



Belize office energy storage

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A double-header of news from Central America and the Caribbean, with Belize seeking consultants for a 40MW storage project and W?rtsil? commissioning a hybrid project in the US Virgin Islands.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from consultants and experts to assist it with the Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project, using World Bank funding.

Interested consultants have until 2pm local time on 8 August--this coming Thursday--to provide information demonstrating their suitability to provide goods, consulting and non-consulting services for the project.

The Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project is aimed at improving the resilience of the electricity system against extreme climates by strengthening the national transmission infrastructure.

It will fund the acquisition and deployment of BESS to enable the integration of renewable energy onto the grid, and improve resiliency and reliability of electrical supply. A total of US\$65 million will be invested in the project, according to the World Bank.

In concurrent news, the publicly-owned utility for the US Virgin Islands has announced the completion of a new BESS alongside upgrades to an existing gas power plant, the Randolph Harley Power Plant (RHPP).

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) announced the completion last month (24 July) after which it began final commissioning of the generators and BESS equipment.

As Energy-Storage.news reported when the project neared completion last year, system integrator W?rtsil? provided a hybrid solution combining four 9MW fossil fuel engines together with a 9MW, 2-hour duration (18MWh) BESS unit. The company got the contract for the job in 2020, which was delayed due to Covid-19.

By Horace Palacio: The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment has announced a call for expressions of interest (EOI) from energy storage experts and consultants to support the groundbreaking “Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project.”

Backed by \$65 million in funding from the World Bank, this ambitious project aims to bolster the national power transmission infrastructure, enhancing its reliability and resilience against extreme weather events and other disruptions.

A central component of the project is the development of a 40 MW battery energy storage system (BESS). This facility will enable the seamless integration of clean energy sources into the national electricity grid,



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ensuring uninterrupted power supply for Belizean residents.

Belize is emerging as a frontrunner in the Central American region in adopting battery energy storage for grid resilience. This initiative follows a similar move by Honduras, which recently launched consultations on regulatory changes to integrate energy storage into its electricity network.

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Web: <https://sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

