

Residential energy storage turkey

Simplifying the procedure for adding photovoltaic and wind power capacity to storage facilities has turned the energy sector around, according to Turkey's chief regulator. Chairman of Turkey's Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA or EPDK) Mustafa Yılmaz claimed it will essentially enable renewable electricity plants to produce baseload power.

The operation of wind turbines and solar panels is sensitive to changes in the weather, apart from some predictability from forecasting. Power links with distant regions and other countries, together with grid upgrades and digitalization, can partly smooth out intermittency issues.

Batteries can contribute a lot as they store excess electricity, to be delivered to the network when it becomes cloudy, the wind unexpectedly slows, or due to a rise in demand. Otherwise, pumped storage hydropower is currently the only conventional technology for balancing. But such facilities take long to be built and they cover vast surfaces.

With a change in regulation on November 19, Turkey made it possible for energy storage developers to get preliminary licenses for a matching capacity in wind or solar power. Investors rushed in, Yılmaz said.

He revealed that 334 applications were submitted for solar parks with storage and another 575 for wind farms in less than two weeks, translating to a whopping 67.3 GW in total power capacity - 19.9 GW against 47.5 GW, respectively, in rounded numbers.

At the end of last month, renewables made up more than 50% of installed electricity production capacity in Turkey, which amounted to 103.3 GW in total. Wind parks had a share of 11%, compared to 8.8% for the solar power segment, while hydropower was dominant, with 30.6%.



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