

Could a plant in New Caledonia make electric car batteries better?

Nickel is vital to electric car batteries, but extracting it is dirty and destructive. A plant with a turbulent history in New Caledonia is about to become an experiment in doing it better. GORO, New Caledonia -- From the reef-fringed coast of New Caledonia, the Coral Sea stretches into the South Pacific.

What will TotalEnergies do in New Caledonia?

Noumea, December 20, 2021 - TotalEnergies will develop a series of photovoltaic and energy storage projects in New Caledonia in order to deliver decarbonized electricity via a 25-year renewable power purchase agreement (PPA) for the industrial operations of mining and metallurgy consortium Prony Resources New Caledonia.

What will Prony Resources New Caledonia do with solar energy?

Per a 25-year renewable power purchase agreement, the clean energy produced from the solar projects will supply power to industrial operations of Prony Resources New Caledonia. TotalEnergies will use its expertise in solar projects to build a 160-MW solar project, with the first phase of 30 MW expected to come online by 2023.

Does New Caledonia have a nickel mine?

Nickel is increasingly in demand for its use in batteries for electric vehicles, and New Caledonia may hold up to a quarter of the world's reserves. Transporting nickel ore across a landscape ravaged by mining. Electric vehicles have a green reputation, but extracting the materials needed to build them is a dirty process.

Can New Caledonia pull off a green nickel?

If any place can pull off the feat of green nickel, it is New Caledonia. Because of its status as a French overseas territory, New Caledonia, with a population of 270,000 people, is bound by rigorous European environmental and labor standards.

Is New Caledonia a nickel producer?

New Caledonia is one of the largest nickel producers, but in December protests by groups seeking independence from France for the island delayed the sale of the loss-making Goro mine and refinery by Brazilian miner Vale to a consortium called Prony Resources.

Tesla has agreed to buy nickel from a mine in New Caledonia in a move to secure its supply of the battery metal, which its chief executive Elon Musk has called the group's "biggest concern."

Scaling up battery production requires investment in infrastructure and technology, as well as streamlined regulation. Building new manufacturing capacity is time-consuming. From 77% of global battery manufacturing in 2022, China's share is expected to see a modest decline to 69% in 2027 while the U.S. will

rise from 6% to 10% over that ...

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The government of New Caledonia, a French overseas territory in Polynesia, has given the green light to the construction of a 50-MW/150-MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) by domestic renewable power ...

Akuo plans to deploy 200 MWh of battery storage in New Caledonia, supplying 50 MW for three hours per day over 12 years. The facility will primarily support the operation of nickel mines ...

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To compete against these low-cost rivals, New Caledonia is now positioning itself as a supplier of top-grade nickel for rechargeable batteries rather than the cheaper product used for stainless...

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