RWI SITREP 003 (ad hoc) — Crimea / Taman, 25 October 2026

Issued on request after reports of activity in Crimea. Imagery window 22 Oct 02:26 → 25 Oct 02:26 UTC; thermal data current to 24 Oct 23:33 UTC (latest NASA FIRMS overpass). Follows SITREP 002. Times UTC unless marked MSK (UTC+3).

1. Summary

1.1 The reported event is the **Crimea-wide blackout overnight 23→24 Oct** (outage ~00:40 MSK = 21:40 UTC 23 Oct), attributed by Russian-installed officials to a drone attack on power grids outside the peninsula and by OSINT channels to the 500/220 kV Taman substation in Krasnodar Krai, which feeds the Kerch energy bridge. **CORRELATED**

1.2 Our thermal record shows **one detection on the Taman Peninsula at 23:26 UTC on 23 Oct** (NOAA-21, 45.187N 37.208E, 1 MW, night), about 1 h 45 min after the outage. This is consistent with the FIRMS anomaly OSINT channels cited at the substation; we have not independently verified the substation's location. **PARTIAL**

1.3 **No thermal detections anywhere in Crimea after 00:41 UTC on 23 Oct**, through the 23:33 UTC overpass on 24 Oct. Nothing visible at Sevastopol or the Kerch Bridge in this window.

1.4 I found **no indexed reporting of a new event on the night of 24→25 Oct** as of 02:30 UTC. If something is under way it is after the last satellite pass or below what FIRMS detects. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.5 Crimea coverage was a gap in the model: only Sevastopol and the Kerch Bridge were watched. **Added**: Taman Peninsula (energy-bridge area) and a coarse peninsula-wide Crimea box. Watchlist now 49 sites (pipeline v0.4.2).

2. What was reported (23–24 Oct)

2.1 Outages in Sevastopol, Simferopol, Yalta, Kerch, Feodosia, Dzhankoi, Alushta, Yevpatoria and several districts; NetBlocks reported internet traffic near zero around midnight MSK (The Moscow Times, Militarnyi, ThePublic).

2.2 Residents reported at least four explosions in Pervomaiske district and air-defence fire near Baherove (Kerch). (Kyiv Post, citing Crimean Wind.)

2.3 Officials: Kryuchkov (adviser to Aksyonov) — grid accident outside the peninsula, power restored ~01:37; Razvozhayev — damage outside Sevastopol, trolleybuses suspended, ~40% of mobile base stations working; Aksyonov (10:42 MSK 24 Oct) — power and water restrictions imposed, schedules to follow. Kuban HQ confirmed debris hit the Taman substation and caused a fire.

2.4 Part of a wider night: Russia's MoD claimed 616 drones downed over 20+ regions (AFP via Arab News). The same substation was struck on 20 Aug 2026.

3. What we see

Site	Imagery (72 h)	Thermal	Read	News
Taman Peninsula (new)	S1 ×3, S2 24 Oct (70% cloud)	9	Night hit 23:26 UTC 23 Oct (see 1.2). Radar after (24 Oct 15:19) shows a bright compact structure at the detection point; the 23 Oct radar frame does not cover it, so no before/after. Daytime hits 22–23 Oct at 45.14N 36.82E and 45.23N 37.42E are low-intensity and pre-date the event.	**PARTIAL**
Crimea (peninsula)	S1 ×3 (partial)	7	All seven are one small recurring night hotspot (≤1.1 MW) near Bakhchysarai, 20–23 Oct — steady industrial-type source, not the blackout.	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
Sevastopol	S2 22 Oct clear, S1 22 Oct	0	Ships in main bay; no damage visible. No post-blackout image yet.	**NOTHING TO MATCH**
Kerch Bridge	S1 22 & 23 Oct, S2 24 Oct (cloud)	0	Bridge continuous on radar. Reported air-defence fire near Baherove not visible to us.	**PARTIAL**
Novorossiysk	S2 23 & 24 Oct clear, S1 ×5	26	Usual small night hotspot on the waterfront; no change in port.	**NOTHING TO MATCH**

4. Assessment

4.1 The blackout is well corroborated (officials on both sides, NetBlocks, multiple outlets). The cause — a strike on the Taman substation — is reported by OSINT channels and partly confirmed by the Kuban HQ statement about debris and fire; our single night-time thermal pixel on the peninsula fits that account but is weak evidence on its own.

4.2 Nothing in our data indicates damage inside Crimea itself. Power restrictions were still in force on 24 Oct.

5. Next

5.1 Next FIRMS passes over Crimea ≈ 09:30–11:00 UTC 25 Oct (daytime VIIRS) — the 3-hourly watch now covers the whole peninsula and Taman.

5.2 Look for a clear Sentinel-2 pass over Taman to confirm or rule out a burn scar at the substation; verify the substation footprint and tighten the box.

5.3 If you have a specific report from tonight (channel or location), send it and I will target it.



Plate A — Taman Peninsula, detection point. Red: NOAA-21 night detection 23:26 UTC 23 Oct. Orange: earlier daytime hits. Left: 23 Oct radar (edge of swath, saturated — not usable). Centre: 24 Oct radar — bright compact structure at the point. Right: 24 Oct optical, cloud-covered.

Sources

• NASA FIRMS (VIIRS SNPP / NOAA-20 / NOAA-21, MODIS); Copernicus Sentinel-1/-2.
• The Moscow Times (Russian service), 24 Oct 2026 — ru.themoscowtimes.com/2026/10/24/v-krimu-propali-elektrichestvo-i-internet-posle-atak-dronov-a209519
• Militarnyi, 24 Oct 2026 — militarnyi.com/en/news/blackout-crimea-after-drone-attack-energy/
• Kyiv Post, 24 Oct 2026 — kyivpost.com/post/88036 · ThePublic, 24 Oct 2026 · UNITED24 Media, 24 Oct 2026
• Interfax, 24 Oct 2026 (Aksyonov) — interfax.ru/russia/1124701 · The Insider, 24 Oct 2026 (Kryuchkov)
• Arab News / AFP, 24 Oct 2026 — arabnews.com/world/ukrainian-attack-cuts-water-power-in-occupied-crimea-russia-3008079