

Off-grid energy storage armenia

2019,(Andrea Wiktorin):",?

Tesla is negotiating with the government of Armenia over supplying a grid-scale storage system, while Italy's grid operator revealed it is collaborating with the EV and smart energy tech maker to study new techniques of energy storage.

Armenia's national news agency, Armenpress, reported yesterday that the government department of energy infrastructures and natural resources is considering building a 14MWh energy storage battery system by 2020 in Gegharkunik province. Tesla is negotiating with Armenia on the sidelines of the battery project, it said.

The agency reported that the former Soviet state is seeking to deploy solar-plus-storage facilities and also optimise the use of hydroelectric resources available. Armenpress quoted deputy minister Hayk Harutyunyan as having said the battery was needed not only for renewable energy but also "for our base capacities".

Meanwhile, the CEO of Italy's grid operator, Terna, has been on a roadshow visit to the US, taking in Boston, Chicago and New York after a visit to the City of London, England's financial centre. Terna said Luigi Ferraris was meeting with investors to reveal the grid operator's strategic plan to 2022. Terna anticipates US\$5.3 billion investment being put in to the modernisation of the grid, including migration to higher levels of renewables and decarbonisation.

"The feedback has been very positive," Ferraris said after a meeting with financial analysts, adding that Terna now, "represents a very favourable investment for long-term investors, particularly the Americans".

Terna and Tesla have been collaborating on EV charging and a project called Green Islands (T2), since 2016. CEO Ferraris reiterated the importance of the collaboration with Tesla and other Silicon Valley players, while the grid operator has been running large-scale storage pilot programmes since 2013. Terna is also running an Open Innovation programme which the company said "involves a structured relationship with sector peers, industrial players, the academic world and with start-ups and SMEs".

The electricity sector of Armenia includes several companies engaged in electricity generation and distribution. Generation is carried out by multiple companies both state-owned and private. In 2020 less than a quarter of energy in Armenia was electricity;

As of 2016, the majority of the electricity sector is privatized and foreign-owned (by Russian and American

companies), which is the result of a law passed in 1998 allowing for the privatization of electricity generation and distribution in the country. Administration, government legislation, and policy of the sector is conducted by the Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources of Armenia. Regulation of the sector is performed by the Public Services Regulatory Commission of Armenia.

Large investments have been made in the electricity sector in Armenia in the 2000s. These include the construction of the \$247M combined-cycle Yerevan Thermal Power Plant completed in 2010; a \$52M loan from the World Bank in 2015 to improve the reliability of electricity distribution across Armenia; and a \$42M investment in 2016 by Electric Networks of Armenia to repair distribution networks.

In June 2016, the Armenian Parliament updated the law "On Energy Saving and Renewable Energy" which encourages the use of solar power in the country and allows users of solar installations of 150kW or less to sell their excess energy back to the electrical grid.

The voltage in Armenia is 220 V AC at a frequency of 50Hz. Armenia uses the European 2-pin C-socket and F-socket plugs.

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