

The hydropower industry in the United States could add 60 GW of renewable energy to the country's electricity grid by 2025, while creating 700,000 new jobs.



(USA).- The National Hydropower Association (NHA) commissioned Navigant Consulting to conduct a study on the hydroelectricity industry's potential for job creation and capacity growth. The results rely on information from industry experts, government officials and existing data, and suggest that the US industry could increase its current installed capacity of 100 GW by adding 60 GW of capacity through new technologies, efficiency improvements and research and development.

“The hydropower industry is prepared to double its current capacity of clean, domestic, renewable waterpower resources,” says NHA president Andrew Munro of Grant County Public Utility District in Washington state. “Hydropower offers tremendous potential for America to double its renewable energy production, provide reliable electricity for American families, and create thousands of new jobs.”

The additional capacity could serve 17 million homes, the equivalent of all homes in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago combined. The domestic hydropower industry currently employs 300,000 people and, as it grows, every region will see additional jobs and new economic opportunities, the report notes.

The study examined the hydropower industry's potential under two different scenarios: 'business as usual' where renewables generate 10% of total US electricity and 'accelerated case' where national policies mandate 25% generation from renewable energy. Both scenarios assume that hydropower continues to provide 7% of total US electricity, and that demand for power grows by 2% a year.

