

Utility-scale energy storage budapest

Hungary-based Sinergy Kft is the recipient of Wärtsilä's first EPC energy storage project in Europe. The Finnish technology group commissioned the engine plus storage hybrid installation, its first globally, on August 22. The VPP can now provide frequency and secondary regulation to the Hungarian national grid.

Wärtsilä's first EPC energy storage project in Europe in Budapest, Hungary

Image: Wärtsilä

Wärtsilä has completed its first global engine plus storage hybrid installation, and its first European EPC energy storage project, for Alteo Group subsidiary, Sinergy Kft, based in Budapest.

"The order was booked in Q1 2018 and the project was successfully commissioned on the 22nd of August 2018," said Wärtsilä in a statement released today.

For the project, it integrated a 6 MW/4 MWh battery storage plant, complete with inverters and power electronics, with its GEMS energy management system, provided by subsidiary, Greensmith Energy, next to an existing power plant, which runs on three Wärtsilä W34SG engines. The system can analyze changes in market conditions and rate structures, said Wärtsilä.

A spokesperson for U.S.-based storage specialist, Greensmith, which Wärtsilä acquired back in July, told pv magazine the battery technology used is lithium ion. They could not disclose any project costs, however.

"The installation will enable Alteo to participate in the electricity market by providing frequency and secondary regulation to the national grid operating in virtual power plant mode," continued the statement.

Wärtsilä's solar + storage plans

In 2016, the Helsinki-based technology group announced it was entering the solar energy business, by offering utility-scale PV solutions. These include solar PV power plants of 10 MW and above, and hybrid power plants comprising solar PV plants and internal combustion engines, it said, adding that both solutions are offered with full EPC delivery. Wärtsilä's first solar project is set to be built in Jordan.

In an interview with pv magazine this January, President of Wärtsilä Energy Solutions Javier Cavada outlined his vision for a solar + storage. "Our unique value proposition is to become a leading hybrid integrator, which means providing solar + storage, solar + gas, or gas + storage for example - all possible combinations, supported by total turnkey capability," he said.



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He added, "We are installing nine battery projects in the U.S., and we now have our first storage projects in Singapore, the U.K., and Australia. Everywhere we see a need for energy storage: It is not the main dish, but by combining flexible renewables with storage it is a way of making the grid and system better. This all means that today W?rtsil? is the biggest energy storage integrator globally."

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