

## Kongres Container

# Distributed energy storage investment in Tonga s power grid



## Overview

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This review of the Tonga Outer Island Renewable Energy Project (OIREP) was commissioned by the Australian High Commission to Tonga. The review was led by Scott Rankin, with support from Renewable Energy expert Rob Passey of ITP Renewables. We would like to thank the many people who gave generously.

Tonga's first utility-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) project was officially opened today at an event attended by the South Pacific Kingdom's prime minister. Prime Minister Siaosio Sovaleni, known also by the chiefly title he holds, Honourable Huákavameiliku, was the Guest of Honour as.

A \$53.2 million minigrid was commissioned on Niuafu'ou, Tonga's northernmost island, to provide clean, reliable power 24 hours a day. In Micronesia, Yap island seeks bids on a 79 kW solar plus storage minigrid system. A new hybrid minigrid that will provide clean, reliable and efficient energy.

Tonga Energy Road Map 2010 launched as a 10-year plan focused on reducing Tonga's vulnerability to oil price fluctuations and improving access to modern energy services, and achieving environmental sustainability. National Energy

target by 2020, 50% of renewable energy (Solar and Wind) share on.

energy storage facility. The two battery storage facilities installed in Tonga are complementary: the aim of the first 5 MWh / 10 MW battery is to improve the electricity grid's stability (r mercial battery systems. These systems further fortify grid stability and reliability by providing. Can Australia help secure Tonga's outer island energy needs?

Australia also has a long history of engagement in relation to helping secure Tonga's outer island energy needs. In the early 2000s, Australia funded the Ha'apai Outer Islands Electrification project (HOIEP), which involved the installation of diesel-powered generators and electrical reticulation on four islands in the Ha'apai group.

How many people have access to electricity in Tonga?

This means that little more than 30,000 people are spread across 35 islands, presenting acute issues in terms of the provision of modern infrastructure. At OIREP commencement, the ADB estimated that 89% of all households across Tonga had access to electricity.

Why is electricity so expensive in Tonga?

This has contributed to the Tongan economy and electricity consumers being exposed to high and volatile electricity prices due to fluctuations in the price of oil internationally. According to UK-based aggregate website Cable, Tonga's electricity is the 13th most expensive in the world, at an average cost of USD 0.35 per kilowatt hour (kWh).

How can oirep help Tonga's remote island communities?

However, significant needs and opportunities exist to further expand renewable energy systems on outer islands. Less tangible, but also important is the role played by OIREP in consolidating Tonga's social contract with remote island dwelling communities, by allowing for enhanced and more reliable access to electricity.

Why did oirep work with Tonga Power Limited?

OIREP's on-grid work was always a matter of laying the foundations for further investment in renewables and enjoyed the ease of working through one implementing partner - Tonga Power Limited - who were incentivised to help ensure the program succeeded given they will manage all on-grid assets post-

project.

Why should government invest in outer island energy systems?

Clearsighted, systematic investment in renewal of outer island energy systems is greatly valued by government, given it has helped quickly resolve the significant challenge of modernising outer island energy systems in order that they are more reliable and efficient.

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