

Name of Initiative

Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP)

Agency

Energy Market Authority (EMA)



Could you share briefly on what was the impetus that eventually led to the initiative, and how did you motivate yourself/your team to pursue it?

The LTMS-PIP serves as a pathfinder for multilateral power trade in ASEAN under the ASEAN Power Grid, a key regional initiative to enhance interconnectivity, energy security and sustainability through regional electricity interconnections. Regional power grids can help accelerate the development of renewable energy projects and promote economic growth and bring greater energy security to the region.

The project is also one of the electricity imports trials that EMA has been working on to pave the way for larger scale electricity imports of up to 4 gigawatts (GW) in capacity into Singapore by 2035, which is an important step in the decarbonisation of Singapore's power sector.

Our teams were strongly motivated to implement the LTMS-PIP successfully, as it will serve as a pathfinder for both the ASEAN Power Grid and Singapore's plans for larger scale electricity imports, which are key to securing a more sustainable and resilient energy future for Singapore and the region.

What were the challenges that you / your team encountered, and how did you / your team overcome them?

It was a monumental task to plan for and implement multilateral cross-border power trade involving 4 ASEAN countries. Each country has its own electricity grids, cross-border interconnections, electricity markets, and codes and regulations on electricity transmission. To overcome the complex challenges posed by the different power systems, the LTMS-PIP Working Group set up 3 separate Taskforces – Legal and Regulatory, Commercial, and Technical – to examine and resolve any issues relating to the cross-border power trade. The team from EMA chaired the LTMS Working Group in 2021 and 2022 and led the Commercial Taskforce discussions. EMA's teams also collaborated cohesively with counterparts from Lao PDR, Thailand, and Malaysia in the other Taskforces to achieve outcomes that were mutually beneficial to all parties.

PEP-SBF Awards 2022

Pro-Enterprise Disruptor Award



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What was the most memorable moment while working on this project?

When the import of electrons first commenced, at around 2pm on 23 June 2022, our teams had gathered at the Power System Control Centre to ensure that the operations proceeded smoothly. Shortly after 2pm, our systems indicated that we were receiving a steady inflow of electrons under the LTMS project. While this was only the start of the project, it was the culmination of years of multilateral energy cooperation and marked a historic milestone as the first cross-border electricity trade involving four ASEAN countries, and the first import of electricity from a renewable source into Singapore.

Supporting Media/ Illustrations

