

Esb battery Bulgaria

What is the largest battery energy storage system in Bulgaria?

The system is the largest in Bulgaria. Image: Renalfa IPP. A 25MW/55MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) has been commissioned in Bulgaria, Eastern Europe, by operator Renalfa IPP, using technology provided by Chinese firms Hithium and Kehua.

How much money is needed for energy storage projects in Bulgaria?

The Ministry of Energy of Bulgaria prepared EUR 589 million in grants for standalone energy storage projects. The deadline for applications is November 21. With the surge in photovoltaic capacity, ambitious plans for renewables overall and a collapse in the coal power segment, Bulgaria needs urgent grid upgrades alongside energy storage.

Is Bulgaria planning a new energy storage facility?

Bulgaria is developing a plan for another two large facilities of the kind. The Ministry of Energy acknowledged that it is issuing the public call for standalone energy storage units after a long delay.

Will a battery energy storage system be integrated with renewable electricity plants?

Bulgaria already held the first two tenders for battery energy storage systems (BESS) that would be integrated with renewable electricity plants. Renalfa IPP commissioned its first utility-scale battery energy storage system in June.

What is a battery energy storage system (BESS)?

A 25MW/55MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) has been commissioned in Bulgaria, Eastern Europe, by operator Renalfa IPP, using technology provided by Chinese firms Hithium and Kehua. The project is co-located with a 33MWp PV plant in southwestern Bulgarian city of Razlog and is connected to the transmission system operator (TSO) grid.

Where is Bess located in Bulgaria?

The 25 MW - 55 MWh facility in the town of Razlog in southwest Bulgaria is colocated with a 33 MW photovoltaic plant. It is one of the first BESS units in Eastern and Southeastern Europe and the largest one in Bulgaria. Bulgaria is relying heavily on battery technology and energy storage overall in its energy transition.

Drawing on experiences from outside the Western Balkans, the session provided an overview of Bulgaria's policy framework, the evolving landscape and market dynamics for battery storage systems. The input served as a foundation for discussions on the progress with BESS in the region and allowed participants to share experiences from their own countries.

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Currently, Bulgaria's electricity market offers an opportunity for EUR110 (\$122) per MWh profit on battery energy storage with two hours of discharge capacity using energy arbitrage. Rystad Energy's analysis estimates battery system costs at a flat EUR60 (\$67) per MWh.

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Energy storage arbitrage, which involves charging batteries when power prices are low and discharging them during peak demand periods, is a promising avenue for battery storage operators to generate revenue and profits, and Bulgaria's market has the highest potential of all European countries.

As part of the National infrastructure for the storage of electricity from renewable sources (RESTORE), the country's Ministry of Energy is seeking battery energy storage system (BESS) capacities that can be operationalized before March 2026.

The Restore project in Bulgaria for battery energy storage, intended for balancing electricity from renewable sources, will total 6 GWh. A state-owned company, which should be established by the end of June, will run the entire project, while the first tenders should be completed by the end of September.

Presently, Bulgaria's installed battery storage capacity stands between 40 MWh and 50 MWh. However, a new national legislation as well as funds through the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility mean ...

The BESS tender is part of Bulgaria's RESTORE Project, which aims to provide funding for constructing and putting into operation at least 3000 MWh in battery storage capacity to enhance the balancing of the electricity system. Each enterprise can bid for up to BGN 148,642,080 in grant support.

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The successful implementation of battery projects will significantly contribute to the security of the energy system in Bulgaria and the region." The public call was open for projects equal to or greater than 10 MW with at least two hours of storage capacity, which will be primarily used in the frequency regulation markets.

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