

Long term electricity storage Greece

How long should energy storage be in a Greek power system?

Considering the energy arbitrage and flexibility needs of the Greek power system, a mix of short (~2 MWh/MW) and longer (>6 MWh/MW) duration storages has been identified as optimal. In the short run, storage is primarily needed for balancing services and to a smaller degree for limited energy arbitrage.

Should Greece invest in energy storage facilities?

Currently there is a growing interest for investments in storage facilities in Greece. Licensed projects mostly consist of Li-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS), either stand-alone or integrated in PVs, as well as PHS facilities .

Does Greece have a battery storage pipeline?

Greece has emerged as one of the countries with the largest pipeline of battery storage projects, but as yet there has been little activity on the ground. This is changing as the long-awaited storage subsidy auctions have started, with the first projects being awarded support for both investment and operating costs.

Why does Greece need gas storage?

The need for storage in Greece will accelerate rapidly over the next decade as renewables targets are revised upwards and coal plants are closed. The pivot to gas, a core part of the country's energy strategy just a couple of years ago, has been upended by the disruption to supplies and price volatility caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Why is Greece launching a battery storage auction?

Initially a response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the focus has pivoted to support Greece's green energy transition. The storage auctions themselves require further approval under EU State aid rules. The pipeline of prospective battery storage projects now approaches 27GW, with over 500 projects granted a storage license.

What opportunities are there for storage in Greece?

There are further opportunities for storage in Greece, with a new 680MW pumped hydro project also awarded funding, while grid congestion preventing renewables connecting is being addressed with batteries being awarded co-location licenses.

Greece's energy storage scheme allows projects from the European Economic Area (EEA) outside of Greece, provided there is an electricity interconnection and fully coupled power grids between Greece and the EEA country.

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The Greek minister of energy has recently announced the targets of the new NECP which is expected to be published shortly. For energy storage, the target for 2030 is at 2.5 GW of installed capacity for pumped hydro and a whopping 5.6 GW for battery storage.

However, as the shares of renewables increase, so does the need for energy storage, in order to ensure a balance between supply and demand of electricity. For this reason, storage technologies have acquired a central role in the National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 as well as in the Long-Term Strategies of Greece for 2050.

While support is available for co-located projects that address grid congestion, and to replace diesel generation on islands, grid scale storage has lagged other countries. The long term business case for storage will be supported by increasing interconnection, opening ancillary services and Greece's accession to the market coupling platforms ...

Standalone electricity storage in form of batteries and pumped storage, which would help to manage the flows from RES generation, has also been slow in coming, thanks in part to delays in introducing a framework for large-scale batteries - even though active interest by commercial players represents multiples of the 2030 target and has resulted ...

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In the short run, storage is primarily needed for balancing services and to a smaller degree for limited energy arbitrage. Long-term storage needs, on the other hand, are driven by the fast rising RES penetration levels, to provide energy arbitrage on a daily and multi-day cycle, as well as to contribute to system adequacy.

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