

Warsaw energy storage for backup power

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Around 16GW of battery energy storage system (BESS) projects got preliminary registration for this year's capacity market auction in Poland, developer Hynfra told Energy-Storage.news.

As reported here at the time, the company had a 7.5MW BESS project win an award in last year's auction in December which handed out a total of 5,379MW of contracts. There are five years between capacity market award and delivery so Hynfra's project is deliverable in 2027.

A total of 165MW of BESS projects won awards in the auction, Hynfra founder and CEO Tomoho Umeda said. The largest winning projects were 21MW of capacity from a 50MW/100MWh project by Sweden-based developer OX2 and a 120MW/500MWh project from Columbus Energy.

For the upcoming one in December, 16GW of BESS got preliminary registration to the capacity market, the first step to participating in the auction, he added, of which 580MW is Hynfra's, through its Hynfra Energy Storage arm.

"Not all will make it," Umeda said, but Hynfra is "doing all it can" to put its 580MW in, and plans to submit 2GW for next year's.

The grid is still 70-75% powered by coal which has skyrocketed in price since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, leading to increased renewable energy targets and 50GW of renewable capacity targeted by 2030 (and 88GW by 2040). Most of this will be solar PV due to restrictive rules for onshore wind projects.

"Local municipalities are at the forefront of actual decarbonisation, not central Government. While coal is still pretty expensive local governments operating coal powered CHP's are facing financial pressure. Renewables require spatial planning which is local governments exclusive domain," Umeda said.

The local municipalities are also aware that industry will start to leave if it cannot source clean energy, as large companies will have to decarbonise their supply chains starting in 2028-30.

The current heavy reliance on coal means energy arbitrage is an attractive near-term revenue stream for BESS, as Umeda explained: "With this duck tail curve of renewables, we witness substantial imbalance in the energy market when solar/wind generation is not available and conventional assets need to step in. It usually means that late afternoon (evening) hours, when power demand peaks, the price on spot market skyrockets. This makes price arbitrage it's also an interesting business in Poland for storage systems."

He also said that integrating BESS with electromobility hubs to optimise their charging patterns could be another revenue stream as logistics will increasingly need to electrify their fleets because of EU taxonomy rules.

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

