

World's First Osmotic Power Plant To Be Built In Norway

Norwegian power producer Statkraft has decided to build the world's first prototype osmotic power plant, and announced it is stepping up its initiative to develop the technology further. Osmotic power is a renewable energy source, with calculations indicating that the technology could contribute around 1600 TWh on a global basis annually. After ten years of research and development, Statkraft says it believes the time is now right to build the first osmotic power plant prototype and is therefore stepping up its initiatives and investments to develop the technology. With this decision Statkraft will have invested more than NOK\$100 million to develop a new, renewable energy technology. The global technical potential for osmotic power production is estimated at around 1600 TWh, including around 200 TWh in Europe and 12 TWh in Norway, or 10 per cent of Norway's current power production. Osmotic power is emission-free, and could become competitive within a few years, says Statkraft chief executive Bard Mikkelsen. The construction of the prototype is expected to be completed by the end of 2008, will produce between two and four kilowatts of energy, according to Statkraft.

[Source essa news]