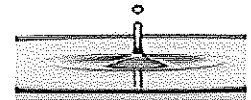




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### VRA to Become Largest Investor in Ghanaian Gas

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Kweku Awotwi, chief executive of Ghana's Volta River Authority (VRA), says that "the VRA will be the single, largest investor of natural gas domestically."

Speaking at the Ghana Oil & Gas Summit in Accra last month, Awotwi outlined the current power generation challenges the West African country faces. The country will need to add another 5,000 MW of installed capacity by 2015; currently there is only 2,020 MW of installed capacity, 20% of which is generated from hydro resources. He also said that in the next three years 800 MW of power would need to be added to meet anticipated demand from firm, on-the-books projects.

To address the shortages, Awotwi says the coming availability of natural gas via the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) and associated gas from the Jubilee and other existing or future hydrocarbon discoveries can help achieve the country's capacity goals. The Takoradi power plant is scheduled to take 123 Mmscf/d once the WAGP is fully online; currently pressure monitoring and the completion of the metering stations is being undertaken. The new resource is set to substantially lower VRA's power costs.

The future looks rosy for exports as well. Awotwi says there are "requests from other countries for gas now, Ghana doesn't have it." However, once more gas can be brought online, Ghana can become the key player in the West African Power Pool by facilitating the distribution of electricity from its surplus gas to countries in the region with a deficit, from southern Niger up and down around the Northwest Bend route and back up to south-west Mali.

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