

1MW Telecommunications BESS Power Station in the Central African Republic





Overview

Does Bess work in Africa?

Experience in the African context is even more limited with very few grid-scale BESS projects that are operational. As an emerging technology it is expected that technical performance will continue to mature and improve. Already, rapid and significant improvements have been seen across most performances metrics.

Is Bess an emerging technology?

Because of its relatively recent inclusion in power systems, most international electricity markets consider BESS an emerging technology, despite some technologies already being commercially established and successful. Experience in the African context is even more limited with very few grid-scale BESS projects that are operational.

How big is Bess in Africa compared to global projections?

Confirmed development of BESS across the continent is still small compared to global projections, less than 0.5% of the global BESS capacity of 358GW by 2030. Considering Africa's rapidly growing power requirements and the already planned contributions from VRE, these commitments do not fully reflect the potential for BESS on the continent.

Which technology is best suited for a grid-scale Bess deployment?

Among the commercial technologies, lithium-ion batteries are best known. They have been the dominant technology for grid-scale applications, representing almost 60% of global grid-scale BESS deployments in 2021.



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