

Tender for three wind power plants to be floated this year

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The Ministry of Energy is looking to launch a tender for three wind energy plants across the southern region by the end of the year.

Wind turbine stations at Al Harir, Maan and Wadi Arabia will be packaged together in the tender in order to produce a combined 300-400 megawatts of wind energy, Ministry of Energy renewable energy department director, Ziyad Jibril, said on Thursday.

According to Jubril, the sites are to be grouped together in one tender for one company to develop and construct over the same period of time, in an effort to increase the amount of renewable energy in the country.

Due to advancements and affordability in the technology, the ministry recently updated the National Energy Strategy to produce 600MW of wind energy by 2015, five years ahead of schedule.

The three plants would join Jordan's first wind power plant, a 30-40MW plant in Kamsheh, near Jerash, scheduled to be operational in 2010. The government and a Greek firm are currently in final discussions regarding the tender, according to the ministry.

The tender for the second wind plant in Fujeji, near Petra, will be floated later this month in an effort to produce 80-90MW of wind energy at the site by 2011