

## Focus on North Africa

### Update on Algeria

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**Sonelgaz 30 billion investment plan 2009-2017:** The Algerian Gas and Electricity Regulatory Commission announced recently that Algeria will increase its investments in power generation by around 7,000 Megawatts to meet the local demand by 2017. With an annual average demand growth rate of 9.1 percent over the next 8 years, the Algerian installed power generation capacity will go up from 7,200 Megawatts to 14 Megawatts. To meet this need Sonelgaz will invest nearly \$30bn to expand and upgrade Algeria's power generation and distribution capacity until 2017, the company's chief executive officer Nourredine Bouterfa announced. The investment will be divided among Sonelgaz's seven subsidiaries. Of the total investment, \$5 billion will be allocated to generation, \$8 billion to transmission, \$3 billion to gas shipping and more than \$6 billion to distribution.

**Sonatrach : a new \$45 billion investment plan 2009-2012:** The Executive Council of Sonatrach approved the \$45 billion investment plan. The CEO of Sonatrach, Mr. Mohamed Meziane, announced that the lion's share--\$20 billion-- is to develop the Algerian petrochemical industry. The other major areas of investment include upstream exploration and development with \$10 billion, hydrocarbons transportation facilities programs with \$6 billion, and Hygiene, Safety and Environment protection with \$1.8 billion.

**Solar Power:** Algeria aims to develop its own solar energy industry with a goal of producing 1,200 megawatts of solar power by 2015. The country is currently looking for foreign investors and technologies to speed up adoption of alternative sources of power.