

Estonian government buys transmission system

Estonia's Eesti Energia has completed the sale of the country's transmission system operator (TSO) to the government, it has been announced.



The Estonian government bought the TSO - known as Elering - after deciding in November 2009 that it should be separated from Eesti Energia in order to fulfil European Union requirements. It has paid 2.7 billion kroons (€172.6 million) for the company.

The EU's Third Energy package - agreed last year - mandates that TSOs must operate independently of generation and sales activities.

Eesti Energia has also announced plans to invest €97.5 million in the construction of a waste-to-energy cogeneration plant in Iru, on the outskirts of Tallinn.

The 50 MWth, 17 MWe plant will be operational in early 2012, burning up to 220 000 tonnes of waste every year. The main contractor for the project is Constructions Industrielles de la Mediterranee (CNM) of France.

"Although the heating value of ordinary municipal waste is not comparable to that of oil shale, over 300 000 tons of waste suitable for energy use is deposited into Estonian landfills each year," said Ando Leppiman, Director of Eesti Energia Renewable Energy. "To make use of this domestic resource, Eesti Energia is building its own mass waste incineration plant ... Even after our WTE plant is built, 100 000 tons of waste will continue to be deposited in landfills in Estonia every year."

Source: [Utility Week](#)