SolarTech Power Solutions

BESS a solar power station in Chile

Overview

The BESS del Desierto plant, inaugurated in Chile by Atlas Renewable Energy, is the first large-scale stand-alone energy storage facility in Latin America.Is Chile ready for a standalone energy storage project?

This project alone nears the capacity (13GWh) the Chilean Ministry of Energy sought in a public land bidding auction for standalone energy storage projects in May of 2024. Chile has been one of the countries at the forefront of the renewable energy transition in Latin America, first with solar PV and now with BESS.

What's happening in Chile's Bess market?

The current wave of excitement around Chile’s BESS market started in October 2022, when the Chilean government passed legislation that incentivised the deployment of energy storage. The bill allows standalone energy storage systems to receive income from dispatching their energy and power in the country’s National Electric System market.

How much energy storage will Chile have in 2024?

During the Energy Storage Summit Latin America (ESS LatAm) in October 2024, Ana Lía Rojas, executive director at the Chilean renewable energy and energy storage association (ACERA), explained how the current levels of curtailment in Chile, which could end up at approximately 5TWh in 2024, could power up to 3.4GW of 4-hour duration energy storage.

Why is energy storage important in Chile?

Image: Grenergy Grid constraints have prevented Chile from maximising the potential of its world-class solar resources. Energy storage has, therefore, become a necessity to ensure the financial viability of PV projects, writes Jonathan Tourino Jacobo.

What is Bess del Desierto?

From ESS News Chilean Energy Minister Diego Pardow was present at the inauguration of the 200 MW/800 MWh BESS del Desierto, a project its developers describe as the first large-scale standalone energy storage plant in Latin America. The project features PowerTitan liquid cooling and control systems from Chinese battery manufacturer Sungrow.

Should energy storage be a luxury asset in Chile?

Having energy storage in Chile is no longer a luxury asset but has become an “absolute necessity”, explains Alejandro McDonough, business development manager of Americas area sales at Wärtsilä Energy Storage and Optimisation (Wärtsilä ES&O).

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