009 – 22.01.2009**

### **Consortium bid for Turkey's first nuclear tender to be revealed**

The envelope containing the only bid Turkey received for the construction and management of its first nuclear power plant will be opened today.

A consortium, led by Russia's state-run Atomstroyexport together with Inter RAO and Turkish Park Teknik, was the sole bidder in the tender to build and operate the country's first nuclear power plant in Mersin's Akkuyu district last Sept. 24. The Turkish Atomic Energy Agency, or TAEK, finalized the technical assessment process in the nuclear tender process and approved the sole bidder's proposal as meeting the required criteria in late December.

After the bid is opened at the Energy Ministry, Turkey's state-run power company, TETAŞ, will assess the submitted price and finalize the tender process. The final decision of TETAŞ will then be submitted to cabinet for approval.

If the consortium's bid receives the final improvement, then it will build four units of the Russian VVER-1200 type pressurized water reactors that each generate 1,200 megawatts of electricity. So the nuclear plant is expected to generate nearly 4,800 megawatts of electricity per year, according to a report by daily Vatan yesterday. While the value of the bid is important, as the company that acquires the right to build the plant will have the right to operate it for 15 years, the price of electricity the firm will charge from the government is also important.

#### *Difference of opinion*

The tender was described as disappointing by many analysts given that a number of foreign and local companies had previously expressed interest but did not submit bids, making the Russian consortium the sole bidder.

And now, the topic of the construction and the operation of Turkey's first nuclear power plant has caused the country's energy industry to divide into two groups.

Some people are all for the project, due to the expectation that the nuclear plant will lower Turkey's dependence on other countries. Others are against the process claiming there are serious shortfalls in the project.

"Turkey cannot afford to go on without nuclear energy," said Önder Karaduman, chairman of the Electricity Producers Association. "Turkey is not rich enough to produce more than 50 percent of its electricity from natural gas, he said. "The electricity price in Turkey is hovering around 12 to 13 cents per kilowatt hour, any offer below this figure would considerably lower the average energy costs... I believe a price of around 8 cents would be quite suitable," he added.



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

"While there is a lot to do in terms of the compatibility with European Union standards, undertaking such a project, which includes a lot of question marks and deficiencies, with a single offer is totally wrong," said energy expert Necdet Pamir.

Criticizing the fact that the tender had been conducted with only a single bidder, Chamber of Electricity Engineers Chairman Musa Çeçen said, "I do not believe such a project can be implemented in this environment of crisis where industry faces a bottleneck due to declining demand."

Meanwhile, the government has plans to build three nuclear power plants with a capacity of 4,000 megawatts, with a 25 percent margin, as part of efforts to reduce a costly dependence on energy imports.

#### **Turks optimistic of improved U.S. ties with Obama presidency: poll**

Turks' hopes that Barack Obama can improve U.S. ties with the rest of the world have risen sharply in the run-up to his inauguration as president, a poll said Tuesday.

The percentage of Turkish people, who believe Obama will strengthen the United States' relations abroad, has risen to 51 percent from 11 percent in the last six months, according to a poll conducted for BBC World Service.

An average of 67 percent of people globally are hopeful that the U.S. president-elect will improve ties with the rest of the world, with more than 50 percent optimistic for this in all but Japan and Russia of the 17 countries polled.

The overall result was sharply up from a BBC-commissioned poll six months ago, when only 47 percent thought Obama would improve U.S. overseas ties.

But having such high expectations overseas presents Obama with a tough challenge, warned one of the pollsters who carried out the poll.

Once in office the global financial crisis should be Obama's top priority, followed by pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq, tackling climate change, and brokering peace in the Middle East, the survey said.

Among Islamic countries Indonesia -- where Obama spent part of his childhood -- had the highest majority of those seeing bolstered ties with the United States, on 64 percent.

In Egypt 58 percent forecast better ties, twice as many as six months ago.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Africans are among the most hopeful for Obama, the first African-American to be elected to the White House, while Europeans -- angered by George Bush and the 2003 Iraq war -- are not far behind.



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

Ghanaians are most positive, on 87 percent, followed by Italy (79 percent), Germany and Spain (78 percent each), and France (76 percent), followed by Mexico and Nigeria (74 percent each).

