Energy storage policy updates namibia

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WINDHOEK, May 6, 2024--Today marks the approval of Namibia"s first ever World Bank financed energy project, aimed at improving the reliability of the country"s transmission network and enabling increased integration of renewable energy into the country"s electricity system.The$138.5 millionproject will be implemented by the national electricity utility, NamPower.

"Namibia is a uniquely positioned regional leaderin the transition towardsTransmission Expansion and Energy Storage Projecta greener and more sustainable future.The World Bank is delighted to support Namibia"s commitment to expand domestic energy generation with renewablesolutions, consistent withthe country"sSecond Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPPII).This project will support NamPower to develop future renewable energy projects,"saysSatu Kahkonen,World Bank Country Director for Namibia.

The projectis structured around three components: (i) development of the second Auas-Kokerboom transmission line, (ii) development of a utility scale Battery Energy Storage System facility; and (iii)technical assistance activities to support NamPower develop bankable renewable energy projects and enhance the socio-economic benefits of their projects. The project will support the development of a systematic socio-economic framework to support job creation, skills development and female employment during design and implementation of utility led projects.

A grant of EUR20 million (US$22.66 million) has been made to Namibia"s government-owned electric utility company for the development of the African country"s first grid-scale battery storage project.

Namibia Power Corporation (NamPower) told Energy-Storage.news that through a bilateral cooperation agreement between the federal German government and the Republic of Namibia, Germany"s KfW development bank has made the funding available.

It will perform a number of applications for NamPower: peak load shifting, energy arbitrage, emergency back up power provision, ramp-rate control of power plants and reactive power control.

The Omburu BESS will contribute to the expansion of renewable energy in the region by storing locally generated renewable power as well as electricity imported from the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), which can charge the battery at cheaper, off-peak times, and then the energy can be discharged during peak times.

Finally, it will also enable Namibia to increase its participation in energy trading with the 11 other member states of the SAPP, helping to lower overall emissions across the pool.

"As one of the first utility-scale storage projects in Southern Africa, the Namibia battery storage project BESS

can be described as a flagship project," Barbara Pirich, KfW"s country director for Namibia said at a signing ceremony held earlier this month.

"As the project is the first of its kind in Southern Africa, it fulfils a pioneering function – it is expected that subsequent projects in the same field will benefit substantially from the experience gained from his project."

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