



Iberdrola Plans World's Largest Wind-Energy Complex in Romania

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By Todd White and Jeremy van Loon

April 19 (Bloomberg) -- Iberdrola SA plans to build 50 wind parks in Romania in what would be the world's largest land-based wind-energy development.

Aiming to supply electricity to almost 1 million homes, the Spanish company acquired development rights from the Romanian government to build 1,500 megawatts of capacity through 2017, its Iberdrola Renovables SA unit said today in a [statement](#).

In less than a decade, Bilbao-based Iberdrola expanded a Spanish wind business into more than 10 new markets including the U.S., the U.K., Poland and Hungary to be the world leader in low-carbon power generation from the wind, followed by Florida-based FPL Group Inc. and China Guodian Corp. of Beijing, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

"This permission will permit Iberdrola Renovables to develop the Dobrogea Project, the most ambitious developed yet in the world," the company said.

Iberdrola reported an installed capacity at the end of last year of about 44,000 megawatts, of which natural gas-fired plants account for 30 percent, renewable energy 25 percent and hydropower stations 23 percent. Iberdrola Renovables aims to increase its installed capacity to 16,000 megawatts by 2012 from 11,294 megawatts at the end of March.

Like Florida's FPL, Iberdrola has grown to be one of the largest investor-owned utilities partly because of rapid expansion in wind energy. Wind and biomass are typically the cheapest sources of renewable energy and plants using them can be built faster than large-scale solar or geothermal installations.

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