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A state-owned solar-plus-storage project being developed in Mexico firmly establishes the shift in government thinking on energy storage, a local battery storage firm told sister siteEnergy-Storage.news.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat) last week conditionally authorised the construction of a transmission line for the Puerto Pe?asco Photovoltaic Power Plant, a megaproject combining 1GW of solar PV and 190MW of battery energy storage.

The project in the state of Sonora was first proposed by the Federal Electricity Commission (Comision Federal de Electricidador CFE) in late 2021 but has moved forward in the last few months. The solar PV will be built in four stages with completion due by 2028.

The total investment required has been reported at around US\$1.6 billion, or 33 billion Pesos, with ownership to be split 54:46 between the federal government and the state of Sonora.

Alejandro Fajer, managing director of Mexico City-basedbattery storage system integrator Quartux, said it is the first energy storage project by the current government and a massive turning point for the country"s grid-scale market.

CAF--development bank of Latin America--signed a technical cooperation agreement to assist the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) in designing its technology adoption strategy and projects for energy storage systems, a technology option increasingly used to offset changes in energy supply and demand and provide greater flexibility, reliability and stability to power supply systems.

Storage systems are key to adding value to sustainable energy and in the transformation of energy systems. Their job is to store electricity and supply it when it is most needed, acting as a balance between supply and demand, and helping to stabilize the grid. The technical cooperation will include a behavior analysis of the Mexican Electricity System in specific regions, in order to model different scenarios and thus help determine the financial feasibility of the solutions and the most appropriate energy storage technology alternatives.

This technical cooperation is part of CAF's comprehensive support to the CFE and comes in addition to the USD 200 million Credit Line recently granted by the development bank in the context of the economic revival of Latin America and the Caribbean, in an effort to meet the region's short- and medium-term financing needs.

Mexico was the first non-Andean country to join CAF as a Series C shareholder back in 1990, when the presidents of the Andean Community invited the member countries of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) to join the bank.



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