



# Industrial microgrids cook islands

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October 1, 2020: Rolls-Royce, the UK multinational engineering company, is to supply the batteries for a microgrid on the remote Pacific island of Rarotonga, one of the Cook Islands roughly halfway between Los Angeles and Sydney, Rolls-Royce Power Systems announced on September 3.

In this installation the luxury carmaker's business unit, Power Systems, will supply three battery containers of MTU EnergyPacks with a total storage capacity of 4.2MWh and a power output of 4.8MW. The PV systems, diesel generators and battery containers will supply 11,000 householders on the island with grid support.

The other two Rolls-Royce and Vector Powersmart projects on the Cook Islands were in the island of Aitutaki, where a microgrid has been operating since 2019, and the holiday resort of Glenorchy in New Zealand.

In August, Rolls-Royce Power Systems announced it would be increasing its capacity for producing battery containers by manufacturing the MTU EnergyPacks in Bavaria, Germany, where the firm already has a production facility.

"We see growing demand for MTU EnergyPacks, since more and more customers are seeking on-site power generation solutions that use renewables," said Cordelia Thielitz, vice president of the Microgrid Solutions division.

Rolls-Royce Power Systems has a product portfolio that includes battery containers for mission critical, standby and continuous power, combined generation of heat and power, and microgrids.

Batteries International has been serving the energy storage and battery industry for over 25 years and has a well deserved reputation as being an authoritative source on all aspects of the industry.

Germany-based Rolls-Royce Power Systems, which is owned by Rolls-Royce Holdings with holdings in engine manufacturing brands and facilities, will supply three MTU EnergyPacks for use with a micro-grid in Rarotonga, the largest and most populous of the Cook Islands.

The company said all of Rarotonga's 11,000 residents receive power from the micro-grid operated by utility Te Aponga Uira and the 4.2 MWh energy storage system - in three 40-foot containers with a total power output of 4.8 MVA - will provide a power reserve and grid support for the solar and diesel-powered network.

The storage developer claims the MTU Energypack is ideal for deployment in sites where space is at a premium and logistics demanding, for the integration of renewables facilities into power networks and the provision of frequency regulation and other ancillary services to utilities. The containers are available in three formats with nominal capacities of 2,600, 1,000 and 550 kWh. Rolls Royce said the battery system comprises



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scalable vertical racks.

The Cook Islands government wants renewable energy on all its islands by 2025. The authorities plan to roll out solar plants on five islands, part-funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB); European Union; Global Environment Fund; the government of Japan via the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Pacific Environment Community Fund, or PEC); and the Green Climate Fund, through the ADB's Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Investment Program.

The low-lying archipelago, one of the nations on the climate change front line, had just 7 MW of solar generation capacity at the end of 2019, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

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