

Energy storage for electric vehicles north macedonia

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The German battery manufacturer BMZ Group wants to open a production site in northern Macedonia. The corresponding agreement with the government there has already been signed. More than 60 production lines are to be built there by 2028.

According to its own information, BMZ wants to start battery production initially in a rented building in the metropolitan region of Skopje. At the same time, three units comparable to those at the German headquarters; are to be built in the technological-industrial development zone 'Skopje 2'. These can probably accommodate up to 60 production lines as well as their own logistics and administration.

The battery manufacturer says it decided on a location in North Macedonia for various reasons; on the one hand, North Macedonia is known for its 'investor-friendly policies'; and the company sees the 'enormous growth opportunities of BMZ'. On the other hand, the company suffers from a shortage of skilled workers in Germany as well as in Poland. For this reason, 'production lines with different levels of automation'; will be moved from Germany and Poland to the new location.

BMZ wants to create up to 600 new jobs in northern Macedonia. The manufacturer emphasises that no jobs will be cut at the plants in Germany and Poland. Despite the relocation of the production lines, 'further growth'; is expected there as well.

The new location will be managed by Jelica Ivanovska. The name of the new managing director was announced during the signing event at BMZ headquarters in Karlstein. North Macedonia is the fifth international location of the German company.

It is not known how much the company is investing in the North Macedonia site or what kind of batteries are produced there. In July, BMZ Group signed a strategic cooperation agreement with CALB (China Lithium Battery Technology) for the development and production of batteries for electric commercial vehicles.

BMZ Group, headquartered in Karlstein am Main, develops and manufactures lithium-ion system solutions in the areas of home and industrial storage/green energy as well as e-mobility and drive systems, among others. As reported, BMZ sells its battery cells under the TerraE label.

Due to the limitations of the current EV technology, battery-powered EV driving is impossible without an EV charging station per 100 kilometers, EVN Macedonia said, noting that it is currently setting up more than 40 EV recharging points at central public locations in 17 cities in Macedonia.

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In the City of Skopje, several chargers have been installed, including in public areas and at certain frequently used facilities such as hotels, restaurants, and shopping malls. A developed network of chargers will enable owners of electric vehicles from the country and abroad "to travel in any direction within and outside the borders of Macedonia," the news release reads.

The Electromobility with EVN project is aimed at encouraging greater use of electric vehicles, which will significantly contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment, as well as Macedonia's tourism sector, according to Stefan Peter, Chairman of the Management Board of EVN Macedonia.

EVN will continue to expand the network of EV charging stations in the future, with the aim of increasing the number of electric vehicles on Macedonia's streets, the company said. This will contribute to reducing air pollution and noise in urban areas, as well as to the long-term sustainability of the environment, it added.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo-based Energoinvest SUE has won a BAM 34,000 (EUR 17,388) bid to deliver EV chargers to Elektroprivreda BiH (EPBiH), majority owned by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), local media reported.

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutch tours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

