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CHINA TO BUILD WORLD'S FIRST 800 KV DC POWER TRANSMISSION LINE

Beijing

China has decided to build the world's first 800 KV Direct Current (DC) power transmission line to send electricity from resource-rich Yunnan Province in southwest China to energy-scarce Guangdong province.

The 800 KV DC electricity transmission line would be completed before 2010, Yuan Maozhen, chairman of the China Southern Power Grid Corp. (CSG), China's second largest electricity distributor said.

"So far, key technologies of the project are ready, and assessment of environmental and land issues is underway," Yuan said.

With 60 per cent of equipment made in China, the new transmission line will have a larger capacity and be stable than the current 500 KV DC lines, said experts at CSG's annual conference held in the capital of southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The power transmission line is one of the four lines for CSG's west-to-east electricity transmission programme, which will be built in the next five years to ease the power bottleneck in Guangdong province by tapping water resources in southwest China.

China's southern power grid suffered a maximum shortfall of 9.4 million kilowatts in 2005, due to the economic boom in the region. CSG estimated the shortfall in the first half of this year would fall to 5.4 million kilowatts in five provinces and regions in south China, Xinhua news agency reported.

Yuan said to ease the shortfall, CSG planned to invest 234 bn yuan (USD 28.9 bn) in power grid construction in the next five years. CSG targeted to complete the installed power generating capacity of 164 mn kilowatts by 2010, he added.