

Energy storage companies nuku alofa

Nuku'alofa, Tonga, May 17th, 2022 - Akuo, an independent global renewable energy power producer and developer, and Tonga Power Limited, the Tonga Islands' public grid operator, announce that they commissioned Tonga 1 & 2, the South Pacific's largest battery energy storage system with a total capacity of 29.2 MWh / 16.5 MW.

These two facilities have already had an opportunity to prove their resilience. Indeed, the volcanic eruption of January 15th, which resulted in a tsunami that devastated the archipelago's coastline and cut the country off from the rest of the world, did not affect their ability to function correctly, enabling these facilities to continue operating and help stabilize the grid in the days following the catastrophe.

The installation of these facilities was made possible by the "Tonga Renewable Energy Project" program, financed by the Green Climate Fund (56%), the Asian Development Bank (23%), the Tongan government (10%), Tonga Power Limited (6%) and the Australian government (5%).

The two battery storage facilities installed in Tonga are complementary: the aim of the first 5 MWh / 10 MW battery is to improve the electricity grid's stability (regulating the voltage and frequency), while the second 23 MWh / 7 MW battery is designed to transfer the electrical load in order to help the grid supply electricity at peak times, and notably in the evening.

This project is operated by the Tonga Power Limited public grid operator and was financed by the Asian Development Bank, the Green Climate Fund and the Australian government.

The storage facility played a key role in the days that followed the volcanic eruption of January 2022 (which was followed by an explosion and a tsunami) by avoiding an outage of the entire power grid. It also helped limit blackouts during maintenance on the islands' generators, which are currently still the country's primary source of electricity.

The construction and commissioning of this new facility were all the more remarkable given that they took place at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-2021), when the Kingdom of Tonga closed its borders for over two years.

The teams were able to overcome challenges notably including time differences, cultural and language differences and a lack of local electricity storage expertise by putting remote commissioning in place, in other words by turning the facility on remotely - a first for the Akuo Group.

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Tonga Power Limited is Tonga's sole electricity provider. We generate, distribute and sell electricity to 25,043 customers in the Kingdom of Tonga, including the outer islands of "Eua, Ha"apai & Vava"u.

July 18, 2019, Nuku"alofa. Tonga's first large scaled Battery Energy Storage System to be built at the Popua Power Station is expected to be operational in May 2020.

An agreement was signed between Tonga Power Limited and Akuo Energy SAS, a French independent power producer specializing in developing and operating renewable energy power plants, on 18 July in Nuku"alofa.

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Web: <https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

