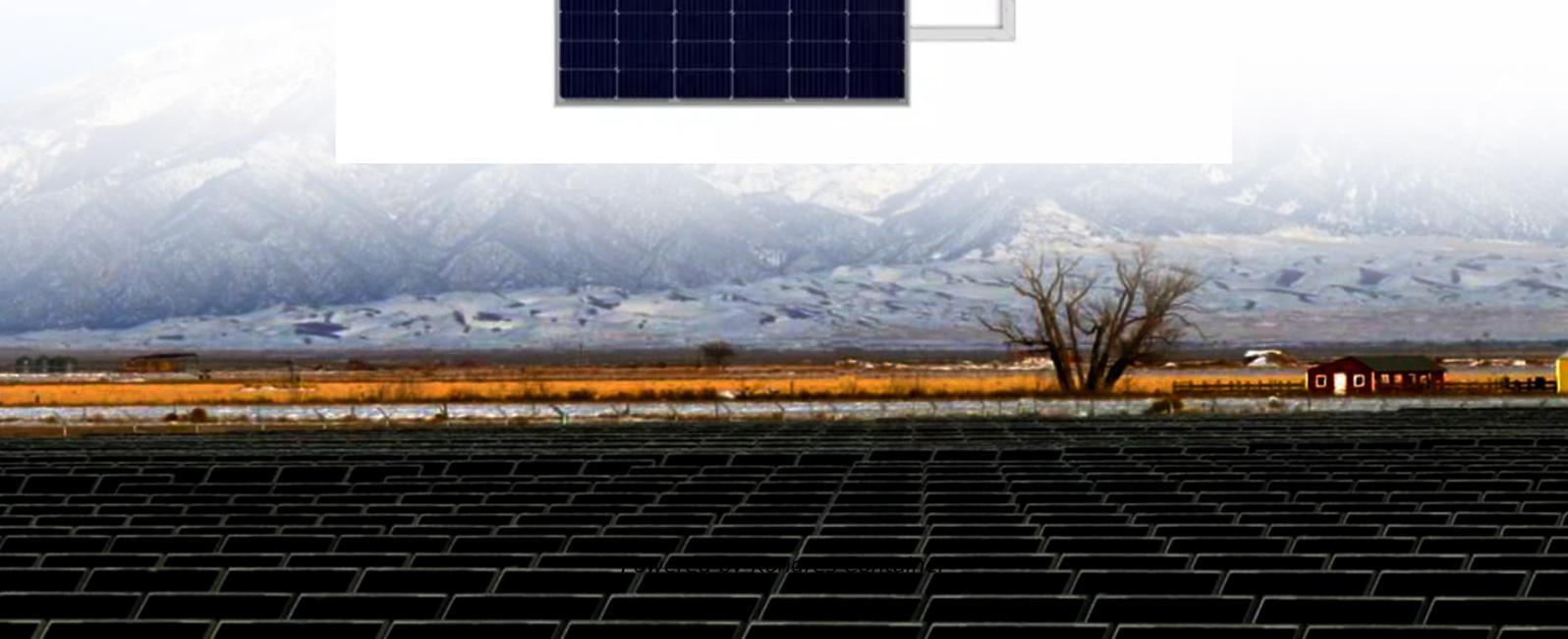


Kongres Container

The purpose of establishing energy storage base stations in East Africa



Overview

Energy storage systems will be deployed across three main applications: Energy supply: Storing excess renewable energy in times of over-generation to be supplied at times of under-generation or peak demand. Grid stability: Providing ancillary services to help maintain stability. Local flexibility: Managing transmission and distribution network constraints. Does Scatec have a solar-plus-storage site in South Africa?

Scatec's Kenhardt solar-plus-storage site in South Africa (above), which went online at the end of 2023. Image: Scatec. Africa's energy storage market has seen a boom since 2017, having risen from just 31MWh to 1,600MWh in 2024, according to trade body AFSIA Solar's latest report.

How has energy storage changed in 2022?

This has resulted in an increase in energy storage levels in recent years. In 2022, the continent had around 50MWh of energy storage capacity installed. Since then, energy storage capacity tripled in 2023 and then experienced another 10-fold increase in 2024. Image: AFSIA Solar.

How can energy storage help fill the short-term supply gap?

The report notes this initiative, which is described as a means to fill the short-term supply gap, alleviate the electricity supply constraints, and reduce the extensive utilisation of diesel-based peaking electrical generators. Several initiatives and drivers for energy storage have also been introduced to African countries.

What is the Drakensberg pumped storage scheme?

Designed to generate electricity for 10 hours per day through its four 250 MW turbine generators, the Drakensberg Pumped Storage Scheme is an energy storage facility, situated in the northern parts of the Drakensberg Mountain range of South Africa, which provides up to 27.6 GWh of electricity storage.

What are the most popular solar-plus-storage developments in Africa?

As noted by AFSIA Solar, one of the most notable solar-plus-storage developments in Africa is Norway-based independent power producer (IPP) Scatec's 225MW/1,140MWh Kenhardt project in South Africa. The site started operation in late 2023 (pictured above).

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