

Japan energy storage industry

Japan is one of the most talked-about emerging grid-scale energy storage markets in Asia, and as such, it featured prominently at the Energy Storage Summit Asia, held in Singapore earlier this month. Andy Colthorpe moderated a panel discussion, "Growing the Japanese storage market" on the first day of the event, which was hosted by our ...

In recent years, attention is focusing on energy from natural sources such as renewable energy. However, solar and wind power are influenced by natural conditions, making it difficult to obtain a stable supply. In order to utilize these energy sources, technology for storage batteries is essential.

Japan continues to play an important role in international energy markets by bringing together energy producers and consumers to ensure stable supply at reasonable prices. Japan's efforts to promote a more liquid and transparent global LNG market are particularly commendable.

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the energy storage market in Japan, address market's characteristics, key success factors as well as challenges and opportunities in this sector.

In June, Japanese renewable energy developer Pacifico Energy put in action the first trades from battery energy storage system (BESS) assets in the country's power markets.

You can read about the basics of the project and their background, with a rapid construction timeline that began in September 2022, and how the developer is one among many to spot the opportunities at present and that lie ahead for batteries in Japan, in our news report from 27 June.

Below, we speak in further depth with Mahdi Behrangrad, head of energy storage at Pacifico Energy, for some details on key aspects of the projects, and what they might mean for the opening of the Japanese BESS market, which has been long awaited and appears to be warmly welcomed across the industry.

Behrangrad has been involved in the energy storage sector for close to 15 years, in a journey encompassing different parts of the energy storage, or "new energy" value chain with Japanese companies.

From manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries with Panasonic, to flow batteries with Sumitomo Electric, to creating the technology around aggregating fleets of distributed storage and advising stakeholders including utilities on strategies for adopting these "new energy" assets, Behrangrad brings a holistic perspective to the conversation.

Behrangrad joined Pacifico in 2021 to set up its energy storage division. Recognised already as one of the company's three pillars of its strategy, alongside solar PV and offshore wind, his department quickly from

there executed the two projects simultaneously to begin bidding in the market this June.

What are some of the key takeaways that you've really taken from other markets and things that can work in Japan? What are some of the things that you really had to tailor more to be specific for the Japanese case?

For example, in Japanese local firefighting regulation, there's still not a need to have automated fire detection and extinguishing system in a system in a container itself. It's definitely it's going to be a little bit of cost reduction, but from our perspective, this is not a local business.

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