

Lisbon microgrid energy storage

This occasional newsletter highlights events and stories about innovation in sustainable development for rural, remote and island regions. We want to change the discourse to demonstrate how islandness can be a driver for innovation.

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Our flagship event, the Virtual Island Summit, is one of the biggest events for sustainable development. Every year, it brings together over 10,000 stakeholders from around the world for a week-long virtual event covering every timezone.

We are a social enterprise and digital media platform at the intersection of sustainable development and communications, offering specialised services across various sectors.

The largest floating solar farm in Europe, located on the reservoir for a hydroelectric dam in Portugal, will begin commercial operation on July 15. The startup of the Alqueva installation (Figure 1), on Western Europe's largest artificial lake, is part of EDP's plan to make its power generation net zero by 2030.

"Portugal is in a great position to decarbonize with strong hydro resources on its rivers, good wind conditions on the Atlantic coast, and some of Europe's best solar locations in the south of the country," said Dr. Amir José Daou Pulido, market development manager at Fluence, a global energy storage and technology services provider.

Portugal historically has relied on Russia for about 10% of its natural gas, but the country has been among the most vocal in calling for Europe to cut off Russian supplies after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Portuguese officials have said their country could import more liquefied natural gas (LNG), and increase its LNG export capacity to provide more natural gas to other European nations.

Ana Paula Marques, an EDP executive board member, said accelerating Portugal's move to more renewable energy is even more important in light of the war in Ukraine. Marques said the Alqueva project was part of EDP's strategy "to go 100% green by 2030."

Solar-plus-storage projects are just one facet of Portugal's renewable energy strategy. Energy Secretary Galamba last month said the auction to award leases for offshore wind projects, which the government has planned for 2023, "will happen as soon as possible and will be large," with a capacity minimum between 6 GW and 8 GW, according to reports.

Jornal de Negôcios, a Portuguese business publication, reported that Galamba said there will be an auction “more complex than the others, which is not launched in just three months, because it involves industrialization of ports.” Galamba said government officials want to start work on offshore wind “as soon as possible.”

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