

Ankara microgrid energy storage

With interest shown by developers in Turkey to deploy energy storage, Energy-Storage.news Premium hears how LFP import duties could encourage domestic supply chains to help meet demand.

What was claimed to be Turkey's first battery storage system for the grid was commissioned in 2021. At the time, Karim Wazni, then-managing director of Aggreko Microgrid and Storage Solutions which delivered the project, said it was an exciting development that could help prove the business case for energy storage in the country.

Almost a year later in April 2022, Energy-Storage.news heard that big steps taken by regulators in the intervening period would likely accelerate the market's development, from Can Tokcan, managing partner at Turkish energy storage system integrator, manufacturer and EPC company iNOVAT.

Those steps taken by the Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA) included allowing energy companies to be licensed to develop energy storage facilities as both standalone resources and in integration with generation or consumption.

The next major step taken after that was that EMRA began pre-licensing of energy storage facilities paired with renewables and by April last year had received more than 200GW of applications, with an expectation that about 20GW would be granted within three years.

Last week, Energy-Storage.news reported on the latest development in that wave of pre-licensing: 25.6GW of bids have been pre-licensed across 492 project applications. Under the licensing rules, developers can deploy energy storage at wind or solar PV plants in a 1:1 megawatt ratio.

While that's "very positive" for the industry, Can Tokcan said, speaking to Energy-Storage.news last week, the iNOVAT managing partner was keen to share his thoughts on another aspect of Turkish energy storage market development which is further upstream.

INOVAT, as a manufacturer of energy storage systems - including its own in-house developed energy management system (EMS) technology - welcomed the move and Tokcan said it would contribute positively to the development of the domestic market.

"Local capabilities will be improved by this additional tax, I think, because there will be more local companies working on manufacturing cells. There are some manufacturers already, although it's not very large scale."

Indeed, while Turkey doesn't have a lot of storage systems yet - as of 2022 Tokcan estimated it was still less



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than 2MW - it does already have some battery manufacturing capabilities and it has moved early to adopt lithium iron phosphate, which is increasingly being used for grid-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) projects as well as in shorter range electric vehicles (EVs).

Engineering company Kontrolmatik started production at an LFP factory in the capital Ankara at the end of 2022, through its BESS subsidiary Pomega Energy Storage. It produces cells, packs, modules and complete turnkey systems. While it is fairly small, with an initial annual production capacity of 350MWh ramping to 1GWh, it still marks an early example of LFP production moving outside of China.

Pomega Energy Storage subsequently also became one of the first to announce US-made LFP product lines too. It is currently building a factory in South Carolina, expected to open this year.

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