Microgrid economics qatar



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Doha: Siemens will deploy the Middle East"s first microgrid designed for industrial use, enabling Qatar Solar Energy (QSE) to reduce electricity costs, curb carbon emissions and benefit from a more stable power supply.

The microgrid at QSE's factory in Doha will comprise a mix of energy sources - the local grid, solar panels, battery storage, back-up generators and cooling system.

Generating as much as 1 megawatts from the sun, the hybrid network will enable QSE to trim its electricity bills by maximizing use of solar power and storing energy in batteries to satisfy on-peak demand.

"This project will be a showcase for Siemens to demonstrate its grid edge capabilities and the value it brings to industrial customers and buildings by helping them to lower energy costs, rein in carbon emissions and ensure a more dependable power supply," said Helmut von Struve, the CEO of Siemens in the Middle East. "We look forward to helping QSE enhance its operations by leveraging the many benefits of microgrids."

Siemens will provide the microgrid"s control panel, power meters, photovoltaic inverters and Siemens software for Distributed Energy Optimization (DEOP) to monitor the network"s energy flow. QSE manufactures solar panels and related electronic equipment with the aim of making the country a global renewable energy technologies development and leadership hub.

"QSE is committed to providing innovative products that will accelerate the adoption of renewable energy in Qatar and around the world," said QSE"s Chairman Salim Abbassi. "By deploying this microgrid from Siemens, we will prove that clean power is reliable and affordable at an industrial scale, and this enables us to press ahead with our growth strategy in the expanding market for renewable energy."

Microgrids are expected to expand across the Middle East. Some rural areas, for example, currently use small diesel generators to power communities. An increased renewable power capacity, along with stable, reliable and efficient microgrids, can help these rural areas phase out some of these polluting diesel power plants. Campuses, industrial zones, military bases and islands can likewise benefit from the reliable and sustainable power supply microgrids offer.

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The goal of QEERI''s Smart Grid Portfolio is to develop advanced power systems that integrate solar energy to address Qatar''s electricity needs in a sustainable fashion. This objective is facilitated though the creation of software and hardware solutions that ensure secure integration of solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems into the national electricity network. The team are also working on the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform that maps and forecasts solar resources in Qatar to support the management of PV applications. Another key area is the management of electricity demand, which focuses on the analysis of electricity consumption data to develop response solutions that maximize energy efficiency while maintaining customer satisfaction.

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