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The revamped microgrid at the Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat will improve reliability and lower costs by combining electricity from solar, wind and battery storage, according to Siemens.

Under the project, Siemens will add smart grid features to an existing microgrid setup in the Smart Grid and Protection Lab at the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The smart grid software includes intelligent control algorithms to optimize power production, energy storage and consumption in real-time, according to Siemens. With the Siemens" smart grid software, students will be able to simulate different situations and monitor the microgrid"s behavior through a control panel.

Siemens expects microgrid deployment will increase in Oman and across the Middle East. Researchers at the university have been exploring the possibility of linking microgrids in rural parts of Oman where communities are supplied by diesel generators. The generators could be replaced with wind and solar generation.

"We are seeing greater adoption of renewable energy across the Middle East, and this is driving demand for microgrids, which increase grid resilience, efficiency and reduce the cost of transmission and distribution," Claudia Vergueiro Massei, CEO of Siemens in Oman, told Microgrid Knowledge. "We think microgrids will become more common in the region, because they diversify and improve power supply and provide consumers the option of selling excess energy to the grid."

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