

Metka EGN: Energy storage shift

Athens-headquartered Mytilineos is expanding its geographic span and technology focus to establish a diversified business, fit for the new energy era. Energy storage comprises part of its new focus.

Regarding renewable energy more generally, Mytilineos' solar business, Metka EGN, includes a platform for the construction, operation, financing, and resale of both photovoltaic and storage units.

The company is transitioning from a traditional EPC business model to being a complete project solutions provider, supporting the development and financing of projects, rather than just building them.

Currently, Metka EGN is developing a number of storage projects worldwide, with both on- and off-grid applications. Its grid-connected projects offer a number of ancillary services to grid operators, and are also often tied to utility-scale solar PV plants.

Metka EGN says it is a pioneer in the implementation of battery storage technology, both in integrating with solar PV systems and applying independently for grid control applications. Of particular note is the company's accomplishment of tying a battery storage system to a 57 MW solar PV facility in Puerto Rico, which the company says was the largest operating solar farm in the Caribbean when it was completed in 2016. Recently, Metka EGN also embarked on a series of hybrid energy storage projects spanning across the United Kingdom which provide innovative fast frequency response and other ancillary services to the U.K. transmission grid operator, National Grid.

Innovative UK Fast-Frequency Response (FFR) Projects

Together with its long-term client Gresham House, since 2017, Metka EGN has completed a series of battery storage projects in the United Kingdom, offering Fast Frequency Response (FFR) and other ancillary services to the National Grid. "This development is of great importance, as the U.K. is one of the world's most competitive and innovative energy markets," says Nikos Papapetrou, CEO of Metka EGN. The storage projects facilitate the reliability and stability of the U.K.'s grid, and also generate revenues by storing energy at times of low demand and releasing it back to the grid when there is increased demand.



Photos: Metka EGN

The Staunch 20 MW FFR project is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom, and has been operating since March 2017.

The scope of these projects includes turnkey engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) solutions for several new sites, in addition to the expansion of battery energy storage systems at four existing sites.

These UK projects are not connected to solar parks. Instead, the battery energy storage systems (BESS) are directly tied to the grid, with some of the projects also in a hybrid configuration with diesel or gas generators. With each site having different constraints, each new project is customized specifically to work within these parameters. "This is a new area where several relatively well-established technological components need to be integrated, but often in new configurations," says Papapetrou.

Upon completion of the entire portfolio in the first quarter of 2020, Metka EGN will have installed a total capacity of 230 MW of battery storage in the United Kingdom, with 315 MWh of energy storage. "This further strengthens our position as one of Europe's leading solution providers for utility scale battery storage systems," Papapetrou says.



Metka EGN's Lockleaze 15 MW battery storage project was recently expanded to double the amount of batteries and energy of the plant.