Japan and Russia are the only two countries where less than 50 percent of people think U.S. ties with their countries will improve, on 48 percent and 47 percent respectively.

Asked what Obama's top priority should be once in the Oval Office, 72 percent said dealing with the financial crisis, followed by 50 percent for withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq.

Third (46 percent) came addressing climate change -- where Bush has been seen as holding back global action; then came 43 percent for brokering Mideast peace and 29 percent backing the Afghan government against the Taliban.

The survey was mostly conducted before the start of the three-week conflict in the Gaza Strip.

It was based on questioning of 17,356 adults between Nov. 24 to Jan. 5 in Britain, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Spain, Turkey and the United States. In the United States itself, 60 percent of those asked said improving their country's relations with the rest of the world should be a top priority, much higher than the overall average of 46 percent. A greater proportion of Americans than anywhere else think backing the Afghan government should be a top priority, with 46 percent saying Obama must focus on fighting the Taliban, more than seven years after 9/11.

### **Capital city may need to call on nuclear power**

Growing dependent on its northern neighbor, the need to tackle air pollution and sustain reasonable prices may compel the building of a nuclear power plant in the lower Kızılırmak basin, notes an energy analyst, a proposition that angers electricity and environmental engineers

Satisfying the energy demands of Ankara will become increasingly costly and the capital may need to consider the nuclear option, warned a member of an energy commission for a chamber of mechanical engineers.

Speaking to the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review on the sidelines of a conference over the weekend, Haluk Direskeneli said: "Household heating in Ankara is dependent on natural gas, which comes mostly from Russia through the Blue Stream pipeline."

Direskeneli said the latest gas cut in the western pipeline that feeds Turkey would not hit Ankara. "We also have Iranian gas in Ankara. Ankara will not be affected by the current Ukrainian gas interruption, or conflict, unlike the northwest of Turkey and Istanbul. Direskeneli was detailing the capital's energy needs at the Ankara 2nd Urban Symposium, organized by the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, or TMMOB.

Despite the relatively uninterrupted gas flow to the capital, prices may become increasingly high noted Direskeneli. "The current gas price is too high compared to other fuel sources. It is



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

around \$420 to \$450 per thousand cubic meters in Western Europe, which is the same tariff we are charged by the original supplier to the north," he said.

"In the long run, to answer the ever increasing energy needs, we may even consider planning for a nuclear power plant on the lower Kızılırmak river basin, provided that we educate our nuclear engineering staff in latest nuclear technology to carry out design, construction, operation and decommission properly, by ourselves," he said, highlighting what he referred to as Turkey's dire energy needs.

A particularly strong reaction to these comments came from electric and environmental engineers, who pointed to the problem of nuclear waste and the risk from operating nuclear plants.

"I know that there is not a definite solution to the nuclear waste problem. But faced with the choices, having a grasp of nuclear technology will do us no harm," he said.

His comments come just days before a consortium led by Russia's state-run Atomstroyexport, together with Inter RAO and Turkish Park Teknik, the sole bidder in the tender to build and operate Turkey's first nuclear power plant, are to announce their energy unit price offer.

#### *Tackling consumption*

"According to experts' estimations, Turkey will have to build about 50,000 megawatts of generation capacity by 2020 to meet its fast growing electricity consumption," he said.

Providing energy for minimum and stable prices is only one aspect of a sustainable energy policy, as efficiency and reduced pollution form an integral part of energy procurement, said experts.

On average, Ankara uses its electricity with considerably more efficiently than the rest of Turkey. "Theft and loss within Ankara's electricity distribution system is estimated to be around 8.7 percent, which is lower than the national average 15.1 percent, although these rates need to be verified," Direskeneli said.

The Capital Electricity Distribution Corporation's deputy general manager, Mehmet Ali Atay, asserted that the figures were true. "Most of the loss is due to technicalities. People think shanty towns are responsible for most of the electricity stolen. I can assure you that it is much less compared to other parts of the city," he said.

Besides securing tenable prices for energy supplies, Ankara is under pressure to prevent air pollution that ran rampant in the 1990s and is feared to rise again. Ankara's air quality may seriously decline if the distribution of coal to poor families, criticized by many as "alms giving to citizens," by the ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, does not meet environmental standards.



