

Argentina grid-scale energy storage

Argentina is expected to call for expressions of interest (EOI) for deployment of energy storage systems (ESS) in its electricity generation and transmission networks very soon, based on the country's latest official bulletin issued by the Secretariat of Energy under the Ministry of Economy.

As the country has set a target of achieving 20 percent of renewable energy contribution in its national electricity consumption by the end of 2025, the bulletin acknowledges the cardinal role of energy storage systems in this regard, whose "progressive integration is necessary to achieve the objective of a cleaner and more efficient electrical energy matrix".

"The electrical energy storage technology has reached such a development that it represents an opportunity for its integration into the transmission and generation network, and to incorporate some of its applications to contribute to the supply of demand, optimize dispatch, reduce costs and provide additional services to the operation", it adds.

CAMMESA, Argentina's wholesale electricity market operator, has been entrusted with the responsibility to come up with the technical requirements and procedures for considering the EOIs in the next 20 days. Interested players will have 120 days to submit their detailed proposals on financing, construction and management of ESS in the wholesale electricity market.

Considering that Argentina is the fourth largest producer of lithium in the world in 2022, the bulletin has noted that those EOIs that integrate the national supply chain into their project (say for lithium-ion based BESS that use lithium from Argentina) will be of particular interest. So far, the country is dominated by pumped-storage projects.

As reported by BNamericas, the country is interested in energy storage projects for the main grid, as well as the isolated southern province of Tierra del Fuego.

According to the International Energy Agency, 1,300 GW of battery storage will be needed by 2030 to support the renewable energy capacity required to meet the 1.5°C global warming target. But how close is the world to reaching that target?

The U.S. also significantly increased its capacity in 2023, moving from 9.3 to 15.8 GW. The two largest economies account for over three-quarters of the world's grid storage battery capacity. California's 8.6 GW is the largest capacity of any state and more than twice that of second-place Texas.

Although Canada had only 0.4 GW of storage capacity in 2023, it quadrupled its capacity from the previous year. However, its 426% annual growth rate is still not the highest of the top 10 countries.



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Not all countries in the top 10 are experiencing significant growth. Ireland and Germany's capacities only grew by 28% from the previous year. Meanwhile, South Korea's capacity remained the same.

Despite ongoing regulatory challenges, such as inadequate environmental protection, the total global grid storage battery capacity in 2023 reached 55.7 GW. This marked a 120.8% increase from the previous year.

Created in partnership with The National Public Utilities Council, this graphic shows the 10 largest power outages in the U.S. from the last decade, using data from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

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