Envision aesc energy storage 70 kWh

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Envision AESC confirmed a second large EV battery gigafactory project in the US this year, towards its target to increase annual manufacturing capacity to 70 GWh (and 300+ GWh globally).

The latest investment is a dedicated 30 GWh battery plant in South Carolina, which will produce cylindrical lithium-ion battery cells for the BMW Group"s Plant Spartanburg. Those are BMW"s sixth-generation battery cells with a standard diameter of 46 mm (similar to Tesla) - see more details here.

According to Envision AESC, the company is currently working to finalize a suitable site close to BMW Group"s vehicle production and battery assembly facilities.

The new battery gigafactory in South Carolina will come on top of the battery gigafactory in Bowling Green, Kentucky, which was announced in April 2022. The factory in Kentucky also will have an output of 30 GWh per year (although with an option for 40 GWh/year). The type of battery cells might be different, since the customers will be different.

Envision AESC also has a small facility at the Nissan manufacturing site in Smyrna, Tennessee, US (probably only 3.0 GWh per year, according to previous reports).

Envision AESC is quickly expanding its manufacturing capabilities with new plants in Japan (up to 18 GWh/year), UK (up to 38 GWh/year), France (30 GWh/year "or more" by 2029), Spain (up to 50 GWh/year) and in China (a few plants).

The new $810 million factory announced in December 2022will produce BMW"s sixth-generation cylindrical battery cells with a standard diameter of 46 mm, although at this point we still don"t know which version - (height of 95 mm, 120 mm, or both). The cells will be assembled into battery packs at BMW"s plant in South Carolina, where the German manufacturer intends to produce six fully electric BMW X models (crossover/SUV type).

The list of confirmed BMW suppliers of the new cylindrical cells around the world includes CATL and EVE Energy (each of them will build one plant in Europe and one in China).

"The AESC Florence site supports the Company"s multi-year partnership with BMW Group, announced in October 2022. Under the agreement, AESC will supply technology-leading battery cells for next generation electric vehicle models produced at BMW"s Spartanburg plant. The advanced battery format will result in 20% higher energy density than the current generation, with reduced charging time and increased range and efficiency of 30%."

The Japanese company, initially established as a joint venture between Nissan and NEC, was acquired by the Envision Group in 2019. It was renamed to Envision AESC shortly. As far as we know, at the time, Nissan maintained some stake in the company of around 20 percent. Most recently, the company was renamed again to AESC.

An interesting thing is that AESC previously was focused on pouch battery cells (mid- to high-nickel cathodes), while the project in South Carolina is related to the all-new, large, cylindrical cells. AESC notes that over the past 13 years (since 2010, when the Nissan Leaf was introduced), the company produced batteries for more than 800,000 EVs (most likely including BEVs, PHEVs and HEVs) "achieving a flawless record of "zero critical incidents."

"This groundbreaking marks another major milestone in AESC"s commitment to investing in South Carolina and manufacturing electric vehicle batteries. AESC continues to be a global leader in developing next generation EV battery technology, and we"re proud to be further growing our capacity to build those products in U.S. facilities, accelerating the transition to clean energy transportation."

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