Podgorica energy storage for backup power

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Project firm EE Korita intends to install a solar power plant on 505 hectares in Bijelo Polje in Montenegro’s northeast. It filed a request to the Environmental Protection Agency to decide whether an environmental impact assessment report is necessary for the photovoltaic facility, with a proposed peak capacity of 280 MW and a 240 MW grid connection.

The latest major project on the pile of proposed solar power investments formally backed by the government highlighted the fact that Montenegro still doesn’t have a single utility-scale photovoltaic facility. Even the Briska gora project, under development by Elektroprivreda Crne Gore (EPCG) and Fortum from Finland, can’t seem to get off the ground.

The solar power plant is envisaged at 50 MW in the first phase and another 200 MW later. In addition, the state-owned coal and electricity producer plans to build the first floating solar power plant in Montenegro at its Slano reservoir near the city of Nik?i?. It said the facility would have 40 MW.

However, the installation of 47 MW on the roofs and on land at the former steelworks ?eljezara Nik?i?, which EPCG has taken over early this year, is underway, with 10 MW in the first phase. The utility is also based in the country’s second-largest city.

It should be noted that the company intends to build two solar power plants at the Slano and Vrtac dams of its hydropower plant Peru?ica, with a combined capacity of 3.7 MW. The government included it in priority investments. Last but not least, EPCG and United States-based UGT Renewables agreed in November to jointly develop renewables and energy storage projects.

Only since late last year, the nameplate capacity of planned solar power investments that received urban planning and technical requirements from the government in Podgorica has reached the gigawatt scale. Some of the projects are among the largest in Southeastern Europe and beyond.

It is becoming clear that the scope exceeds the country’s needs and that it could take years to build the required transmission and other grid infrastructure. Governments facing a glut in renewable energy project pipelines usually introduce guarantee payments per megawatt or give an advantage to investments paired with battery storage.

At the top of the list in terms of capacity is RES Montenegro Group, which has received urban planning and technical requirements for a 506 MW facility. CWP Europe is developing the Montechevo project of 400 MW. Both locations are on the territory of the historical capital of Cetinje.

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A 150 MW system is planned by a firm called Solar Power in the village of Velestovo, where RES Montenegro Group’s PV park would be, while M Energy recently signed the first agreement on connecting a solar power plant of 385 MW to the grid. It intends to install it on land in Nik?i? and Cetinje.

Unipan Green received urban planning and technical requirements for a solar power plant with a connection capacity of up to 100 MW. The location is in Botun, just south of Podgorica, where the company is registered.

The government issued one other such document, for a photovoltaic park of up to 15 MW in connection capacity in Povija in Nik?i?. The firm, TM Invest, is based in Podgorica. The same developer got urban planning and technical requirements in April for a solar park on two locations in Bogeti?i near Nik?i?. The connection capacity is seen at up to 18 MW.

Another large project is for an agrisolar park in the Vu?a settlement in the municipality of Ro?aje. BSD Invest Europe from Hungary is planning a peak capacity of 148.3 MW and a 123.6 MW connection at the location on the border with Serbia. It got the urban planning and technical requirements last month.