

Ethiopia Thermal Power Plant Energy Storage Project



Overview

Is geothermal energy a key role in Ethiopia's future?

Ethiopia's geothermal energy resources are estimated to have a power generation potential of about 10'000 MWe and thus bearing the potential to play a key role in Ethiopia's future. While already nearly 100% of the country's electricity is generated from renewable energies, 43% of the households still have no access to electricity.

How much electricity is produced from geothermal resources in Ethiopia?

Only 7.3 MW of electricity are currently produced from geothermal resources in Ethiopia. Even though the usage of this resource is still in its infancy, Ethiopia has a considerable potential for it.

What is Ethiopia's first geothermal field?

It is Ethiopia's first geothermal field to be explored, and it is home to the country's first geothermal power plant that generates electricity. During the 1980s, eight exploration wells were drilled in the Aluto-Langano geothermal zone, reaching depths of 2500 m and temperatures of up to 350 °C [19, 75].

How much does a geothermal project cost in Ethiopia?

The early stages of geothermal development are capital demanding and need a significant upfront financial investment. Currently, the main source of electricity in Ethiopia is hydropower. For instance, Gibe III & Ethiopian Grand Renaissance Dam costs around \$1000 per installed kW based on the recent project costs.

How can Ethiopia overcome energy poverty?

While already nearly 100% of the country's electricity is generated from renewable energies, 43% of the households still have no access to electricity. To overcome this energy poverty the Government of Ethiopia launched in 2017 the National Electrification Program, which led to a boost in geothermal

energy projects.

How does Ethiopia benefit from hydro resources?

Ethiopia benefits from hydro resources due to its reliance on hydropower facilities for energy development. Although hydroelectric energy is green and environmentally friendly, power plant operations are influenced by seasonal rainfall fluctuations, which are predicted to rise in the future due to climate change .

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