

Philippines bin thermal energy storage

Energy-Storage.News Premium reports back from an in-depth discussion of battery storage in the Philippines with panellists including DOE Assistant Secretary Mario C. Marasigan.

At the Energy Storage Summit Asia 2024 last month, Japan and the Philippines were broadly identified as two standout markets in terms of recent progress. The conference, hosted by our published Solar Media, took place in Singapore in mid-July.

We brought you a write-up of the panel, "Growing the Japanese storage market," just over a week ago. Now, it's the turn of "Building BESS in the Philippines," which brought up just as many interesting talking points about a very different but equally important market.

The afternoon panel followed the keynote address by Philippines Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary Mario C. Marasigan. During his speech in the morning, Marasigan announced that the next round of the government Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) would be for renewable energy systems with integrated energy storage.

More details emerged on that round, GEA-4, last week. Alongside, Marasigan, representatives of leading private sector names in the Philippines renewables, storage and power industry gave their thoughts on renewables integration with storage, off-grid electrification and much more.

Moderator Eric San Pedro at renewable energy developer, investor and asset owner Entoria Energy kicked off by asking DOE Assistant Secretary Marasigan about the policies and incentives in place to support the integration of battery energy storage system (BESS) technology in the power sector, and specifically with renewables.

The government sees energy storage as a vital enabler for the Philippines' "ambitious targets" for renewable energy, Marasigan said, aiming for 35% renewables in the energy mix by 2030, 50% by 2040 and continuing to rise from there.

"We have to integrate everything that we can make use of to ensure that those targets will be met," he said, including, of course, energy storage, but specifically BESS as the most suitable mature technology for near-term deployment.

As has been seen in markets across the world, and the governments and regulators that oversee them, the Philippines has questions to answer on the classification of storage systems for the grid.

"We have to classify whether these energy storage systems will be considered as generators, we have to

classify them as well whether these are providers of ancillary services, and lastly, what if we integrate these energy storage systems with renewable energy that serves as a component [of that renewable energy asset] rather than a separate one?"

In the last instance, incentives available to renewable energy generators would also be accorded to energy storage, Marasigan said, with every kilowatt-hour produced by renewables and stored in batteries considered renewables by regulators.

The Assistant Secretary noted that for the upcoming GEA-4 renewables-plus-storage solicitation, winning projects would maintain the must-run or priority dispatch status that renewables.

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