

# Bahrain signs up to \$1.2bn GCC power project

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Bahrain has followed Saudi Arabia in signing up to an agreement to establish a GCC-wide power grid.

The deal will allow Bahrain to exchange power with other member countries once the first phase of the grid goes live in May, officials said.

The power plan, which aims to give member states access to floating power capacity in the region consists of a North Grid – Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar – and a South grid connecting the UAE and Oman, Bahrain's Works Minister Fahmi Al Jowder said in comments published by Gulf Daily News on Thursday.

The final phase of the power project would see both grids connected.

"Bahrain and other GCC nations will now greatly benefit since they can draw the reserve power from the grid in times of emergency thus eliminating any power shortages in the future," he told the paper.

Electricity and Water Authority chief executive Dr Abdulmajeed Al Awadhi said that the general agreement signed on Wednesday would be followed by the Power Exchange Trade Agreement (Peta) on April 2, in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

He said the Peta, once signed by all members, would define the buying and selling terms between the Gulf states.

Bahrain has already paid \$134 million towards the \$1.2 billion cost of the project.