

WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



California ISO

News Release

For immediate release | April 4, 2018

Media Hotline | 888.516.6397

For more information, contact:

Steven Greenlee | sgreenlee@caiso.com

Anne Gonzales | agonzales@caiso.com

Western EIM welcomes new participants — Idaho Power & Powerex

FOLSOM, Calif. – Boise-based Idaho Power and Powerex of Vancouver, British Columbia, successfully entered the western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) today, allowing the ISO's real-time power market to serve energy imbalances occurring within about 55 percent of the electric load in the Western Interconnection.

"The Western Energy Imbalance Market continues to demonstrate that coordination of energy over a large area can lower costs for electric customers and reduce the cost of the transition to a more renewable based grid," said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. "We're happy to welcome Powerex and Idaho Power to the EIM and congratulate them on all of their successful efforts and hard work to get ready to participate in this growing market".

The eight western EIM participants now serve more than 42 million consumers in the power grid stretching from the border with Canada south to Arizona, and eastward to Wyoming. The western EIM has saved utilities more than a quarter-billion dollars since its launch in November 2014 through 2017. The market also found a home for excess solar generation that otherwise would have been turned off, reducing carbon emissions by nearly 223,000 metric tons, which equates to taking nearly 50,000 cars off the road for one year.

The real-time energy market uses state-of-the-art technology to find the best ways to deliver low-cost power across eight states. It also reduces costs by allowing participating utilities to pool required energy reserves.

[Powerex](#) is a leading marketing and trading company that offers a range of energy products and services to wholesale customers throughout North America. The company, which is the marketing arm of BC Hydro, has significant access to hydroelectricity and transmission capacity with licenses and permits from Canadian and U.S. regulators to serve customers, such as utilities, independent power producers and other marketers, in Canada and across the U.S.

[Idaho Power](#), formed in 1916, serves a population of about 1.2 million people in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon via a high-voltage and distribution transmission system encompassing 32,298 circuit miles. The utility is rich in renewable energy with 17 hydroelectric generating plants located on the Snake River and its tributaries, making up its core generation portfolio.

A number of other utilities will enter the market in the next two years, including the Balancing Authority of Northern California/Sacramento Municipal Utility District in April 2019, and Salt River Project of Phoenix, Seattle City Light and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in April 2020.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the ISO's western EIM.

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250 Outcropping Way | Folsom, California 95630 | www.caiso.com

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The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.