

SolarTech Power Solutions

Panama Hybrid Energy Storage Power Station



Overview

Recently, Ritar International Group's wind-solar-storage integrated energy storage power plant project officially came into operation in Panama and achieved successful grid connection. What is Panama's power system like in 2017?

In 2017, Panama's power system had very large installed hydropower capacity (54% of total capacity) and substantial VRE capacity (45.3%). The generation breakdown was 64% renewable energy (36% run-of-river hydro, 18% reservoir hydro, 8% wind, 2% solar photovoltaics (PV)) and 36% thermal generation (29% oil and 7% coal).

Does Panama need a cross-border electricity market?

In the absence of a cross-border electricity market, this interconnection was modelled assuming that Panama imports energy from Colombia at the high price of USD 200 per megawatt-hour (MWh). Because imports are likely the most expensive source of electricity, they will be required only if Panama's internal generation mix is unable to meet demand.

Will Panama's power system handle a higher penetration of VRE?

Table 3 presents the values of these indicators for the 2030 renewables scenario with an optimised generation capacity mix. Panama's power system would still have enough flexibility to handle even higher penetration of VRE, as seen in the 2030 renewables scenario with investments.

How much energy does Panama need?

Panama expects total energy demand to more than double between 2017 and 2030 (+113%), with peak demand growing from 1.6 GW to 3.5 GW. Panama is currently connected to Costa Rica via a 300 MW transmission line. A 400 MW high-voltage direct current (HVDC) interconnector with Colombia is expected to be commissioned by 2022.

When will a 500MW energy storage application be released?

Publication for the application will be released in February of this year. Panama has launched a 500MW tender auction for renewables and energy storage, the first in Central America to include storage.

What is the flextool engagement process for Panama?

The FlexTool engagement process for Panama started in October 2017, with a set of discussions during training on power grid studies with large shares of solar and wind.

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