Manufacturing energy storage canada

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As you may have noticed from our recent coverage, Canada’s energy storage market is well-poised to build on foundations laid by early adopters and supportive regulators and politicians. Justin Rangooni, executive director of trade association Energy Storage Canada (ESC) takes us through some of the key developments to date.

The last 12 months have seen considerable development in Canada"s energy storage market. The result is a sense of powerful momentum building within the sector to accelerate the development and deployment of energy storage, particularly within the context of enabling Canada"s net-zero goals.

These mechanisms represent critical steps on Canada"s part to keep pace with the United States" ITCs through the IRA, which are estimated to increase US storage deployments by as much as 24% over the next five years.

It"s not hard to imagine in the context of a 68% increase in energy storage worldwide in 2022, with additional commitments from several markets totaling 130GW by 2030.

Canada has seen several landmark developments at the provincial level as well, including the government of Ontario"s October 2022 announcement of one of largest competitive energy storage procurements in North America at 2.5 GW, with the first tranche of projects announced on 16 May.

This milestone was further augmented by this spring"s announcement of the 250MW Oneida Energy Storage project moving toward commercial operation in Ontario, as the project partners achieved financial close with key long-term contracting in place.

Elsewhere, on the east coast, NB Power is soliciting proposals for 50MW of energy storage projects in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia recently proposed amendments to the Electricity Act to enable grid-scale battery contracts and procurements.

Energy Storage Canada"s 2022 report, Energy Storage: A Key Net Zero Pathway in Canada indicates Canada will need a minimum of 8 to 12GW of energy storage to ensure Canada achieves its 2035 goals. Moreover, while each province"s supply structure differs, potential capacity for energy storage was identified in all Canadian provinces, meeting demand needs and optimizing generation, transmission, and distribution assets.

However, that leaves a wide gap to close to realize Canada"s goals and to reach the full potential for energy storage in the country. Even the low end of the estimated potential for storage is equivalent to Manitoba"s entire installed generating capacity as of 2020.

For every resource and grid, there is a storage technology and duration to match, whether it be short duration

grid-scale lithium-ion batteries, compressed air, or flywheel storage, geothermal or pumped hydro.

We are seeing in Canada and across the globe the critical recognition of the unique role energy storage can play and the diversity of services these resources can provide.

It is vital going forward that policymakers and government agencies coordinate their efforts to revamp the regulatory and legislative framework to include and accommodate energy storage. System planning and procurement approaches need to evolve to ensure pricing and investment incentives reflect the reality of storage deployment and the benefits it provides.

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