



Energy storage for renewable energy congo

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In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an engineering, procurement and construction solar company has completed and commissioned a 120kWh hybrid solar PV mini-grid project.

The mini-grid system consists of the RMU (Ring Main Unit) that uses the Alpha energy storage system to collect all real-time information for online monitoring and to identify any faults in case they occur.

According to the International Energy Agency's 2019 Africa Energy Outlook, the DRC has one of the world's lowest electrification rates with a national electrification access rate of 9%. This breaks down to 1% in rural areas and 19% in urban areas.

Less than 10% of the population has access to electricity today, making Democratic Republic of the Congo the country with the largest number of people without access in Africa after Nigeria.

Hydropower accounts for 96% of domestic power generation as of December 2022. However, this system will benefit the residents of Mambasa by providing a sustainable power supply when there is no hydroelectricity.

This solar PV plus energy storage hybrid mini-grid in the DRC provides a reliable alternative and cheaper option for the residents of Mambasa by powering healthcare facilities and facilitating small businesses.

To complete the project successfully, Aptech Africa had to overcome challenges like high insecurity in some regions, poor roads, strenuous customs clearance process for goods entering the country and damage to materials.

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