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

"Poor families have been supplied with coal for a long time, distributed by the municipalities, under Environment Ministry regulations. However, a new regulation last August removed the condition that coal should be used in rural areas, where it is much less likely to cause air pollution," said Environmental Engineers' Chamber member Hasan Seçkin.

A report prepared and released by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD, titled "Environmental Performance Evaluation Report: Turkey," released late 2008, said air pollution in Ankara had surpassed national air quality standards, Direskeneli said.

The problem is that alternative and renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar power are not long-term solutions for Ankara's need for low-cost energy, at least with current levels of technology.

"Windy mountains around Ankara, like Elmadağ or Hüseyin Gazi crest may be suitable for generating wind power. However, wind power's contribution to Ankara will not be to provide energy, but provide more jobs if wind turbines for the rest of Turkey are produced here," Direskeneli said.

"Wind turbines cost approximately 1 million to 1.2 million euros per 1 megawatt unit on global markets. But, the turbines produced locally in Turkey will have a lower price tag," he added.

Due to high costs and difficulties of mass electricity production, solar panels are not feasible in the near future for Ankara and its region either, Direskeneli said.

### **Transport goes hybrid**

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey developed environment friendly buses. New hybrid buses will reduce greenhouse gas in troubled urban transportation

New environmentally-friendly public transport is being developed by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, or TÜBİTAK.

The diesel-electric hybrid vehicles emit less carbon and other gases and run quietly. The researcher in TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center, or MAM, Energy Institute Hamdi Uçarol said the hybrid cars created an alternative for vehicles with internal combustion engines.

Vehicles such as buses, minibuses and yellow vans used for public transportation are among the many contributors to urban pollution. The project "reducing greenhouse gas in the transportation sector" aims to generalize the use of hybrid cars, especially in big cities. "The cars with internal combustion engines have many disadvantages in traffic jams. The electric and hybrid cars don't use energy while waiting in traffic thanks to the engine and batteries, the batteries charge when the brake is applied and while it is going downhill. These actions make the vehicles more efficient," Uçarol said.



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

While the institute continues its studies and research for producing the electric engines, batteries, control units and fuel cells domestically, the prototypes of the various systems are at the stage of commercialization.

#### *Hybrid buses to have test drives in the city*

Uçarol said by launching the project two years ago, in cooperation with Istanbul Technical University and with the supported of TÜBİTAK, they had begun producing electric-hybrid buses. Noting that transforming the internal combustion engine cars into hybrid public transportation would save energy and would provide a decrease in the rate of greenhouse emissions, Uçarol said, "Moreover the hybrid cars will create a noiseless environment." The stages of the project include configuration of the vehicle, integration of the subsystems and test drivers of the buses in the city.

The project is now at the stage of placing the electric motor, batteries and control unit into the buses. After the tests on hybrid buses comparisons with the internal combustion engine buses will be made. The comparison will reveal the rate in fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emission, which will be used in the models to show the total effect in public transportation in cities.

"The developed hybrid and electric system can be used as automobiles, public transportation vehicles, light commercial vehicles and heavy goods vehicles. The number of the hybrid cars on the road today is above 1 million," Uçarol said. According to the information he gave the usage of the hybrid cars in United States, Japan and Europe was still limited. "If studies and research continue in Turkey, we will catch up with those countries," he said and concluded: "The project will be fulfilled until the end of this year and the buses will be presented to the industry."

#### **Power plant hit with fine**

The Yatağan Thermal Power Plant has been hit with a heavy fine from the Directorate of Environment and Forestry in Muğla for not obeying environmental regulations.

The power plant in the western city was penalized 166,407 Turkish Liras for air pollution and a further 186,375 liras for halting air-cleaning facilities for over 72 hours, making a total ban of 352,782 liras. A statement by the directorate said the administrators had been warned, "because of occasional cessation of purification facilities."

#### **Municipality: No pollution in İzmir**

While many cities in Turkey suffer from heavy air pollution in winter, due to burning coal, İzmir hails cleaner air.

Authorities at the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality said the air pollution rate in the city is well below average, however, visible pollution stems from sudden increases in temperature, fog and pressure.



