

The construction of the Plomin C power plant is good for Marubeni, Croatia and other international investors that have ready money for that project, a top executive of the Japanese Marubeni Corporation, Hiroshi Tachigami, told a panel discussion on Tuesday at the Energy Investment Forum organised by the Poslovni Dnevnik business magazine. If Croatia decides to build the Plomin C power plant, valued at a billion euros, and if Marubeni is to get the job, finances are ready, Tachigami said.

He added that the Croatian power provider HEP would partly contribute to the investment, while the other investors were from Japan, France and other European countries. Marubeni is very interested in this project, however, the final decision will be made by HEP and, the Croatian government. I believe that this is one of the key projects for Croatia and coal provides energy security. The Plomin project is good for the economy and employment because it will employ hundreds of people and contribute to the local community, Marubeni's executive said.

He added that the project would adhere to all environmental criteria and that Plomin C would not pollute the environment.

SMEs Minister Darko Horvat underscored that the decision whether to build Plomin C needed to be made by experts and not politicians.

Werner Casagrande of the ENV Croatia Plin company, that constructed the gas supply network in three Dalmatian counties, said that they were not satisfied with the way that process was developing. So far, he said, six cities have been connected and more than a thousand pipelines have been put in place, however, local county prefects and mayors are slowing down that process, probably because they have limited annual budgets.

I hope we will soon see the light at the end of the tunnel and that prefects and mayors will see the greater benefits of gassification in their areas, thinking in the long term, Casagrande said.

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