

The future of energy unfolds in Rimini

From 4th to 6th March 2026, the Rimini Expo Centre in Italy will host the new edition of KEY, the IEG event where the energy of tomorrow takes shape, showcasing sectors from across the energy transition including wind power.

Wind power is now a strategic source for the energy transition. The European Wind Energy Action Plan, launched by Brussels in 2023, aims to significantly expand installed capacity to meet the decarbonisation targets set for 2030. By that date, the EU intends to reach approximately 500 GW of total wind capacity.

According to recent data from WindEurope, Europe installed 6.8 GW of new wind capacity between January and June 2025, 89% of which, about 6 GW, was onshore. Within the EU, new installations totalled 5.3 GW with nearly all (5.2 GW) coming from onshore projects. These additions brought Europe's total wind capacity to 291 GW, comprising 254 GW onshore and 37 GW offshore. In the EU alone, total capacity reached 236 GW, including 215 GW onshore and 21 GW offshore.

In Great Britain, the target is to achieve between 27 and 29 GW of onshore wind capacity by 2030. According to the energy think tank Ember, 98% of days in the UK are either windy or sunny, meaning wind and solar power usually complement each other well. However, the first half of 2025 saw unusually low wind energy production.

Wind power, alongside other renewable sources and sectors driving the green revolution through integrated system-wide approaches, will be a key focus at the next edition of KEY – The Energy Transition Expo. Now in its fourth year as a stand-alone event, the Italian Exhibition Group's (IEG) flagship show is a leading platform for energy transition and efficiency across Europe, Africa and the Mediterranean basin.

The event, taking place from 4 to 6 March 2026 at the Rimini Expo Centre in Italy, will once again bring together the global energy community, fostering dialogue among key industry players and institutions to accelerate the path towards decarbonisation. KEY 2026 reaffirms its role as a strategic hub for connection and collaboration, an arena where the foundations of a more sustainable future

are laid, emerging trends are identified and market needs are anticipated.

Beyond facilitating networking, business opportunities and trade, the event offers companies and professionals from around the world a unique platform to discover cutting-edge technologies and innovations aimed at optimising energy use and reducing environmental impact.

A global event

One of KEY 2026's priorities is to strengthen its international profile by focusing on strategic regions with high potential for the energy transition, including Africa, particularly North and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as Turkey and key European countries such as Germany, Spain, the UK, Poland, Serbia and the Balkans.

Top buyers and international delegations from around the world will gather in Rimini, supported by collaborations with the Italian Trade Agency (ICE), the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the sector's leading foreign associations.

The conference programme, developed by KEY's Technical Scientific Committee, chaired by Professor Gianni Silvestrini and composed of institutions, trade and technical associations, organisations and foundations, is also designed with internationalisation in mind. The wide range of scheduled events will provide energy professionals attending the Rimini event with a unique opportunity for information, training and professional development on key topics and current market issues, including wind power and the vast potential of offshore energy.

First edition to occupy the entire Expo Centre

KEY will function as a complete ecosystem, fostering collaboration between companies, innovators and institutional stakeholders. For the first time, the event will occupy the entire



Rimini Expo Centre, welcoming visitors and exhibitors from around the world and highlighting the broad cross-cutting scope of the energy transition, making KEY a truly unique event on the European exhibition scene.

To maximise synergies, KEY will be organised into seven thematic areas covering interconnected product sectors: photovoltaics, wind power, energy storage, energy efficiency, electric mobility and sustainable urban transformation.

This immersive layout will allow visitors to experience the future of energy firsthand. Hydrogen power will also feature prominently, under the HYPE – Hydrogen Power Expo, organised by IEG in collaboration with Hannover Fairs International GmbH (HFI), the Italian subsidiary of Deutsche Messe AG and supported by Hydrogen & Fuel Cells.



For the first time, the sections dedicated to solar power, energy storage and wind power will include an entire hall devoted to Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) and finance, two increasingly strategic areas for the development of new renewable energy projects and utility-scale storage solutions.

WEM: complete overview of wind power

With its enormous potential, particularly in the offshore sector, wind power has become one of the most dynamic drivers of the energy transition and the emerging green economy. WEM, Wind Expo for Med is the dedicated exhibition area showcasing the sector's key technologies, from onshore and offshore plants to mini wind turbines and wind-powered energy communities.

The area is designed to bring together all the main players in the wind energy supply chain:

producers of onshore and offshore turbines, manufacturers of floating wind technology and components, providers of solutions for repowering and upgrading existing farms, O&M specialists, asset managers, developers, utilities, wind farm operators, major electricity market players and investors. It offers an ideal setting for forging partnerships, exchanging know-how and driving the market towards increasingly ambitious goals.

The wind power halls will also feature Su.port, Sustainable Ports for the Energy Transition, which debuted at KEY 2025. This exhibition's focus, highlights ports as new energy hubs, logistics centres for assembling and maintaining floating renewable energy farms, especially offshore wind, and for storing and transporting hydrogen. Key topics will include the electrification of port docks and the role of cold ironing in enhancing maritime sustainability.

Innovation, research and green skills

At KEY 2026, the Innovation District will once again serve as the engine of innovation, showcasing the most advanced solutions from Italian and international green start-ups and SMEs selected through a dedicated Call for Start-ups.

More than just an exhibition space, the Innovation District functions as a true open innovation hub, connecting innovators with businesses and investors while offering the opportunity to participate in one of Europe's leading energy transition and efficiency events.

For the third consecutive year, KEY 2026 will present the Lorenzo Cagnoni Innovation Award to the three young companies with the greatest innovative potential as well as to seven exhibitors, one for each product sector,



recognised for their most cutting-edge projects. The same hall will also host the Green Jobs & Skills initiative, promoting energy transition-related skills and supporting the alignment of talent supply and demand for sustainable professions.

KEY 2026 will also continue its commitment to science and research through its second Call for Papers, fostering discussion on a sustainable global future. Universities,

companies, research institutions and international associations, even those not exhibiting, were invited to submit abstracts to present projects or share successful experiences in energy and climate transition.

The 25 selected contributions will be published in a special issue of the scientific journal QualEnergia Science, promoted by KEY – The Energy Transition Expo and published by Editoriale La Nuova Ecologia with

support from the Italian Exhibition Group, and will be officially presented during KEY 2026.

KEY CHOICE – Unlock the Future of PPAs

On 3 March 2026, KEY CHOICE – Unlock the Future of PPAs will precede KEY, marking its third edition. This B2B event, organised by IEG in collaboration with Elemens and held at Rimini's Palacongressi conference centre, is entirely focused on Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

It will bring together energy-intensive companies, renewable energy producers, traders, off-takers, electricity system institutions and financial organisations. The event will provide an in-depth look at both technical and regulatory aspects of PPAs while fostering networking and interaction to facilitate the negotiation and conclusion of PPA contracts.

DPE – International Electricity Expo

The new edition of DPE – International Electricity Expo will be held alongside KEY. Organised by Italian Exhibition Group in collaboration with the Distributed Generation Association – Motors, Components, Generating Sets (affiliated with ANIMA Confindustria) and the ANIE Federation, DPE is dedicated to the generation, transmission, distribution, safety and electrical automation sectors.

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