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Forum puts spotlight on surge in renewable energy sector

Generating growth

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THE latest developments in mining, innovation and a booming renewable energy sector will be showcased at a forum at The Brewery banquet centre in Townsville on Thursday.

Peak development body Townsville Enterprise will host the 2018 North Queensland Mining and Resources Industry Forum where presentations will be made on

MMG's Dugald River zinc mine, the Capricorn Copper mine, Yurika Energy, Adani Renewable Australia and Genex's Kidston Renewable Energy project.

Other presenters include Port of Townsville, Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility, Incitec Pivot, NEM Group and Dyno Nobel.

A renewable energy boom is under way in Queensland with State Government data showing 23 solar and wind projects in progress and expected to provide 2185MW of electricity. A further 65 projects, which will provide 12,781MW, are proposed.

In the northern and north-west region based on Townsville, six projects are under way, which will provide 437MW, while a further nine projects providing 1581MW are being proposed.

Genex Power executive director Simon Kidston said he

would showcase the Kidston Renewable Energy hub being developed 300km northwest of Townsville on the site of the old Kidston gold mine.

According to the company, the Kidston project's first-stage 50MW solar project is in the final stages of commissioning with practical completion anticipated for July.

But it is already selling electricity into the spot market, earning monthly revenues exceeding \$1.59 million and \$1.53 million in April and May and generating 11,288MWh and 11,176MWh, respectively.

A 250MW hydro pumped storage project, 270MW solar farm and 150MW wind farm are also planned.

Mr Kidston said they were finalising contracts with existing solar contractor UGL for the second stage solar farm and with a John Holland-McConnell Dowell venture for the hydro pumped storage project. Financial

close on both projects is expected later this year.

A feasibility study on the wind farm is due to start this year.

Townsville Enterprise CEO Patricia O'Callaghan said the forum presented an unrivalled opportunity for access to some of Australia's largest mining and resources

companies.

"The presentations will cover all sectors of the industry, not just mining, but also focusing upon renewables, innovation and infrastructure," Ms O'Callaghan said.

For information, go to townsvilleenterprise.com.au



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GLEAMING EXAMPLE: Genex's solar and hydro Kidston Renewable Project northwest of Townsville is expected to be completed next month.