

SA might have 7 300MW more power by 2010

JUSTIN BROWN

Johannesburg - South Africa might have as much as 7 300 megawatts of power available by 2010 to meet growing demand, SA National Energy Research Institute (Saneri) chief executive Kadri Nassiep said yesterday.

The extra capacity would come from restarting the Camden, Grootvlei, Komati power stations as well as from closed- and open-cycle gas turbine plants, he said.

Eskom spokesperson Fani Zulu said the three power stations as well as the two open-cycle gas turbines in the Western Cape were budgeted to add 5 700 megawatts of power.

He said the 1 600MW Camden power station started up last year and was now operating at half of its capacity.

The Camden station is located near Ermelo in Mpumalanga and is scheduled to come on stream in March next year at a cost of R5.2 billion.

The bringing on of the Camden, Grootvlei and Komati power stations is budgeted to cost R16.1 billion as part of Eskom's five-year, R97 billion expansion of its power supply.

Nassiep said the plan

was to have one of the two independent power producers (IPP), which the department of minerals and energy was in the process of choosing, up and running by 2009.

However, he said this was unlikely as the IPPs needed to be selected and environmental impact assessments completed.

The department is spearheading an IPP project whereby two new peaking-generation power plants will be built, owned and operated by the private sector.

The plants, to be located in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, will operate using open-cycle gas turbine technology, and will cost in excess of R7 billion to develop.

The Eastern Cape plant will have a capacity of between 300MW and 360MW, while the plant in Kwazulu-Natal will have a capacity of between 750MW and 830MW.

Department of minerals and energy chief director of electricity Ompi Aphane said yesterday that the licences for the two IPPs were expected to be issued later this year.

Nassiep said electricity demand was expected to grow by just over 2 percent



ENERGISED Kadri Nassiep, chief executive of Saneri expects electricity demand to grow by more than 2 percent this year
PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

this year, followed by 5.5 percent next year and 4 percent in 2009.

By 2024, South Africa could be producing between 80 000MW and 85 000MW of power.

Nassiep said South Africa was facing a transport problem as the number of vehicles on the road was expected to climb from 6 million to 15 million by 2012.

There were limited rail expansion plans to cope with the increasing car volumes, he added.

South Africa produced a very high amount of carbon dioxide per unit of gross domestic product, compared with countries like Germany, South Korea, Malaysia and Spain.

Nassiep said South Africa was creating more energy-intensive sectors

without also growing the economy.

The government's renewable energy target of 10 000 gigawatt hours, equivalent to two 660MW units of an Eskom coal-fired power station, would be reviewed next year.

The government is aiming to produce the renewable energy mainly from biomass, wind, solar and small-scale hydro facilities.

