

Romania battery management systems

Belgian company Avesta Battery and Energy Engineering (ABEE) is building a battery cell factory in Romania that will mainly supply cells for the automotive industry. ABEE is investing 1.4 billion euros in the cell factory called Romvolt, which will be located in Galați in eastern Romania.

Especially since there are other ambiguities: The mayor of Galați, Ionuț Pucleanu, that the local authorities would still have to process several requests; to finalise the deal for Romvolt. In other words, the final agreement has obviously not yet been signed. However, the company has the support of politicians: both the Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and the Romanian Minister for Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism Ștefan Radu Oprea came to the press conference.

ABEE itself apparently does not only want to focus on low-cost battery cells: At the end of March, the company announced plans for a research and development centre for solid-state battery cells in the Portuguese city of Figueira da Foz. A pilot production facility with a capacity of 0.5 to 1 GWh is also to be built there. However, it is still a declaration of intent. The plans in northern Macedonia are more concrete: ABEE announced a new production facility for battery management systems there in May. However, potential customers were not named.

LSG Romania started the construction works for a 7 MW Battery Energy Storage System, the first and biggest storage system in Romania used for automatic Frequency Restoration Reserve (short form aFRR, a form of grid balancing).

Battery Energy Storage Systems (short from BESS) will become more and more important in the coming years, especially in the context of massive new investments in renewable energy production in the next decade. Lithium-ion battery energy storage systems can help achieve grid stability which is vital for a reliable electricity network.

The contract was signed already in November 2021 and after finishing the basic design works early this year the construction permit was obtained in March 2022. The location was chosen to be near to a grid operator substation close to Bucharest and is owned by the beneficiary Megalodon Storage SRL. The construction works will be finished already in June and followed by extensive testing works and the qualification process with the TSO Transelectrica.

The storage system operates a NMC-type lithium-ion battery with a capacity of 6 MWh, produced in Romania and a total output power of 7 MW using 2 central battery inverters from SMA to inject directly into the medium voltage grid of the local grid operator ENEL Distribuție Muntenia. The investor Megalodon Storage SRL plans to double the installed power to 14 MW in a phase 2 development after the successful energization and start of operation of the first phase of the project.

The technical and commercial operation and maintenance will be done by our specialized in-house team from Green Source Energy Management SRL, the dispatching service between the storage system and the national dispatcher from Transelectrica will be performed by the LSG owned company SC&DC SRL (System Control & Dispatching Company SRL).

Billed as the largest installed battery storage system in Romania to date, the storage unit represents the first stage of a 216 MWh project to be installed before the end of the year at the same location.

The storage unit is charged with energy produced by an operational 50 MW wind farm and a 35 MW PV project under construction, named G?lbiori 2, which is set to be grid connected by the end of 2024. It will be charged with energy from the national grid when there is no wind or sun.

Monsson said the storage unit concept is modular and suitable for large scale applications. It features lithium ion batteries produced locally by Romania's Prime Batteries Technology and controlling software created by Monsson, so the hybrid project is fully automatic, without local operational staff.

"With this project we are testing the functionality of the battery to demonstrate the immediate benefits of storage facilities attached to renewable energy sources. We want to promote such solutions both in Romania and across Europe," he said.

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