

Can storage technology solve the storage problem in Japan?

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION AND SOLVING THE STORAGE PROBLEM: A LOOK AT JAPAN The rapid growth of renewable energy in Japan raises new challenges regarding intermittency of power generation and grid connection and stability. Storage technologies have the potential to resolve these issues.

What drives energy storage adoption in Japan?

Shunsuke Kawashima, who works across Itochu's BESS business at all scales including residential, commercial and industrial (C&I) and utility-scale, opened the discussion by highlighting the drivers for energy storage adoption in Japan, of which he said there are two: increasing renewable energy generation and increasing demand for electricity.

What is the future of energy storage in Japan?

Other small-scale uses, such as data center backup energy storage are projected by NEDO to become commercially widespread in Japan before 2020. Overall, large and centralized storage technologies have been mature for a longer period of time. In Japan and in the EU, research and development efforts are heavily focusing on batteries.

What role does energy storage technology play in Japan's Energy Future?

Given the fundamental direction of Japan's energy landscape, energy storage technology is set to play an integral part in Japan's energy future due to energy storage technology's role in both smart grid technology and in renewable energy's integration into Japan's energy landscape.

Why is Japan investing in utility-scale energy storage?

Increased investment in utility-scale energy storage. **JAPAN'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITIONS** Since 2012, the Japanese government has actively championed renewable energy as an environmentally friendly power source, resulting in renewable energy

Does Japan need energy storage infrastructure?

The plan also calls for the widespread promotion of energy efficient management systems (EMS) in Japan. At the national level, and in a long-term strategic sense, this context has given rise to the structural demand for energy storage infrastructure on Japan's energy market.

Japan is one of the most talked-about emerging grid-scale energy storage markets in Asia, and as such, it featured prominently at the Energy Storage Summit Asia, held in Singapore earlier this month.

Japan depends on the Middle East for about 90% of its crude oil requirements. It also largely relies on imports of LNG and coal from Asia and Oceania. If anything happens in these regions, a stable supply of energy for Japan will be jeopardized.

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For a stable supply of electricity, renewable energy generation must be combined with thermal power generation providing variable output, or technologies such as storage batteries to compensate for output fluctuations.

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The gradual restart of nuclear power generation, expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency gains have reduced the need for imported fossil fuels, and contributed to a continuous decline in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

energy generation, as well as local-level, small-scale energy trading. In principle, associated energy storage capacity is needed in all of these contexts. Energy storage technology adds value by maintaining energy system flexibility in a cost-effective manner across the energy supply chain.

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deployment of energy storage also promises benefits in terms of increasing Japan's domestic energy security and lowering energy prices for consumers by fostering a well-functioning internal electricity market.

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