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During Covid-19, said Linh Tran, Director of Sales for LG Energy Solution in North America, "We've worked from home, educated our children from home, and our livelihoods are attached to how much time we're spending in our homes. The need to have backup power during times when it's become more common to have outages is more severe. We have more to lose now if there's a power outage than ever before."

LG Chem, the Korean chemical company that has become one of the world's largest manufacturers of lithium-ion batteries of all kinds, this month put its energy storage system eggs into a separate share market basket, spinning off its battery business as LG Energy Solution.

The move was described by The Korea Times as designed to "prevent its debt-financed investments in its electric vehicle (EV) battery business from affecting the company's petrochemical business, as well as to secure additional capital for further battery sector expansion."

At Friday's virtual launch of the company's third-generation RESU battery products, Youngjoon Shin, Senior Vice President of ESS Business at LG Energy Solution, said the newly launched entity, which started in the ESS business in 2010 "is set to become the most important of the lot" of LG Chem companies, "as it makes a sustainable future in a connected society possible".

"As we all know," said Tran, "power electronics is where most of your issues are going to happen, and now you can just pop the top and replace it", providing a "much more field serviceable unit" because "the heavy stuff", the lithium, can stay where it is.

In addition, remote battery monitoring provides real-time status reports and early diagnosis of problems. Tran said the RESU monitor will have both a web-based user interface for homeowners and an app for installers that provides a separate line of sight into the battery outside of the inverter. She added that primarily the monitoring will help reduce site visits and the overall cost of maintaining the system.

The smaller system is available in Australia this year, while prospective buyers can ponder the value offered by the RSU16H for a few months -- it's scheduled to arrive some time in March 2021. Philip Crotty, General Manager of LG Energy Solutions in Australia, said "it will land with Clean Energy Council approval".

Up to four RESU Flex battery units of 8.6~17.2 kWh capacity, and with rated power of 4.3~8.5 kW and 5~11 kW peak, can be connected in different ways to offer optimised capacity for the needs of large households or for small businesses.

"But what's really neat about it is this modular capability," said Tran, showing four battery modules

served by a single control unit. "You have multiple energy capacities and multiple core factor configurations and it becomes a showpiece -- showcasing your renewable energy," she said.

Pricing has not yet been revealed on the new-generation LG RESU series, but increased performance throughout the battery life, as well capacity and flexibility -- even in the RESU Prime range -- will factor in to buyer decision making.

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