



Energy storage research and development saint kitts and nevis

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BASSETTERRE, St Kitts and Nevis and YVERDON-LES-BAINS, Switzerland, December 10, 2020 - The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, the state-owned St. Kitts Electric Company (SKELEC) and Leclanché SA (SIX: LECN) today broke ground on a landmark solar generation and storage project that will provide between 30-35% of St. Kitts baseload energy needs for the next 20-25 years while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 740,000 metric tons.

"Today's groundbreaking marks a significant milestone for our citizens, tourist economy, our broader business community and indeed the entire Caribbean region, despite the delays caused by COVID-19," said Dr. Honorable Timothy Harris, St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister. "This visionary project will help secure our energy independence, provide long-term price stability and reduce our reliance on diesel fuel."

"The amount of carbon dioxide emissions we will reduce - nearly three quarters of a million metric tons over 20 years - is a significant demonstration of our strong policy for clean, renewable energy. We invite our Caribbean neighbors - and island communities around the world - to consider joining us in a commitment to a sustainable energy future for our children and generations to come," said Harris.

The project is being built in St. Kitts' Basseterre Valley on a 102-acre plot of government-owned land adjacent to the current SKELEC power station and next to the thriving capital city of Basseterre, the heart of the country's economic region.

The land, which was once used for sugar cane production but has been idle for years, was leased to Leclanché by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis under a 20-year agreement with an automatic five-year renewal. Environmental Impact Assessment and geotechnical analysis were successfully completed in 2019, demonstrating the renewable energy project will bring a positive impact to the Basseterre Valley.

"SKELEC has been working closely with Leclanché for nearly two years now developing a state-of-the-art and highly sustainable energy production and storage system to serve our citizens," said Honorable Shawn Richards, Deputy Prime Minister Public Infrastructure, Post and Urban Development. "St. Kitts residents will enjoy energy price stability for a generation while benefitting from cleaner air and water."

Clean, renewable energy produced from the solar + storage project will be sold to SKELEC under a 20-year power purchase agreement at flat rate over that entire period which is designed to provide a significant long-term savings to the projected diesel generation costs.

Currently, tankers deliver diesel fuel to St. Kitts on a weekly basis, and the fuel is then burned in generators to produce all the nation's electricity. This expensive process contributes to local pollution and global warming



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(each gallon of diesel generates 22 pounds of CO₂ when burned). The solar and storage project should reduce diesel use by 30-35%, saving money and the environment.

The solar panels collect sunlight that is converted into electricity. The solar project on St. Kitts will be oversized, allowing a portion of that electricity to meet current electric demand on the island, and the remainder to charge the large-scale battery storage system to meet island demand after the sun sets. The battery system will also improve grid stability and serve as a back-up in case one of the diesel generators fails.

The batteries will be housed in 14 custom-designed enclosures near the main SKELEC power station and adjacent to the solar field. Additional equipment such as inverters, transformers and protection devices will ensure that the electricity from the new project is reliable and safe.

Leclanché's energy management system software integrates all the different components of the system and coordinates the delivery of electricity to the grid according to SKELEC's requirements. Once completed in the first half of 2022, the solar and storage system will replace over four million gallons of diesel per year, and the battery system will enable the remaining diesel generators to operate more efficiently.

Aerial drone view of Basseterre Valley on St. Kitts where Leclanché's solar generation and energy storage system is being built. The project is being built on a 102-acre plot of government-owned land adjacent to the current SKELEC power station and next to the thriving capital city of Basseterre, the heart of the country's economic region.

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

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

