

Russia off-grid energy storage

Hevel Energo Servis has developed a new solar+storage project under Russia's energy service scheme to help independent power producers to sell power to municipalities with diesel power plants via a competitive bidding scheme.

Hevel Energo Servis, a unit of Russian PV module maker and project developer Hevel Solar, has finalized the construction of an off-grid solar+storage project in Chukotka, the easternmost federal region of Russia, in the Arctic.

The off-grid power station will help municipality reduce diesel consumption by 30%; the head of corporate communications for Hevel Solar, Anton Usachev, told pv magazine. The fuel savings are expected to reach 2130 tons during a 10-year energy service contract.

The project was built under Russia's energy service scheme, which enables independent power producers to sell power to municipalities that own and operate diesel power plants via a competitive bidding scheme. Upon completion and commissioning of the facility, the municipality remunerates the selected bidder on a monthly basis, with the revenue derived mainly from diesel economy volumes and generated power.

The levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) of the project was estimated by Usachev at between RUB 13 (\$0.18) and RUB 19/kWh, which can be explained by complicated logistics; he said.

Hevel Solar is also building off-grid solar plants in the Russian Far East, the country's easternmost region, where access to electricity and transmission networks is limited. The region, which is the largest and least populated district of Russia, has the poorest energy and transport infrastructure in the country. The company has also built off-grid PV installations totaling 2.8 MW in the Siberian regions of Altay, Tyva and Zabaikalsky.

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Russian module and cell manufacturer Hevel Solar has constructed a 2.6MW off-grid solar-plus-diesel project in the Chukotka autonomous region on the east coast of Russia, which the company said is the first of its kind

in the Russian Arctic zone.

Completed through Hevel's energy service business, the project is made up of two installs that comprise a 550kW PV array and a 470kWh battery energy system. The Moscow-based company invested roughly US\$2.7 million in the scheme.

Hevel hopes the plant will help the municipality reduce diesel consumption by 30% and save 2,130 tons of fuel over 10 years. It is automatically operated and will be used to provide energy for 700 households in two remote, local villages.

Previously, Hevel has built off-grid PV installations with a total capacity of 2.8MW in Siberian regions of Altay, Tyva and Zabaikalsky. The company operates an off-grid fleet of 40 solar plants in rural areas of Siberia and the Far East with a total solar capacity of 13.5MW. It also recently won 40MW of PV projects in a renewables auction in Kazakhstan.

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