Burkina faso battery testing

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Burkina Faso could drastically increase the use of renewable energy in its power mix by developing battery storage solutions through public private partnerships, according to a roadmap supported by IFC.

The roadmap was produced by Burkina Faso"s Ministry of Energy and the national utility, Soci?t? Nationale d"Electricit? du Burkina (SONABEL), with IFC"s support. It outlines how Burkina Faso could reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and energy imports by taking advantage of its fast-growing solar power sector.

The report found that by deploying 60-70MW (160-220MWh) of independent battery energy storage solutions (i-BESS) the energy sector could potentially save between 800 million and 1.8 billion FCFA ($1.5 million to $3.3 million) annually, while reducing carbon emissions.

"This roadmap is a key milestone to support Burkina Faso"s strategy to integrate a larger share of renewable energy into the country"s energy mix. IFC is proud to support Burkina Faso"s transition towards a more sustainable energy future," said Ronke Ogunsulire, IFC Country Manager for Burkina Faso.

Battery storage systems are helping countries worldwide better integrate renewable energy into their power systems by enabling energy from solar, wind, and other renewable sources to be stored until customers need power most. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), energy storage deployment in emerging markets is expected to increase by over 40 percent annually from 2020 until 2025.

IFC"s engagement has provided Burkina Faso"s government with insights on developing private sector-backed battery storage in Burkina Faso, contributing to national ambitions and policies regarding both energy access and climate change. Working with Burkina Faso"s government highlights IFC"s 3.0 and Upstream strategies to create markets and unlock opportunities for added private sector participation.

The roadmap benefitted from the support of the Governments of Denmark and Japan and IFC"s Conflict Affected States in Africa (CASA) Initiative, which is supported by Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

The funds will be used to implement the country’s Large Scale Solar and Rural Electrification Project. They will also support the government in outlining an upcoming tender for 325 MW of solar coupled with 335 MWh of storage capacity.

The World Bank has agreed to support Burkina Faso"s Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI) to improve access to electricity in rural areas with $168 million.

Of the total sum, $75 million will come from the International Development Association (IDA) and $93

million from the Clean Technology Fund. “This new project is in line with our strategy for the Sahel, which aims to double the rate of access to electricity by 2025, especially in rural areas, and to create the conditions for more private financing in the energy sector," explained Maimouna Mbow Fam, World Bank operations manager for Burkina Faso.

The funds will be used for the development of the Large Scale Solar and Rural Electrification Project which supports the electrification of around 300 locations in selected rural areas and the connection of 120,000 households, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and community infrastructure, to a reliable power supply. In addition, the allocated funds will finance key investments to strengthen the grid and enable the integration of solar generation and its distribution during peak demand.

Burkina Faso had only 62 MW of solar generation capacity at the end of last year, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. However, large PV projects are taking shape in the West African state, such as the 30 MW plant that Axpo Group business Urbasolar began constructing near P? in February and two solar plants, totaling 30 MW, which are under construction by Engie.