

EPBiH – Company Research Profile

JP Elektroprivreda BiH d.d. Sarajevo (EPBiH) is a large company operating in the fields of power generation, distribution, trade and supply of electricity. The company is a governing body of the Concern EPBiH, comprising also seven coal mines. For its activities, EPBiH has obtained the licences issued by authorized Regulatory Commission for Electricity in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FERK).

EPBiH is the largest electric utility in Bosnia and Herzegovina with total installed generation capacity amounting 1.669MW (504 MW in HPP and 1.165 in TPP), distribution lines length approx. 24.586 km and 707.301 customers. The number of employees in EPBiH is 5000.

The activities in research and development in EPBiH are carried out by the Department for Strategic Development. This Department is devoted to introducing new technologies and application of BATs in all processes. Activities are carried out by highly competent staff: two more experienced researchers (PhD researchers with more than 10 years of full equivalent experience), two experienced researchers (PhD researchers with 4-10 years of full equivalent experience and six young researchers (PhD candidates).

As a public entity it has a strong interest in securing reliable and affordable electricity generation, however, at the same time incorporating latest technological advances for the benefit of environmental preservation and long-term sustainable development.

Follow up on good practice, effect environmental preservation and maintain long-term resource sufficiency for future generations, EPBiH has opted to future strategic planning devoted to expanding and diversifying its generation portfolio, by introducing novel alternative technologies into the companies generation mix. At the same time EPBiH is committed to research in the energy field, policy as well as technology related, to finding best attainable solutions for the given constraints of a developing country.

Under such conditions, the conducted research and obtained results are manifold; however, they are unambiguously striving for the benefits of the local communities. As such we see our main interests in the fields of:

- energy efficiency – in terms of efficient resource utilization (which refers to both energy resources, as well as other available assets), also including cogeneration, as well as efficient energy use on the consumers side, as we believe that such actions would yield highest social and economic benefits;
- renewable energy sources – renewable generation is currently in our focus; expected outcome is enabling a more local and environmentally friendly electricity generation, however, evaluating the resource potential, as well as investigating effects of such variable outputs on the power system is at the moment our first priority;
- clean coal technologies including IGCC and co-firing coal and biomass
- further implementation of smart metering infrastructure and integration and development of integrated power quality monitoring systems along with the continual implementation of SCADA systems and implementation of power quality monitoring systems
- implementation of new technologies offering improvements in distribution systems with respect to environmentally friendly policy and regulations i.e. underground substations
- implementation of new technologies in distribution systems – electric vehicles or emerging integration of distributed generation (PV, small hydro, wind, biomass, etc.)

We see our main contribution in EU research partner projects in our capacities and capabilities to investigate or check/confirm some findings in real-life operation. One of the ultimate goals of our research would be to contribute to the knowledge base of other countries and EU research community, as well as take over good practice and learn from experience of other researchers, and establish long lasting bonds for future collaboration.