

Athens gravity energy storage

An increasing number of local and foreign companies are interested in building energy storage facilities in sun-loving Greece using battery technology. In fact, the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) has been receiving applications for permits concerning battery storage plants.

In total, Balkan Green Energy News reported, applications to RAE reached 1.6 GW during October's licensing cycle. This is on top of projects with 23.5 GW in total that were already submitted by over 300 companies.

Germany-based Voltstorage has acquired permits from RAE for three plants totaling 150 MW in operating power. The projects are expected to be installed in the provinces of Western Macedonia, Central Greece, and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.

It should be noted that Voltstorage, apart from batteries, is also developing a potentially groundbreaking new long-duration storage technology using iron salt. The goal is to provide low-cost solutions similar to pumped hydropower for the grid.

Other companies include Magna Victoria, Melven, Mars BESS and MS Komotini, which have already received permits for a combined 400 MW of battery capacity in various large projects. MS Komotini is one of seven subsidiaries of Motor Oil that have submitted applications for over 300 MW of storage.

According to the most recent decree, issued in 2022, if a renewable energy project has battery storage, it gains two steps in the priority ladder. The Ministry of Environment and Energy has specified a maximum power capacity limit of 250 MW of storage for each plant.

"Although Greece did not take timely steps and the regulatory framework is delayed, we are proceeding with innovative investments in storage," according to its head for Europe Aristotelis Handavas.

Developments in the battery storage segment also extend to other fields. Aurora Energy Research plans to launch a digital platform in February that would inform investors about the cost of storage and the economics of batteries in the Greek market.



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