

Flow batteries tonga

TREP 01 - Grid Stability BESS at Popua Power Station, Tongatapu (7.2 MW/3.8 WH)The component is leading by Tonga Power Limited. The civil and mechanical scopes are completed. Experts are being mobilized from NZ for the HV installation works. Due to border restrictions, experts from Europe will arrive when a repatriation flight allows them to arrive in Tonga.

TREP 02 - Load Shifting BESS at the Villa, Tongatapu (6W/20.88Wh)The installation is leading by Tonga Power Limited. The civil and mechanical construction is completed. The contractor (Akuo Energy of France and Infratech of NZ) currently working out a remote commissioning plan which may have financial and performance guarantee impacts. An expert from NZ has arrived in Tonga while the European staff is currently unable to mobilize but will be able to in the foreseeable future. PMU and key stakeholders are working on the remote commissioning plan and mobilization of critical staffs.

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.

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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The successful execution and delivery of these 2 complementary BESS projects in Tonga through the pandemic is the fruit of a trustful cooperation between ADB, TPL and Akuo. Each party has proven to be open, forward-looking and able to find solutions to install and commission the largest battery energy storage system in the South Pacific, despite a close of borders for more than 2 years.

"The project couldn't have been delivered by Akuo without setting foot in the Kingdom if it wasn't for the counterparts to acknowledge the worldwide situation and be focused towards the success of the start of operation of the two BESS. Akuo is very thankful to the Client and its Funders for their flexibility and efforts towards reaching a common success in providing a key element to the energy transition in Tonga via the commissioning of the two battery energy storage systems" says Jean Ballandras CEO Akuo Asia-Pacific

Tonga Power Limited continues to work collaboratively with Donor Partners and the Government of Tonga towards effective implementation of Renewable Energy projects towards achieving our National Determined Contribution of 70% Electricity generation by end of year 2025.

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