

Solar energy storage ireland

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The first 4-hour duration battery storage project to be built in Ireland exemplifies both the challenges and opportunities of the country's growing and evolving market.

Norwegian state-owned energy company Strakraft is developing a 20MW/91.2MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) project at the site of its Cushaling wind farm in County Offaly, in the midlands of the Republic of Ireland.

Battery storage technology for the project is being provided and integrated by Fluence. The company's growth and market development director for the EMEA region, Julian Jansen, told Energy-Storage.news that Ireland has been among the markets to see the fastest evolution, and most diverse set of BESS assets built.

“When we look at the island of Ireland, it really is an interesting testbed for the energy transition as a whole,” Jansen told Energy-Storage.news.

“You have this island with limited interconnectivity, very high wind penetration, increasing electricity demand, driven, in particular, by the data centre industry, and then [grid] congestion issues between the west of Ireland, towards the Dublin region.”

Strakraft Ireland head of grid services Rory Griffin has written about the project for the latest edition of PV Tech Power (Vol.39), which is out now and available to Energy-Storage.news Premium subscribers.

The article details both the technical aspects of the project and the market dynamics that led Strakraft to become a first mover on a grid that has typically seen systems of 0.5-hour to 2-hour duration built, tied to opportunities in the DS3 grid services market.

The longer-duration project at Cushaling will enable renewable energy sources in the midlands to be stored at times of low demand and outputted at times of peak demand, reducing the need for costly curtailment.

This is important for companies like Strakraft which are building up portfolios of solar PV and onshore wind on the island of Ireland. Energy stored in batteries can be traded through the Integrated Single Electricity Market (ISEM).



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