

Argentina office energy storage

The "progressive integration of energy storage systems is necessary to achieve the objective of having a cleaner and more efficient electric power matrix," the federal energy department says in a resolution published in the official gazette.

Branded AlmaMDI, the call is open to different technologies but projects linked to the lithium industry "will be of particular interest," the document says, citing the country's position as the world's No. 4 lithium producer in 2022.

Cammesa will be tasked with providing a report on submitted projects to the energy department, which would tweak regulations accordingly to support their eventual deployment, the resolution states.

A wind project and three solar projects awarded in this year's renewables auction, RenMDI, have battery storage components. The 10MW wind plant was proposed by Nuevas Energías Sustentables, and the three solar parks - of 16.5MW, 20.0MW and 15MW - by 360 Energy Solar.

Pumped storage dominates in Argentina. Córdoba province recently launched a tender for a US\$100mn contract to overhaul a 750MW pumped storage hydropower plant, the biggest of its kind in South America. Argentina also has the Río Diamante pumped storage plant in Mendoza province.

Meanwhile, Jujuy province completed in 2021 the conversion of its Piedra Negra gas-fired power station into a hybrid gas-solar PV plant with energy storage. The solar unit has 2.5MW of installed capacity and 1,200kWh of storage capacity.

Argentina cut the ribbon in October on its first lithium battery plant, UniLib, a Buenos Aires pilot facility built by state-controlled oil company YPF's R& D unit Y-TEC, national science and technology council Conicet, the science and technology ministry and Universidad Nacional de La Plata. A central objective of the US\$7mn project, local press reported, is facilitating knowledge and technology transfer to SMEs and national or provincial companies wanting to produce lithium batteries. Annual production is expected to be around 13MWh.

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WhatsApp: 8613816583346

