

## **Eskom has plans for 20 000 MW by 2025**

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Eskom plans to build 20 000 megawatts of nuclear power by 2025. An investment decision on the first plant, which would have a capacity of between 3 300 and 4 000 MW, will go to the board in June. If approved it could be generating electricity in 2017.

The power utility is doing environmental impact assessments on five coastal sites, one which will be selected for the new nuclear station.

The sites are Brazil near Kleinsee and Schulpfontein near Hondeklipbaai on the Northern Cape west coast; Duynefontain (Koeberg) and Bantamsklip near Pearly Beach, east of Gansbaai on the Western Cape coast; and Thyspunt near Oyster Bay, west of Cape St Francis on the Eastern Cape coast.

The 20 000 MW of nuclear power in the pipeline includes the pebble bed modular reactor, which is based on German technology and has not yet been proved viable.

This technology differs from the more widely used pressurised water reactor such as Koeberg in the Western Cape.

A total of 24 pebble bed modular reactors could generate 3 960 MW.

Tont Stott, Eskom's senior manager for nuclear stakeholder management, said: "We do not know yet what pebble bed modular reactors could bring to the table."

If environmental approval and licences were received, construction on the pebble bed reactor fuel and demonstration plant could begin in 2009.

<http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=561&fArticleId=4199649>