

Kongres Container

Tonga Charging Station Energy Storage Project



Overview

Located on Tonga's biggest island, Tongatapu, there is a short-duration system of 9.3MW/5.3MWh (7.2MW/3.8MWh usable) designed for grid stability applications, and a 3.3-hour duration system of 7.2MW/23.9MWh (6MW/20.88MWh usable) for renewable load shift applications. What is Tonga's first large scale battery energy storage system?

Tonga's first large scale Battery Energy Storage System to be built at the Popua Power Station, contributing to Tonga's 50% Renewable Energy target. Akuo Energy SAS (Akuo Energy) is a renewable energy company that develops, finances, builds and operates renewable energy power plants.

What is Popua power station - battery energy storage system?

The project was announced in 2018 and will be commissioned in 2021. The Popua Power Station - Battery Energy Storage System is being developed by Akuo Energy. The project is owned by Akuo Energy (100%). The key applications of the project are renewable energy integration, electric energy time shift and grid support services.

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).

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 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.

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