

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Chile's communication base station flow battery is environmentally friendly



Overview

Repurposing spent batteries in communication base stations (CBSs) is a promising option to dispose massive spent lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) from electric vehicles (EVs), yet the environmental fe.

Are battery energy storage systems a viable alternative for Chilean power producers?

With transmission lines at overcapacity and permitting delays slowing the development of new grid infrastructure, battery energy storage systems (BESS) have surged as a profitable alternative for Chilean power producers.

Will Chile be able to develop energy storage projects in 2024?

In 2022, Chile passed an energy storage and electromobility bill, which made stand-alone storage projects profitable, but the market is still expecting new rules on capacity payment for storage projects, which are to be approved in 2024. Chile has also put in place an auction procedure to award public land for the development of BESS projects.

How can Chile keep up with the changing energy demand landscape?

Chile is exploring a variety of solutions to keep abreast of the changing energy demand landscape ranging from BESS to innovative projects using CO₂. In March 2024, BESS Coya, the largest battery-based energy storage system in Latin America, started operations.

How many energy storage projects are in Chile?

According to a December 2023 publication on the InvestChile website, the country had 23 approved energy storage projects with a total of 3,000 MW of capacity. Chile is exploring a variety of solutions to keep abreast of the changing energy demand landscape ranging from BESS to innovative projects using CO₂.

How much does a battery cost in Chile?

In fact, batteries charged at nearly \$0/MWh during the day in the sunny,

northern desert regions of Chile, sell energy at night for over \$100/MWh. Although projects such as Engie's BESS Coya are already enjoying these large spreads, this capacity payment will partially de-risk Chile's dependence on volatile, but still profitable, merchant revenues.

Can repurposed EV batteries be used in communication base stations?

Among the potential applications of repurposed EV LIBs, the use of these batteries in communication base stations (CBSs) is one of the most promising candidates owing to the large-scale onsite energy storage demand (Heymans et al., 2014; Sathre et al., 2015).

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