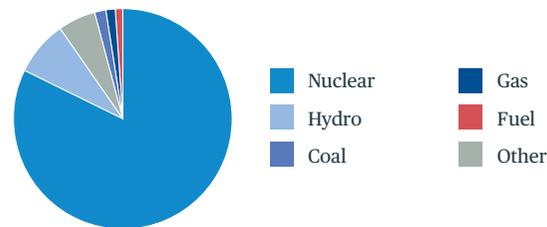


Bird & Bird & Smart grids market summary - France

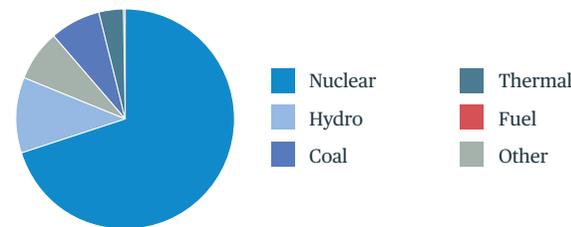


Electricity generation in 2014
(540 TWh in total):



Source: EDF

Projected electricity generation in 2020
(656 TWh in total):



Source: Based on information from the Electricity Union of France

Get in touch

If you would like to know more about our local expertise or if you have any questions please contact: smartgridsblog@twobirds.com

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Today

- Further to EU and national laws, France has been working intensively for many years on the development and roll-out of smart grids. The smart grids sector, being one of “the 34 Schemes of the New Industrial France” launched by the government in 2013, is seen as a key element in boosting the French economy under the so-called “Third Industrial Revolution”.
- A number of experimental projects have already been implemented or are currently under development in various French cities, each oriented to a specific technology of smart grids. For example:
 - » The well-publicised “Nice (city) grid”, focussing on solar energy and energy storage, involves 300 households and 11 enterprises such as EDF (Electricity of France) and ERDF (Electricity Distribution Network of France).
 - » Since March 2010, “Linky” smart electricity meters have progressively been installed in 225,000 households in Lyon and Indre-et-Loire on a trial basis.
- Following the success of the Linky trials, France plans to replace 35 million traditional electricity meters with smart electricity meters over the next six years. ERDF has already ordered 3 million smart meters from six companies for the mass roll-out, expected to commence in mid-2015.

Looking ahead

- Main areas of focus outlined by France’s smart grids roadmap include:
 - » In the medium term, assisting the roll-out of smart grids through the concentration of support services, such as research and training, within a specific geographic zone in France with a view to develop a skilled labour pool for smart grids.
 - » The longer-term goal of creating a platform, “Open Innovation”, aimed at bringing together smart grid operators and suppliers for the purpose of supporting the sector’s competitiveness.
- France is also planning to reform current regulations to aid the development of smart grids, including:
 - » Preparing an evolution of the thermal regulation RT2012 so as to strengthen the flexibility of the electricity system.
 - » Establishing a consistent and effective legal framework for the management of and access to the mass data exchanged between the different parties in the sector.

What to watch

- According to France’s smart grids’ roadmap, the sector may create 10,000 new jobs (compared to the existing 15,000 jobs) and its turnover may exceed 6 billion euros by 2020 (compared to 3 billion euros in 2015, half of which came from exports).
- The government’s timetable for the roll-out of smart meters envisages 95% of French households being equipped with Linky smart meters by the end of 2020. According to the Energy Regulation Commission, the total cost of this is estimated at 7 billion euros.
- France plans to create a “Smart Grids Team of France” in the near-future to promote the sector and coordinate the parties concerned.

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