



Microgrid development united kingdom

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A first-of-its-kind microgrid project, led by the Sunderland City Council in the UK, aims to deliver 100% renewable electricity for car manufacturer Nissan and its suppliers in the UK, as part of a larger electric vehicle manufacturing plan.

"We're proud to be acting as a key enabler, working to secure an ?80 [\$110] million infrastructure project ... bringing together energy generation, consumption and storage through a dedicated microgrid," said Councilor Graeme Miller, Sunderland City Council's leader.

The project is part of the wider announcement of Nissan EV36Zero, a \$1.4 billion electric vehicle hub, creating an electric vehicle manufacturing ecosystem centered around Nissan's manufacturing plant in Sunderland.

Nissan and its partners, Envision AESC, a global player in battery technology, and Sunderland City Council, will make the initial investment. This will fund three interconnected initiatives: electric vehicles, battery production and the renewable energy microgrid.

According to Nissan, the project is a globally unique combination of 600,000 vehicles per year production capacity at a 35-year old plant, with on-site battery production, renewable energy and second life batteries as storage.

The clean energy supplied by the microgrid will benefit the other announced initiatives; \$585 million will be invested in the production of a new-generation all electric vehicle, and \$622 million for Envision AESC to build the UK's first gigafactory. The factory will produce batteries for up to 100,000 Nissan electric vehicles per year.

The Grove Park housing and business development at Sellindge, near Ashford in Kent, will be powered exclusively via a renewable energy plus storage microgrid coupled with a smart grid management controller.

Housing developer Quinn Estates is working with SNRG SmartGrids, a microgrid-as-a-service company that is backed by Centrica, one of the UK's largest energy companies. SNRG will design, finance, build and operate the privately owned microgrid, providing energy-as-a-service for the 162 houses being built at the project.

Grove Park has outline planning consent and although firm details for the microgrid are still being finalized, construction development is expected to commence by the middle of 2022. It will form part of a pipeline of some 24,000 homes that Quinn Estates has in planning across southeast England.



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"This project is reflective of the fact that we really have to decarbonize if we are going to meet our climate change goals. The Future Homes Standard will require new homes to be zero carbon-ready and all electric with no gas network connection. The government has set a target of implementing that by 2025," Dan Nicholls, managing director of SNRG SmartGrids, told Microgrid Knowledge.

The SNRG business model is designed to reduce risk, cost and complexity for the construction industry as it moves to develop all electric housing. Part of the smart management system includes an EV charge management system to limit peak loads as part of a demand-side response capability.

Nicholls noted, "There is a knock-on benefit for the developer in terms of the amount of capacity that needs to be secured and the noncontestable costs associated with reinforcing the distribution network." Consumers also have to shoulder some of this cost.

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