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The Carribean nation"s president Luis Abinader attended the ceremony to launch the project, which will feature 101.152MWp of solar PV. The attached four-hour BESS will help to shift that power into periods of lower generation.

The CNE said that Dominicana Azul will generate 176.4GWh of energy a year for dispatch on the National Interconnected Energy System (SENI or Sistema Energ?tico Nacional Interconectado), reducing 1000 tons of CO2 emissions.

The project, which is being built in the municipality of Cabrera, Mar?a Trinidad S?nchez province, is being developed and built by Zenith Energy Corp. The country shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti to the west.

The government of the Dominican Republic has recently recognised the need for energy storage to integrate intermittent renewable energy generation, and the CNE recently issued two resolutions to kickstart the market.

The first, CNE-AD-0003-2023, declared the need for battery storage for its "Energy Arbitration" service with primary sources of variable renewable energy in the electricity market. The second, CNE-AD-0004-2023, established the guidelines for the administrative treatment of the technology in the electricity market.

Island nations in the Caribbean and globally are deploying energy storage along with renewables to ensure dispatchable, reliable generation as they phase out fossil fuels, usually imported from abroad at very high cost.

In December, Energy-Storage.news reported on projects in the US Virgin Islands and St Kitts & Nevis being deployed by Honeywell and Leclanch? respectively, while in July regulators in Barbados ordered a four-year pilot of battery storage technology using a 50MW system.

AES Energy Storage provided the storage systems to its affiliated company, AES Dominicana, an independent power producer that owns and operates 850 MW power plants in the Dominican Republic.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated wide swathes of the Caribbean, leaving millions without power. In their wake, the storms are providing an opportunity to rebuild the grid with more resiliency.

AES says those arrays were able to provide critical grid reliability services for the island by improving the efficiency and contributing to the stability of the Dominican Republic"s interconnected national electricity system (SENI).

AES" Andres and Los Mina storage facilities, which entered service in February and May, were able to provide frequency control to the grid, allowing the power plants more optimally, the company said. All of AES Dominicana"s plant in the DR remained online during the storms.

"AES Dominicana"s energy storage arrays enhanced the Dominican grid during a most trying time, helping keep vital power resources online," John Zahurancik, president of AES Energy Storage, said in a statement. "Not only does energy storage improve reliability of the grid on a daily basis, this experience demonstrates how it can add to overall resilience under extreme conditions."