
Switzerland Zurich Electric Sodium Sulfur Energy Storage Project

Which energy storage projects have been commissioned in Switzerland?

Axpo commissioned its BESS in February this year while utility Thurplus commissioned a 3MW system in September last year. But Switzerland was the location for one of the largest energy storage projects commissioned in recent years, a 20GWh pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) unit which started operations in June 2022 in the Canton of Valais.

How does a sodium-sulfur battery work?

The sodium-sulfur battery uses sulfur combined with sodium to reversibly charge and discharge, using sodium ions layered in aluminum oxide within the battery's core. The battery shows potential to store lots of energy in small space.

Who makes sodium sulfur batteries?

Utility-scale sodium-sulfur batteries are manufactured by only one company, NGK Insulators Limited (Nagoya, Japan), which currently has an annual production capacity of 90 MW. The sodium sulfur battery is a high-temperature battery. It operates at 300°C and utilizes a solid electrolyte, making it unique among the common secondary cells.

How long does a sodium sulfur battery last?

Lifetime is claimed to be 15 years or 4500 cycles and the efficiency is around 85%. Sodium sulfur batteries have one of the fastest response times, with a startup speed of 1 ms. The sodium sulfur battery has a high energy density and long cycle life. There are programmes underway to develop lower temperature sodium sulfur batteries.

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