

Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos gets largest grid-forming BESS in Greece



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A grid-forming battery energy storage system of 3 MW was put into trial operation at the Vatopedi monastery on Mount Athos. The project is part of the green energy transition of the monastic republic in northern Greece.

The Sacred Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery of Vatopedi, founded in the 10th century, has a microgrid. Engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor ENGAIA said it installed the largest grid-forming battery energy storage system (BESS) in Greece at the site. The facility with 3 MW in operating power and a capacity of 6 MWh is also the largest in the country, according to the company.

The Monastic Republic of Mount Athos of 20 monasteries in the Chalkidiki peninsula in northern Greece isn't connected to the national electricity network. Reliant until recently only on diesel-fired generators and solid fuel, the self-governing area is shifting to solar power with storage.

Not long ago, Mount Athos relied on diesel-fired generators and solid fuel for its energy needs

ENGAIA, a Greek member of the London-based ECOERA group of companies, is also adding a 1.1 MW photovoltaic unit. It said it would enable it to commission the battery facility fully.

The company stressed that the independent microgrid with a virtual synchronous generator (VSG) at Vatopedi, enabling energy autonomy, is also the largest in the country and one of the largest in Europe. The new BESS is the first large-scale deployment of Huawei's equipment in the sector in Greece.

Mount Athos is also known as Agion Oros – Holy Mountain. Three years ago, European funds were approved for 21 autonomous photovoltaic stations, with a total capacity of 2.64 MW, in combination with energy storage systems. Mytilineos, now called Metlen, won the contract for the installation of the facilities.

