

Platts Survey: Power Utilities Cited Regulatory Risk, Weak Wholesale Prices as Greatest Challenges Ahead

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LONDON, Feb. 28, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- More than 100 power utility companies and consultancies in Europe identified regulatory risk and weak wholesale power prices as the greatest challenges facing the industry, according to a recent [survey](#) conducted by [Platts](#), a leading global energy, petrochemical and metals information provider.

Insufficient network development and fuel price risk were also noted as need-to-resolve challenges to the electric utility companies, many of which will attend the fourth annual [Platts European Power Generation Conference](#) in Dusseldorf, Germany on April 22-23.

"The survey reveals a wide spectrum of opinion in a sector struggling on several fronts," said Henry Edwardes-Evans, editor, [Platts Power in Europe](#). "Some respondents believe the industry is adequately equipped to meet power needs, while others believe West Europe is heading for a perfect storm driven by ageing infrastructure, supply volatility of renewables and accelerated nuclear closures."

Nearly half of those surveyed said that new conventional power plants are needed in the next three years, particularly in the U.K., Germany and Belgium. Respondents also called for new plants to be built in France within the next five years and in Italy, Ireland and Switzerland within the next 10 years.

"When we asked how these plants might be financed, most of those surveyed thought some form of central, regulated support would be needed," said Edwardes-Evans, who will chair the upcoming Platts European Power Generation Conference. "Hardly anyone thought wholesale markets alone would provide sufficient revenue for the infrastructure build."

These and other topics will be discussed in depth at the two-day [Platts European Power Generation Conference](#), with the focus theme "European Power: Timing the Tipping Point." Speakers from RWE, E.ON, Vattenfall, Enel, DONG Energy, ESBI and Brightsource Energy, among others, will address the latest trends and developments across varying types of power generation - from conventional, to renewables and biomass, to large scale low-carbon generation - as well as market design and issues around infrastructure investment. See the full [conference agenda](#) for details.

Corporate and industry executives may register to attend the Platts European Power Generation Conference at the [general registration link](#). Accredited media may attend the conference as guests of Platts by pre-registering at this [link](#).

For more information on [Platts European Power Generation Conference](#) or [electric power](#), visit the Platts website www.platts.com.

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