

## Energy storage industry slovenia

Developer NGEN is deploying the largest battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Slovenia, Austria and Croatia, and wants to take its model beyond CEE too, CEO and co-founder Roman Bernard said.

The Slovenia-headquartered company was recently in the news for a 20MWh project it commissioned in Austria, which is the country's largest, and it is deploying the largest battery storage systems in neighbouring Slovenia and Croatia, totalling 70MW/140MWh and 50MW/100MWh respectively.

The Slovenia project builds on three it already has operational there, totalling 20MWh, 30MWh and 40MWh, the first of which was built in 2019. These projects mainly provide secondary reserve ancillary services and cover 50-80% of the country's need there, Bernard told Energy-Storage.news.

The strategy of NGEN is to deploy both large-scale and small-scale energy storage projects and aggregate them into virtual power plants (VPP), combining their respective capabilities to provide a maximum array of services to the grid. It has its own home energy storage solution, NGEN Star, as well as its own smart meters.

Bernard describes NGEN as a hybrid independent power producer and software company controlling the VPP. Its proprietary software platform is ESGP (Energy Smart Grid Platform), which manages the various assets in its electricity network and is the core of the business.

The company has so far been building up its portfolio using private capital rather than institutional lenders or investors, Bernard said. It has used Tesla's grid-scale BESS product for all its projects so far.

"In three years, we aim to have 1-2GW of grid-scale capacity, 2-3GW in total including smaller systems, and be present in 5-6 countries," Bernard said.

Energy-Storage.news" publisher Solar Media will host the inaugural Energy Storage Summit Central Eastern Europe on 26-27 September this year in Warsaw, Poland. This event will bring together the region's leading investors, policymakers, developers, utilities, energy buyers and service providers all in one place, as the region readies itself for storage to take off. Visit the official site for more info.

The business was set up in the middle of last year to bring to fruition a grid balancing battery system conceived in 2015 and developed by early last year, according to a press release issued on Saturday. NGEN said its project will provide enough grid ancillary services to support 250 MW of renewable energy generation capacity.

The project developer said it has launched the first of Tesla's Powerpack battery systems "in the region" and acquired the battery last year to form the basis of the project.

The battery system reportedly uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to offer automated grid balancing services as well as enabling power exchange energy trading for clients. With NGEN co-founder Damian Merlak having set up cryptocurrency trading platforms Bitstamp and Tokens , a spokesman for the company said blockchain technology may be incorporated in future NGEN projects.

The company reportedly intends to develop a second battery system in Slovenia before July and also offers residential storage systems which can harness its grid balancing technology.

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