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Nigeria"s distribution infrastructure is characterised by high losses, theft, and inefficiencies, resulting in poor service quality and revenue losses for distribution companies (DisCos). Outdated equipment, inadequate investment in maintenance, and technical losses contribute to the unreliability of the distribution network.The lack of metering and billing systems, coupled with widespread non-payment of electricity bills, undermines the financial viability of DisCos and hampers infrastructure upgrades. Addressing the challenges of inadequate generation capacity and unreliable distribution infrastructure in Nigeria"s power sector requires a multifaceted approach that addresses policy, regulatory, financial, and, mostsignificantly, technological barriers.

Globally, the landscape of the power industry is undergoing a transformative shift, and one of the key drivers of change is the advent of Battery as a Service (BaaS). This innovative approach to energy storage is revolutionising hownationsgenerate, store, and distribute electricity.

Understandingthe Concept ofBattery as a Service (BaaS)

The traditional model of energy storage involved large-scale, fixed infrastructure. BaaS introduces a paradigm shift by offering energy storage solutions as a service, whichmeans that instead of purchasing and maintaining batteries outright, users can access the benefits of energy storage through a service agreement. In simple terms, BaaSprovidesbattery storage solutions to customers on a subscription or pay-per-use basis, eliminating the need for upfront capital investment. Service providers install, maintain, and operate the battery systems, while customers benefit from reliable energy storage without the burden of ownership.

BaaS agreements often include performance guarantees and SLAs that define the expected service levels, uptime, efficiency, and response times, providing customers with assurance of reliable and consistent service delivery. BaaS offers customers flexibility in scaling up or down the battery capacity based on evolving energy needs, market conditions, and technological advancements, enabling agile and cost-effective solutions.

This novel approach has significant implications for consumers and the broader power industry.These impacts include:

oEnhancing Grid Resilience:One of the primary impacts of BaaS is its role in enhancing grid resilience.When deployed strategically, energy storagecan act as a buffer during peak demand periods, grid outages, or fluctuations in renewable energy generation. BaaS enables utilities to optimise grid operations, improve reliability, and respond swiftly to dynamic energy demands.

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