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# AIRPOCALYPSE IN CHINA?

**POINT DE VUE D'EXPERT** A decade ago, China saw the western climate change initiatives as a conspiracy to limit China's rapid growth. Today, avoiding pollution-related social unrest against the «airpocalypse», the Chinese government sees new opportunities around Energy Internet and gets serious about addressing air pollution and protecting the environment.

**This represents a radical policy shift** which in one example strengthens the domestic car industry by a comprehensive switch to electric vehicle (EV). Large subsidies for EVs and plug-in hybrids were recently extended by three years, and EV production quotas will be effective by 2019. The EV industry is one priority area of the country's «Made in China 2025» industrial strategy, which aims to transform China to a high-end EV manufacturer.

**In an effort** to «make our skies blue again», the government is to spend over USD 2 billion in R&D in 2018 by investing heavily in modern technologies including

«These green energy networks integrate energy storage and intelligent electricity consumption facilities.»

*Dr. Felix Moesner, Swiss Consul & CEO, swissnex China*

Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence, two key components of the Energy Internet for a cleaner and more efficient use of energy. The two-way exchange of energy and information would upgrade traditional power grids into new intelligent platforms, where end-to-end interactions across the entire value chain are implemented.

**China will invest billions** of dollars in smart grid infrastructure over the next decade pushing automated metering infrastructure (AMI) technologies. These green



energy networks integrate energy storage and intelligent electricity consumption facilities as well as derivative services such as carbon trading.

**There, Energy Blockchain Labs** deploys blockchain to create a green power and emission certificate trading system, for example.

**The State Grid Corporation of China** (1.1 billion customers) aims for a global renewable energy network in the long

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run, where efficient solar farms and wind stations will be interconnected through ultra-high voltage (UHV) grids.

**In the next ten years**, State Grid plans further pilot projects in three phases. First focus is on long-range interconnection domestically. Second is on developing batteries for better transmission of renewable power resources. Finally, the grid will be connected with northeast Asian neighbors like Mongolia and South Korea. **Digital transformation** of the energy sector will significantly help China to leverage renewable energy, allow large-scale distributed power generation and storage, empower «prosumers» (producers and consumers) and electrify the transport system. The risk of an «airpocalypse» has already triggered large-scale digitalization and energy innovations to come.

*Dr. Felix Moesner, Swiss Consul & CEO, swissnex China*