

Port of Spain pumped hydro storage

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Capital Energy, one of the largest renewable energy platforms in the Iberian Peninsula, and VERBUND Green Power, a subsidiary of VERBUND, Austria's leading energy company, have signed a strategic alliance for the development of pumped hydroelectric plants in Spain. The alliance will evaluate the possible construction of two pumped-storage hydro plants in Spain with a combined capacity of about 830 MW. Under the terms of the agreement, Capital Energy will lead the promotion of these plants within the joint venture, while VERBUND will be responsible for leading the construction and operation of the plants, as well as providing the necessary technical support during the development phase.

This is the second corporate agreement reached by VERBUND and Capital Energy in Spain regarding the implementation of clean energy projects. In 2022, the two energy companies signed a sale and purchase agreement for five wind and solar projects, with a combined capacity of 171 MW, located in three autonomous communities: Andalusia, Asturias and Extremadura.

Commenting on the signing, Juan José Sánchez, CEO of Capital Energy, said that "this new transaction with VERBUND, a leading European electricity company that is focused, like us, on promoting the energy transition, ratifies our commitment to the development of clean energy infrastructures, such as wind farms, photovoltaic plants or pumped-storage hydroelectric plants, which continue to promote the necessary process of decarbonization of the economy".

Enrique Barbudo, Managing Director of VERBUND Green Power Iberia, states: "VERBUND is Austria's leading energy company and one of the largest hydropower producers in Europe. We are looking forward to implementing our expertise in hydropower in Spain and to complementing our already consolidated portfolio of wind and photovoltaic projects in the country. We remain committed to the deployment of renewable capacity in Spain to contribute to the achievement of the ambitious plans of the country's National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC)".

VERBUND Green Power Iberia, present in Spain since 2021, currently has 630 MW of renewable energy capacity in operation in Spain, as well as 120 MW of capacity under construction. It also has a large portfolio of projects at an advanced stage of development. More information:

Capital Energy, a Spanish company with more than two decades of experience that has become one of the largest renewable energy platforms in the Iberian Peninsula, with a portfolio totalling around 25 gigawatts (GW) of capacity, is promoting an industrial project whose ultimate goal is to achieve an ecological and fair energy transition and for which it leverages the strengths of a 100% sustainable and digital business model. More information:

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The difficulties in meeting government initiatives concerning renewable energy (RE) integration lie in its variability and unpredictability within the daily and hourly dispatch to match demand and generation. The challenge is to find a way to make energy created by RE resources available to meet changing demand. As the percentage of RE penetration grows, the risk of having a major system failure event from an unpredicted change of RE level will increase. Pumped storage offers the ability to store energy produced from RE resources when it is difficult to utilize these resources on the power grid or integrate them into the power system, and to release the energy at a time when it is most needed, most often during peak electrical demand, at a higher value.

To get a sense of the power generation mix in Spain, Table 1 shows the total installed capacity in 2012 was 108,296MW. Wind capacity in 2012 was 22,362MW or 20.6% of the total, as shown in Figure 1. Solar capacity was 6288MW or 5.8% of the total. Between 2011 and 2012, wind capacity increased by 1123MW and solar by 990MW. The share of renewable sources is expected to reach 38% in the future. Total generation was 287,251GWh, with wind producing 16.8% of the total generation and solar 4.1%.

Total peak demand in 2011 was 43,896 MW. For the period 2005-2011, electricity demand has remained between a low of 42,430MW in 2006 and a high of 45,450MW in 2007.

Looking more closely at pumped storage, in Spain, Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) can operate in the following three markets:

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