

## Poland microgrid energy storage

The European Commission (EC) has approved a EUR1.2 billion (US\$1.32 billion) state aid package for Poland to support the deployment of electricity storage facilities.

The EC, the administrative and legislative governing body of the European Union (EU), announced the scheme's approval yesterday (3 October).

It will provide direct grant and loan funding worth up to 65% of the capital cost of "at least 5.4GWh" of investments in electricity storage projects across the Eastern European country.

The capacity market was a major topic at the recent Energy Storage Summit Central and Eastern Europe 2024, which our publisher Solar Media hosted in Poland's capital Warsaw, in late September.

The new scheme falls under the EC's Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework (TCTF), which was introduced in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine to enable affected EU Member States to bolster their economies.

TCTF focuses on energy transition efforts, and aid will be available for states to grant until the end of 2025 for measures to support the energy transition in three key areas: accelerating the rollout of renewable energy, facilitating the decarbonisation of industrial processes, and accelerating investments in low-carbon technology manufacturing.

Funding for the scheme in Poland will come from two sources: the EU's Modernisation Fund, paid out to 13 Member States for modernisation of their energy systems in line with EU targets, and from the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility.

It follows a similar amount of state aid funding being made available for energy-intensive industries in Poland struggling with rising energy costs, approved by the EC around the same time last year.

The electricity storage support scheme aims to facilitate the reduction of fossil fuel use and the increased penetration of renewable energy on the Polish grid.

Systems with 4MWh capacity or higher will be eligible, connected to either transmission or distribution networks at all voltage levels.

Grants and loans combined should not exceed 45% of the cost of each project; however, for medium-sized companies, this could be extended to 55%, and small companies could receive aid worth up to 65% of capital investment costs.

Over the last year or so, the European Union has approved state aid schemes to support energy storage deployments in countries.

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