

Chile's solar energy storage system



Overview

Engie Chile has completed the energization of its 660 MWh Tocopilla Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), while Trina Storage and Atlas Renewable Energy have advanced the 932 MWh Copiapó PV + BESS project – one of the largest grid-forming installations in Latin America. Why is solar energy important in Chile?

Chile is a global leader in renewable energy, with solar power and battery storage playing a crucial role in decarbonizing the grid. Integrating solar energy and storage technologies is crucial for addressing the intermittency and grid stability in Chile.

Why is energy storage important in Chile?

Image: Greenergy Grid constraints have prevented Chile from maximising the potential of its world-class solar resources. Energy storage has, therefore, become a necessity to ensure the financial viability of PV projects, writes Jonathan Tourino Jacobo.

Is Chile ready for a standalone energy storage project?

This project alone nears the capacity (13GWh) the Chilean Ministry of Energy sought in a public land bidding auction for standalone energy storage projects in May of 2024. Chile has been one of the countries at the forefront of the renewable energy transition in Latin America, first with solar PV and now with BESS.

How can technology help develop solar and storage projects in Chile?

Several technological innovation can help develop solar and storage projects in Chile. This includes AI, smart grids, and energy storage innovations. Chile generates over 60% of its electricity from renewable sources, with the Atacama Desert hosting some of the world's most powerful solar farms.

Why is Chile pursuing energy storage in Antofagasta?

Chilean president Gabriel Boric (centre) at the inauguration of an energy storage plant in the northern region of Antofagasta in April 2024. Chile has strong conditions for wind and solar energy, and is pursuing storage to help overcome intermittent supply (Image: Ximena Navarro / Dirección de Prensa, Presidencia de la República de Chile).

How can solar energy and storage improve grid stability in Chile?

Integrating solar energy and storage technologies is crucial for addressing the intermittency and grid stability in Chile. Key projects include Cerro Dominador, solar and PV hybrid, ZELESTRA's 220 MW solar and 1 GWh battery project, and AES Andes solar and battery storage hub.

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