Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: ***Will electricity from the wind turbines be supplied to local people?***
A1: Not directly, electricity generated will be transferred into the national grid and individual buildings will not be connected.

Q2: ***Will there be local employment opportunities?***
A2: Yes, workforce from the nearby communities may be recruited by the main contractor/s or subcontractors to work on the Project, particularly during the construction phase when the number of workers engaged is much higher. The contractors will implement a transparent recruitment process taking into consideration skills and experience aimed to maximise local employment. Some positions will be filled by national and international workers. Some local employment opportunities may also be available during operation. Additional information will be provided at the beginning of construction.

Q3: ***Will I be able to move with animals close to the WTGs, or nearby?***
A3: Yes. Even though some areas could be temporarily inaccessible during the construction, the movement across the site will not be restricted during operation. People can continue using the land for grazing, recreation, and other uses as long as they do not interfere with the construction and operation of the wind farm.

Q4: ***Will I be able to hear the noise from the WTGs?***
A4: This will depend upon how close you are to the WTG and the prevailing wind direction which influences the propagation of noise. A noise modelling study will be undertaken as part of the ESIA to predict the area where noise will be generated whilst the WTGs are operating. The ESIA report will contain details of the outcome of noise modelling, an analysis compared to the applicable standards and management measures.

Q5: ***Would the Project impact the resident and migratory birds?***
A5: Biodiversity surveys have been undertaken for 12 months. The ESIA will use the findings of those surveys to assess the potential risks to resident and migratory birds and bats. Specific protocols will be in place during operation to prevent impacts on bird species of conservation value. This is normally done through bird observers and the selective stoppage of specific WTGs to prevent collisions.

Q6: ***What other impacts could the Project cause?***
A6: Shadow flicker occurs under specific sunlight conditions when rotating wind turbine blades cast a shadow that may result in a flickering effect to the ground. A shadow flicker study will be undertaken as part of the ESIA to predict the area where shadow flicker will be generated. The ESIA report will contain details of the outcome of shadow flicker modelling compared to the applicable standards and management measures.
Blade throw is extremely infrequent, and the risk is considered very low. It occurs when there is a structural failure of the WTG (e.g. as a consequence of a lighting storm or a tornado). Ice throw could occur when there is a build up of ice and snow on the blade. The WTG has systems to automatically detect the presence of ice on the blades and mechanisms for safe operation, however, it is recommended to not stay in close proximity to a WTG in winter conditions. The ESIA will also include an assessment of the impact of the WTGs on the landscape and visual setting of the area.

Example of an overhead transmission line (OHL)
An OHL will be installed to connect the Project substation to the Brezna electrical substation

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BIJELA WIND PARK

Powering Montenegro's Sustainable Future

ALCAZAR ENERGY

CLEAN AND GREEN ENERGY, STRONGER TOMORROW

ALCAZAR ENERGY IS DEVELOPING BIJELA WIND FARM

In September 2023, Alcazar Energy, a renewable energy infrastructure fund backed by Development Financial Institutions, acquired the rights to the 119 MW Bijela Wind Farm in Montenegro following a collaboration with the Project's original developers, Simes Inženjering and Sistem MNE.

The Project is located primarily in Šavnik municipality as well as in Nikšić, Plužine, and Kolašin municipalities, Approximately 25 km north-east of the city of Nikšić and approximately 50 km to the north of Podgorica.

This leaflet introduces the Project in place and presents typical Questions & Answers

The Project consists of the development, construction, and operation of a wind farm, with current design comprising of 17 to 18 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), each having approximately. 6-8MW nominal power, and a total installed capacity of 119 MW.

The WTGs will be installed along a high-altitude mountain ridge. A 17km access road will be built, upgrading the existing path to the wind farm area, as well as a network of internal roads between the WTGs. Underground 33 kV cables will be installed to connect from the WTGs to an internal substation within the project area. This substation will be connected to the existing 110/400kV Brezna substation through a 22km 110 kV overhead line (OHL) to transfer the energy generated to the existing transmission network. An upgrade of this substation is planned to be constructed by the local Transmission System Operator.

The design of the Project is ongoing, and the final locations of the WTGs are being determined based on the findings of combined engineering and environmental & social studies.

Construction is expected to commence in Q3 2025 and the wind farm is planned to be operational by 2027. Once operational, the wind farm is expected to produce over 320 GWh of clean energy equivalent to power over 16,000 Montenegrin homes while avoiding an estimated 230,000 tons of CO_2 emissions annually.

Project Highlights

- The Bijela Wind Farm is in line with the government's 2040 draft National Development Strategy and National Land Use Plan, directly supporting Montenegro's strategic aim to increase its renewable energy capacity and generation
- The improved access road and new internal roads will enhance mobility of the local community in the project area through providing wider and safer roads
- Approximately 1.1% of the project value will be annually allocated to the budget of the Municipality of Šavnik, significantly contributing to the capacities of the local government for future development
- Temporary employment will be created during the construction phase for relevant roles. A number of long-term employment opportunities will also be created during the operational phase. Alcazar Energy will work with its contractors to maximise local employment as practicably possible
- Regional and local businesses may benefit from being part of the supply chain, providing goods and services to the main contractors
- The Project will apply best international practices to minimise any environmental and social impacts and promote opportunities for value creation

Example of a wind project in operation in Montenegro

Construction of a WTG foundation being filled with concrete

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

An ESIA is an important assessment of the environmental and social aspects of the project, which is conducted prior to commencement of construction. The ESIA is aims to prevent or minimise adverse environmental and social risks and impacts that could arise during the construction and operational stages of the Project and to maximize positive impacts to the extent possible. An important aspects of the ESIA process is stakeholder engagement, including local communities.

The ESIA is currently ongoing, in line with applicable national legislation as well as international best practice standards including IFC Performance Standards on Environmental & Social Sustainability, EIB Environmental and Social Policy, EBRD Environmental and Social Policy, and applicable EU regulations.

When complete, the ESIA Report, including a Non-technical Summary, will be disclosed in English and Montenegrin to the public for consultation purposes. The ESIA Report will also undergo a review by the financial lending institutions.

BIJELA WIND FARM

Stakeholder Engagement

An integral part of the ESIA process is to obtain feedback from people who may be affected by, or who are interested in the Project – the Project's stakeholders. Consultations with stakeholders have already started and will be undertaken during preparation of the ESIA in late 2024 and early 2025. Stakeholders will be able to:

- Learn about the Project and the future outcome of the ESIA
- Gain an understanding as to how the Project impacts will be managed and make comments and suggestions about those issues they are concerned about
- Be provided with contact details to enable them to raise any future questions or concerns using the project grievance and feedback mechanism

Grievances and Feedback

Alcazar Energy is committed to operating with the highest levels of integrity in line with our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct. Alcazar Energy values engagement, transparency, and accountability towards stakeholders that could be impacted by or have an interest in our assets. Alcazar Energy accepts comments concerning the Project, including anonymous submissions. For any concerns or questions about the Project, please refer to: https://alcazar.integrityline.com/

Example of WTG components including tower, blades, nacelle and hub

Example of a WTG being installed onto a concrete foundation with crane