
Perth WA: 15 February 2023

Hybrid Systems Australia delivers big batteries for Fortescue

Hybrid Systems Australia has delivered Western Australia's largest network-integrated battery energy storage system (BESS) as a part of Fortescue Metals Group's Pilbara Energy Connect project, which aims to power the miner's Pilbara iron ore operations with renewable energy.

Hybrid Systems Australia, Pacific Energy's integrated renewables subsidiary, designed, installed and commissioned 42MW of interconnected battery storage for two Fortescue mine sites, making it one of the world's largest network-connected BESS to be developed for a mining application.

The batteries, which are now fully operational, have been developed alongside solar and new low emissions gas fired generation that will be owned and operated by Fortescue as part of the Company's Pilbara Energy Connect program (PEC).

The battery systems use industry-leading grid stabilising control systems, including millisecond-response capabilities and Kokam battery technology, to provide greater protection against load spikes and dips and ensure overall network stability.

The batteries' primary role is for grid stability and support, providing spinning reserve backup to any gas generation outages or sudden changes in the solar output.

The batteries will store energy from Fortescue's planned 150MW of nearby solar, enabling mining activities to be powered by more renewable energy and cutting the annual carbon emissions of the mines.

With the planned future expansion of Fortescue's renewable network, BESS such as these will play a key role in enabling reliability to the network and enabling further capacity for more renewables to be added in the future.

Mike Hall, Executive Director of Hybrid Systems Australia, said that the project represented one of the largest and most technologically advanced BESS projects the company had undertaken, and that systems of this size were critical to Fortescue's move towards eliminating the use of fossil fuels in their operations by 2030.

"Our industry-leading design, network integration experience and strong partnerships meant we could readily deliver a large-scale solution that will allow Fortescue to continue its rapid upscale of renewable capacity and deliver on its real zero target," he said.

"Our BESS are built specifically for remote Australia's harsh conditions and can be sized from 1MW to 200MW, which makes them ideal for large-scale mining applications where the objective is greater reliance on clean energy."

"We're pleased to safely deliver this project, without incident, to a client that is committed to increasing its use of renewable energy so significantly."

Fortescue Chief Operating Officer Iron Ore Dino Otranto said, “At Fortescue, we are committed to eliminating the use of fossil fuels across our operations by 2030. We were pleased to partner with Hybrid Systems Australia on the battery energy storage systems, which are a significant component of our investment in the Pilbara Energy Connect (PEC) program.

“PEC will not only supply low-cost power to our Iron Bridge operations, but importantly will support Fortescue’s world leading decarbonisation agenda, allowing the incorporation of additional large scale renewable energy into our network in the future.”

The success of the project speaks to Pacific Energy Group’s broad-ranging and in-house capabilities, including specialised involvement from its subsidiaries, Pacific Energy Pty Ltd, which is delivering the PEC’s low-emissions gas-fuelled power station, MVLV Power Solutions, which designed, manufactured and installed the switchgear and BESS enclosures, and Digital Intelligence, which delivered the BESS control systems.

Hybrid Systems Australia partnered with Hitachi Energy and Kokam to bring together expertise and key battery components from the two specialist equipment suppliers to deliver an industry leading solution for Fortescue.

Hybrid Systems Australia also worked closely with Supply Nation accredited vendors, including electrical contractor, Boodjara Pty Ltd, and local electrical wholesalers, Myelec and D&W Electrical.

-END-

About Hybrid Systems Australia

Hybrid Systems Australia is a nationally recognised leader in renewable energy that is headquartered in Perth, Western Australia, with operations extending to the Northern Territory.

The company specialises in grid-connected and off-grid renewable energy and storage systems and the end-to-end provision of renewable energy services, including design, procurement, manufacturing, testing, installation and commissioning.

Hybrid Systems Australia has a proven track record delivering solar PV, wind power, stand-alone power systems (SPS), battery energy storage systems (BESS), hydrogen and back-up thermal generation projects.

Hybrid Systems Australia is a subsidiary of Pacific Energy Group Holdings Pty Ltd, an Australian-owned market leader in the delivery of sustainable power generation solutions, which is owned by QIC, a globally significant infrastructure investor.

For more information, visit www.hybridsystems.com.au or follow us on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hybrid-systems-australia>

Media contacts

Nicole Passarelli, Group Marketing & Communications Manager

P: +61 421 213 332

E: communications@pacificenergy.com.au