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

Measurement of air pollution in İzmir is conducted at stations in Bornova, Karşıyaka, Güzelyalı, Alsancak, Şirinyer and Çiğli districts.

According to the Air Quality Evaluation and Management Regulation, the daily average of sulfur is 400 micrograms per cubic meter while dust amounts to 300 micrograms. The same rate of air pollution rate in İzmir has been recorded this year as last.

Many Turkish cities are badly affected by the use of coal after the natural gas and electricity prices skyrocketed, but the air pollution figures stated that İzmir was immune to that tendency to a certain degree.

#### *Air quality not affected by coal use*

The increasing use of coal due to increasing natural gas and electricity prices has not affected the air quality in İzmir significantly and the necessary precautions have been taken for the people to use good quality coal, the authorities said.

The authorities also said burning waste in slum areas caused more harm than the use of coal."Normally, the air pollution rate in İzmir is one-thirds or one-fourths of the standards," said a statement made from the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality. "Sometimes air can look polluted due to fog and high pressure, but even during those nights the numbers are half of the maximum pollution rate, and is not dangerous."

#### **Farmland plan debated**

While the environmentalists hail the cancelation of plans to turn agricultural land in Dalaman, a district in the western city of Muğla, the tourism industry asserts that it will cause a serious blow to the sector

A decision by the Council of Ministers to cancel plans to turn agricultural land in the Muğla district of Dalaman into tourism facilities has been well received by environmentalists, but not so well by those in the tourism industry.

The land in question is owned by the General Directorate of Agricultural Facilities, or TIGEM.

"The decision is very satisfactory. We kept a close watch on the court cases. The land they wanted to turn into tourism land is an agricultural land of unprecedented beauty.

It is so fertile that it produces fruits and vegetables three times a year. Nowhere in the world has such fertile soil and favorable weather conditions," said Okyay Tirli, the South Aegean representative of the TEMA Foundation.

#### *Objection to foreign buyers*

"Moreover, the Dalaman farm is the only piece of land that produces such a wide range of seeds for the whole country. High amounts of citrus fruits are also produced here. We are not



**Delta-Eko**

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

[www.delta-eko.org](http://www.delta-eko.org)

against the development of Dalaman, but do not want the agricultural lands to be allocated to tourism," he added.

Highlighting they especially opposed the sale of agricultural land of strategic importance to foreigners, Tirli also noted: "Those people do not actually want to build tourism facilities or hotels; they just aim to sell the land to the Dubai people and facilitate them to build villas there. We are aware of their plans, but we will do our best to save Dalaman in coordination with many organizations."

"There is much land suitable for the construction of tourism facilities. Because they sell all kind of land to foreigners, the region lacks agricultural lands of high quality," Günatin Barın, the chairman of Dalaman Chamber of Agriculture, said.

"The Dalaman farm area is the hope of not only the region but the whole country as well."

This decision of cancelation, on the other hand, disappointed investors who were looking forward to the region's opening to tourism.

#### *Serious danger for tourism*

Calling the decision a "blow to tourism," Onur Turgut, owner of On-Tur Engineering and Real Estate Agency, said: "We do not want the demolition of agricultural land. However, some of the land in the region is not productive because they are close to the sea and salty."

"If this land was used for tourism, the Dalaman region would benefit a lot from this."

#### **Environmentalists hail clean shore line**

The shore of the Datca district of Muğla that had been filled with rocks by a hotel in order to build a platform has been cleaned up by the Private Environment Protection Foundation, or OCKK.

Club Datca Holiday Resort filled the shore near Hastanealtı Beach with rocks and placed a blue flag around the area in preparation to build a platform for guests of the resort to use. The resort's illegal act drew reaction from environmentalists. After this, the OCKK took action and cleaned up the shore. Datca Environment Association, or DACEV, President Yolenda Aydemir said, "The event made us very unhappy. It is a very pleasing development to halt this illegal act. We hope that we never encounter such a thing again."

Datca Democracy Association President Şanver Gür said that the sea was not anyone's private property. "Unfortunately our shores have been plundered for years, despite laws protecting them. The people who committed this act should be punished."

Source: [www.hurriyetdailynews.com](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com)