

Grid-scale energy storage guinea

As with previous years, our year in review wrap up of 2023 includes interviews with a handful of industry players from around the sector.

This 2023 edition kicks us off with the views, recollections, insights and predictions of representatives at two leading battery storage system integrators: Wartsila and IHI Terrasun.

Both hardly require any introduction: Wartsila has a portfolio of more than 3.5GW and 7.5GWh of energy storage projects awarded, contracted or in deployment and was again this year ranked in the top five global system integrators by volumes deployed or contracted according to S&P Global. We speak to the head of Wartsila Energy Storage & Optimisation (ES&O), Andy Tang.

IHI Terrasun meanwhile is known for specialising in solar-plus-storage applications and its recent projects include Gemini, currently under construction in Nevada, US, and thought to be the largest single site solar PV and battery hybrid plant in the world to date, featuring 690MWac/966MWdc of PV with 1,416MWh of batteries. We speak with Ray Saka, IHI Terrasun VP of business strategy and services.

Energy-Storage.news: What did 2023 mean for the energy storage industry, both from your own company's perspective and in bigger picture terms?

The energy storage industry has continued to grow in 2023 - both in terms of the number and size of projects.

Despite this growth, several important hurdles - including the rise in global interest rates - have held the US industry back. Projects are expected to be delayed into 2024 and beyond due to changes in local regulations, uncertainty around how policies like the Inflation Reduction Act/Green Deal will be implemented, and the market looking for stability in interest rates.

How are energy storage projects and different market opportunities evolving, as technologies and stakeholder understanding mature?

Across the board, energy storage projects are scaling up significantly in size. The industry is also drastically expanding geographically. Chile is a good example of a quickly emerging market, where evolving policies and regulatory frameworks are playing a pivotal role in promoting the growth and development of energy storage projects.

Australia is another market that mirrors this change with regulatory support and a surge in energy storage system deployments. We recently completed the second largest energy storage project in Australia with AGL Energy.



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Finally, we see tremendous opportunity in Taiwan. We're approaching a 1GWh+ portfolio in the region.

The last couple of years saw significant supply chain challenges for the industry, particularly around lithium battery and battery materials. Have those constraints eased in 2023 and what sort of supply chain dynamics are you seeing in the industry going forward?

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