

Office energy storage cook islands

In 2014 construction began on the 960 kW Te Mana O Te Ra solar farm at Rarotonga International Airport. The solar farm was commissioned in October 2014. In September 2022 three battery-electric storage systems with a combined capacity of 13 MWh were installed on Rarotonga.

The commissioning of these assets is part of the Cook Islands Renewable Energy Project to reach its goal of delivering renewable energy to all its islands and reducing the nation's dependency on fossil fuels by constructing solar-powered plants.

Designed to enable a reduction in the number of diesel generators operating, TAU's BESS system will also provide grid stability functions such as frequency support and voltage support in the event of rapid changes in solar PV output or faults in the network for the island's power station.

Te Aponga Uira's 6MW/3MW system uses Rolls Royce Solutions MTU Energy Packs (Samsung batteries and Danfoss inverters), and the system will support the operation of the grid so it remains robust even with additional high levels of renewable energy.

Installed by New Zealand-based company Vector Powersmart Ltd, the battery system was completed last month and the system was opened by the chairman of the TAU Board, Mata Nooroa, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) executive director, Arif Baharudin.

The Airport West BESS system is located on the northern side of the airport; the purpose of its design is to alleviate constraint on new solar PV installations to the grid.

This BESS system sits adjacent to the existing 1MW PV plant to store all the PV plant output during the day for release in the evening, which will relieve pressure on the stability of the grid permitting completion of additional solar PV installations.

Funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF), this component was completed in 2019 and formally opened by the Government's financial secretary Garth Henderson, and Baharudin.

It includes an integrated modular system, usable storage capacity of 8 MWh, has the capability to charge and discharge at 2 MW, 11 kV connection to the grid with full interface to the TAU SCADA system.

Completed in 2020, the system includes a Tesla PowerPack technology and controller, enabling it to respond almost instantaneously to commands from TAU, to store or release power to meet the demands of the network installed by Vector Powersmart Ltd.



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Numangatini Ariki Tangi Tereapii from the RenewableEnergy Development Division (REDD) of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) andBaharudin opened the Airport South system.

Expected to be in service for at least 10 - 15 years,this project includes the operations and maintenance of the system which willinvolve Vector Powersmart Limited, Tesla, Entura and TAU engineers workingcollaboratively and with comprehensive training in operation and maintenance ofthe system.

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

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

