

Lithium-ion batteries estonia

Construction has begun on continental Europe's largest battery park, which is expected to enhance reliance on renewables and increase energy security.

The park, which was reported on by Construction Review as being built in Estonia, is a joint effort by Estonian energy firm Evecon, French solar generating company Corsica Sole and the sustainable finance management firm Mirova. It is also the largest battery park in Continental Europe.

It has been labeled the "Baltic Storage Platform" as the park, which is in Kiisa near Tallinn, is aimed at integrating Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian grids with other European grids by the end of 2025 when the first half of the park is due to be built. The second half is slated for 2026.

Speaking at the cornerstone laying event for the battery park on October 3rd, Karl Kull, the CEO of Evecon said: "This is a historic moment for both Estonia and for the entire Baltic energy sector for two reasons. First, this is an extremely important and real step to prepare the synchronization of the Baltic countries.

"Secondly, no one has yet built such a large complex of battery parks in continental Europe. I believe that laying the cornerstone together with our good partners from Corsica Sole and Mirova will not be the last, and we will continue to act to ensure energy security in this area."

The park is being built to have 200 MW and 400 MWh of storage capacity, this is the equivalent of storing the energy capacity of 90,000 households. The largest battery park in the world is in California, and has a storage capacity of 1,200MWh.

The Baltic Storage Platform will not only help all three countries to move towards 100% renewables, but it will also aid them in their mission to fully decouple from the Russian power grid.

Dan Marks, an energy security research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in the U.K. spoke to Newsweek about the Baltic nations' move away from Russian power. He said: "Connection to the grid is a strategic vulnerability... Electricity networks are finely balanced and can be vulnerable if power plants or consumers do not behave as anticipated and are therefore potentially open to manipulation if you share a network with a hostile nation."

Marks said: "By participating in the BRELL system, the Baltic states play a role in the electricity security of Belarus and Russia, contributing to the financial health of their networks and providing supply and demand management options. Given the strong opposition of the Baltic states to the war in Ukraine, this is another driver for leaving."



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Despite this plant being built to move away from Russian power, battery plants can come with their own geo-political implications, as many farms are built with lithium and lithium-ion manufactured in China.

Research from the Atlantic Council shows that the US is currently heavily reliant on lithium manufactured in China, specifically in its EV manufacturing and specialized batteries, as 80 percent of the world's battery cells, and 60 percent of the EV battery market are owned and controlled by Chinese companies.

Chinese companies have invested in mines across the world that produce the element, resulting in a near-monopoly of the substance.

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