

Vietnam energy storage

Gotion is in a joint venture (JV) building a lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cell gigafactory in Vietnam, targeting electric vehicle (EV) and energy storage system (ESS) markets.

Gotion Inc, a subsidiary of Chinese lithium battery designer and manufacturer Gotion High-Tech has partnered with Vietnamese battery cell and pack maker and battery-as-a-service company VinES in its efforts.

Requiring around US\$275 million investment, the 14-hectare production facility will have an annual production output of 5GWh, equivalent to about 30 million battery cells.

Cells produced at the factory will be used for both EVs produced by VinFast, another subsidiary of VinES" parent company, VinGroup. They will also be used in VinES ESS products.

VinES CEO Pham Thuy Linh said the factory is "an essential component in creating battery supply autonomy for VinFast EVs and VinES's development goal to become the preminent energy solutions company".

It will be sited adjacent to VinES" existing battery pack production facilities, which Pham Thuy Linh said will "complete the closed loop production" of LFP batteries in the country, improving localisation for VinGroup"s EV production and optimising overall production efficiency.

Meanwhile, in Vietnam, the market for battery energy storage systems (BESS) has yet to take off. However, in the past couple of years, government incentive programmes drove the development of more than 12GW of commercial rooftop solar PV projects, leading many to recognise the need for energy storage to help integrate that renewable generation to the grid.

Energy markets for the wider Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific region are also beginning to adopt battery storage with notable large-scale projects in the Philippines, Thailand and of course Australia among those covered by this site in recent months.

Lithium iron phosphate has become an increasingly popular battery sub-chemistry for stationary energy storage systems, eroding the early market dominance of nickel manganese cobalt (NMC). While lower energy density than NMC, it is also lower cost and tied to more abundantly available cathode materials, meaning EV makers increasingly also turn to it, particularly for shorter range and lower cost vehicles.

Gotion-VinES" factory will go into mass production in Q3 2024, creating around 500 jobs. It will follow VinES" own 8-hectare packing and production plant, which goes into operation next month.

Incidentally, the US also has little to no LFP production facilities domestically, although Israeli company ICL Group is building an LFP cathode factory to come online in 2024, while other companies like startups FREYR Battery and American Battery Factory as well as Turkey's Kontrolmatik are among others planning to build production capacity there.

Energy-Storage.news; publisher Solar Media will host the 1st Energy Storage Summit Asia, 11-12 July 2023 in Singapore. The event will help give clarity on this nascent, yet quickly growing market, bringing together a community of credible independent generators, policymakers, banks, funds, off-takers and technology providers. For more information, go to the website.

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