



Windhoek florida microgrids

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Florida is the most hurricane-prone state in the US, vulnerable to an average \$15.4 billion in storm damages annually. So it's perplexing that state government hasn't made at least as much fanfare about microgrids as places like California and New Jersey.

It's generally more difficult for private developers to build sophisticated microgrids in states like Florida that did not undergo industry restructuring. Utilities in these states have more monopoly sway. So, not surprisingly, those microgrids that are built, often are done so in a partnership with vertically integrated utilities.

FPL, which describes itself as the largest energy company in the US as measured by retail electricity produced and sold, was featured in not one, but two microgrid announcements this week. We wrote about the first one in a story [here](#), which describes a microgrid control lab at the University of Central Florida that the utility is helping to bring about.

The 10-year agreement is a pilot program for Gulf to demonstrate microgrid capabilities. The utility will own, operate and maintain the microgrid. Like many energy-as-a-service style contracts, it removes risk and cost from the host, in this case the Air Force.

Like most microgrids, the system won't just run during power outages. Under normal conditions it will serve the larger grid. More specifically, power from the microgrid will provide power for the utility's regular retail customers, including Tyndall AFB. During grid outages, the microgrid will island from the grid and the Air Force will have first right of refusal to use its power to keep three of its mission-critical facilities up and running.

"The Tyndall Microgrid is a fantastic example of a win-win project that the Air Force looks to develop with industry," said Kirk Phillips, DAF Office of Energy Assurance director at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC). "Tyndall AFB gets enhanced electrical resilience through on-site generation as the primary benefit and renewables as an enhanced benefit, and Gulf Power gets strategically sited rate-based generation."

The microgrid will be located on two acres of land made available through an Air Force lease program, which offers long-term agreements between the Air Force and public or private developers to lease underused Air Force property in exchange for cash rent or in-kind consideration.

Julia Cantrell, chief of AFCEC's Real Estate Development Enhanced Use Lease Execution Branch, said the project is likely the first of many to come through the program given a renewed focus on energy resilience for Air Force missions.



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FPL, which serves 5.6 million customers, also partnered on a third microgrid announced in October, that one with Florida International University (FIU). The microgrid will supply FIU's engineering center with a 1.4-MW solar array and a 3-MW/9-MWh battery system.

Tampa Electric (TECO), a utility that serves 792,500 customers in West Central Florida, won regulatory approval in June to build a neighborhood microgrid with Emera Technologies for 37 homes in the Medley at Southshore Bay housing development in Hillsborough County.

TECO has also partnered with PowerSecure, which has developed several microgrids in Florida, on a project to serve a ministry organization in Tampa. The microgrid is designed to allow the organization to continue to serve food to the community, even through severe storms.

Hurricanes are likely to continue to drive microgrid development in the state, but not as the lone force. The sunny state makes a good home for solar energy and as more is added, microgrids are likely to be built to balance the intermittent availability of solar. Electric vehicles (EVs) also are coming to the state -- another technology expected to increase demand for microgrids.

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