Slovenia office energy storage

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The BESS projects are located at the Okroglo and Pektre substations and started their trial period this month, the company launching them announced. They are part of the SINCRO.GRID project, a smart grid investment project in Slovenia and Croatia which was launched in 2016 and with EUR40 million (US$43.25 million) in financing from the European Union.

It aims to increase grid flexibility in both countries. Specifically, the project aims to improve the voltage quality and frequency control, as well as increase the capacity and flexibility of the network for a more reliable supply. It also aims to help integrate increased amounts of renewable energy sources (RES) onto the grid.

The partners in the project are the Slovenian and Croatian transmission operators ELES and HOPs, respectively, and the two countries’ distribution system operators, SODO and HEP ODS. The SINCO.GRID project was born out of the realisation that the two countries faced similar technical challenges.

It will be managed by the transmission operators, each of whom will be responsible for the implementation of technologies in their respective system, while distribution system operators providing information about the operation of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) on the grid. This will help the transmission operators to forecast ancillary service needs.

The project website adds that the control centres of the distribution and transmission operators will be connected via ICT infrastructure and system integration primarily using the semantic model (Common Information Model or CIM).

Other aspects of the SINCRO.GRID project include a virtual cross-border control centre (VCBCC) and a dynamic thermal rating (DTR) to assess operating limits and better utilise transmission lines and transformers. The VCBCC links the electricity systems of the two countries and will integrate the DTR, new compensation devices for reactive power control and the BESS projects. Shunt reactors have been installed at substations in Mraclin and Melina, in Croatia.

The executive arm of the European Union (EU) approved the direct grant programme under the State Aid Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework, adopted in March this year to support sectors which are key to the energy transition.

The scheme will see grants of up to EUR25 million per beneficiary though the full details of the decision will only be made available “once any confidentiality issues have been resolved”.

The announcement said the money will “accelerate the deployment of investments in renewable energy production and energy storage, with the aim to foster the transition to a net-zero economy”,

including heat.

While this particular scheme in Slovenia is through the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework, other similar schemes supporting energy storage have been under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, which was created to mitigate the negative economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Romania,FinlandandGreece‘s use of the latter to fund market-wide energy storage investments have been approved by the EU, as reported by Energy-Storage.news, while Croatia and Estonia are also funding projects (though potentially from other programmes).

A few grid-scale battery storage projects are already underway in Slovenia, including two units totalling 60MW co-located with a run-of-river hydroelectric plant, as well as a new pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) system from utility DEM.

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