8th Annual Conference on

POWER DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

Issues & Challenges; Strategies & Solutions

November 20-21, 2013, The Imperial, New Delhi

Organised by:

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*Sponsorship slots are still available
The viability of the power distribution segment has been a key cause of concern for a long time now. Most of the state distribution companies are running in losses, which has severely constrained their ability to raise finances to purchase power and ensure quality supply as well as invest in new assets to meet demand.

Recognising this, the government launched a debt restructuring plan linked to reforms for state discoms in October 2012. The financial support is tied to performance milestones. This package is expected to significantly improve the liquidity position of distribution utilities, though structural changes are needed to turn the segment around.

Tariff revisions have taken place in all states in the past year, signalling a positive trend. The level of tariff hikes during 2012-13 ranged from 1.5 per cent to 37 per cent. Also, 14 states have already notified revised tariffs for 2013-14. However, in many states, a gap still exists between the tariff and the average cost of supply.

Power purchase costs, accounting for 60-70 per cent of the total cost of utilities, have risen sharply in the last few years. Bottlenecks in fuel supply have escalated the cost of generation as power producers rely on open market purchases or fuel imports. Future power procurement contracts are likely to incorporate fuel escalation as a key parameter.

Even the existing power purchase agreements may be subject to revised tariffs in order to compensate for the higher fuel costs in power generation projects. The precedent for this has been set in two recent landmark judgments by the CERC, allowing higher tariffs for Adani Power and Tata Power to compensate for the unexpected rise in the cost of imported coal for their projects.

There is also an increasing trend of franchising operations and maintenance (O&M) activities in high-loss distribution circles. Jharkhand and Odisha recently appointed franchisees.

The R-APDRP has led to increasing IT adoption by the state discoms. Progress has been made in verification of baseline AT&C losses in almost 80 per cent of the towns. However, the programme’s main objective of reducing losses to below 15 per cent is still some steps away.

Faced with an aging distribution network, distribution companies are looking to undertake asset management and optimisation. This presents an opportunity for players providing such solutions.

Load management and forecasting are being adopted by the more progressive discoms. These measures will help them in improving power supply to consumers. Demand side measures such as ToD metering are among the key steps being taken.

The mission of this conference is to highlight the key challenges facing the distribution segment in India – related to finances, AT&C losses, power procurement costs, consumer tariffs, load management and network performance. The conference will also discuss strategies to address these challenges and showcase relevant noteworthy initiatives/technologies/applications.

Previous participants

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## AGENDA/STRUCTURE

### Target Audience

- Discoms and SEBs
- Funding agencies
- Regulatory institutions
- Research organisations

- IT providers
- Potential new distribution players
- Contractors
- Technology providers

- Equipment manufacturers
- Government agencies (central/state)
- Existing private utilities
- Consultancy organisations, Etc.

### KEY TRENDS AND OUTLOOK
- What is the current state of the distribution segment?
- What are some of the key trends in asset growth, tariffs, costs and competition?
- What are some of the major challenges for the sector?

### GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE
- What is the government’s perspective on reviving the distribution segment?
- What is the update on the financial restructuring plan for state discoms?
- What will be the impact of the new standard bidding guidelines?
- What is the outlook for the segment?

### DISCOM PERSPECTIVE
- What is the discom perspective on the sector?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities? What is the way forward?
- What are the key initiatives being taken by the utilities?

### DISCOM FINANCES
- What is the trend in the financial losses of distribution utilities?
- How is the financial restructuring package expected to impact discom finances?
- How is the financial situation expected to change in the near future?

### POWER PROCUREMENT AND TARIFF TRENDS
- What have been the trends in Case I/Case II bidding undertaken by discoms?
- What are the factors impacting the power purchase costs of discoms?
- What are the trends in retail tariffs across states?
- What is the future outlook with regard to tariffs?

### UPDATE ON FRANCHISE MODEL
- What are the key benefits of the franchise model in the power distribution segment?
- What has been the experience so far? Which are the upcoming franchisees?
- How is the emerging policy environment placed for distribution franchisees?

### LOSS REDUCTION AND REVENUE PROTECTION
- What are the key discom initiatives in terms of metering, billing and collection?
- What are some of the best practices in this regard?
- What have been the key learnings?

### DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MODERNISATION: R-APDRP AND BEYOND
- What is the current status of the R-APDRP?
- What has been the progress on Part A (IT), SCADA and Part B?
- What are the key issues and challenges in this regard?

### AUTOMATION IN DISTRIBUTION
- What are the key automation requirements and applications in distribution?
- What are the most promising technologies/solutions?
- What has been the experience of discoms so far?

### ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE
- What are the key benefits of an AMI-based system in distribution systems?
- What are the infrastructural requirements for implementing AMI-based systems?
- Which are the AMI solutions planned for implementation in the near future?

### REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE AND EXPERIENCE
- What have been the key recent regulations for the distribution segment?
- What will be the impact of these developments on discom finances and performance?
- What are the key unresolved issues? Which of these are likely to be addressed in the near future?

### TRANSFORMERS AND SUBSTATIONS
- What have been the technology advancements in transformers and substations?
- What are the requirements of discoms in this regard?
- What are the plans of equipment providers?

### LOAD MANAGEMENT AND FORECASTING
- What are the emerging requirements for load management and forecasting?
- How are discoms responding to these?
- What are the technology solutions available?

### DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT
- What are the key demand side management initiatives by discoms?
- What has been the experience of utilities in implementing new tariff structures such as ToD tariffs?
- What are the key challenges?

### UPDATE ON SMART GRID
- What is the road map towards a smart grid?
- What is the update on pilot smart grid projects?
- What are the key milestones and targets?

### FOCUS ON UNDERGROUND CABLING
- What is the status of underground cable use in the distribution segment?
- What are the benefits of using underground cables? What are the key issues?
- What is the status of R-APDRP funding for underground cables?
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