

Wind Turbine Repowering in Kythnos



"Kythnos has a long history of innovative green energy projects since 1982 and the installation of Europe's first wind farm"



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The European Islands Facility NESOI aims to unlock the potential of EU islands to become the locomotives of European Energy Transition. To do so, NESOI aims to mobilize more than €100 million of investment in sustainable energy projects to give EU islands the opportunity to implement energy technologies and innovative approaches, in a cost-competitive way. NESOI has selected 56 such projects across the European Union and provide them with financial resources and technical support.

😉 Wind Turbine Repowering in Kythnos





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Wind Turbine Repowering in Kythnos- Interview

INTERVIEW WITH

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A: The first ever wind farm in Europe was in Kythnos. This was the most important selection factor of this technology and island, as well as the repowering needs that existed.

Q: What were the challenges?

A: The change of land use on the island was one of the challenge, together with the implementation of repowering within the existing legal framework.

Q: How does the project affect citizens at the local level? How are they involved?

A: When relocating the new wind turbine, and if the legal framework allows repowering, the local community will be consulted (local authorities, professionals, residents directly or indirectly affected), and participatory activities will be undertaken. In addition, an effort will be made to find a new location that meets environmental and social criteria. Finally, local professionals will be involved in the construction and management of the project, creating a positive impact on local economy.

Q: What will be done next to pursue this project? How far is it from concrete implementation?

A: If the project can be implemented according to the plan and there can be a modification of the licenses, the licensing of the new hybrid project and the relocation of the wind farm will begin.

Q: What are your next steps towards clean energy transition?

A: The island of Kythnos has an excellent wind potential. The installation of batteries together with wind farms should allow meeting the energy needs of the island community. The installation of solar panels is also being considered.

THE IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITY



1 Local Economy

Growth is expected due to ecotourism. Several new jobs related to the operation of the overall system are envisaged.

2 Social Acceptance

Expected increase in tourism activity and the green technologies that are applied will lead to increased levels of social acceptance.

3 Local Grid

The project will increase grid stability as it will smooth-out the wind turbine energy output and make it more predictable.



Wind Turbine Repowering in Kythnos– Technical Data

FOCUS ON THE COMBINATION OF WIND TURBINES AND BEHIND-THE-METER BATTERIES

By contrast with large interconnected power systems, the penetration of intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind in non-interconnected island (NII) systems is subject to technical and security limitations.

Two main factors bound renewable energy absorption levels in islands: the first one is the stochastic nature of renewable generation; the second one is related to the technical and operational security limitations imposed by thermal units usually operated on islands.

To improve this situation, the deployment of storage facilities "behind-the-meter" of a wind farm allows optimising the clean energy generation and use: the storage system embedded in a wind farm reduces its variability and enhances its dispatchability, while simultaneously providing additional technical benefits.

The optimal sizing of such a behind-the-meter battery energy storage system (BESS) has to be determined according to a thorough analysis of the island's power generation and consumption patterns by relying on a dispatch model aligned with the provisions of the local regulatory framework, dynamic simulations and optimisation algorithms.

In the case of Kythnos, the new wind turbine should have a 900-kW rated power. The production license of PPCR is 665 kW. Calculations show that the BESS' optimal rated power is 390 kW. Thanks to this BESS, the island's RES penetration should increase up to 31%.



Schematic of wind turbine (WT) and behind-the-meter BESS in an autonomous island system (Source: PPCR)

EXPECTED ENERGY SAVINGS

KEY NUMBERS

OF THE PROJECT Designed by NESOI based on data

provided by PPCR

For Kythnos grid, which is not connected to the mainland a PEF of 2.5 is selected, while for the wind turbine a PEF of 1 is selected. Hence, considering the given combined total electricity production substituting the Kythnos thermal station contribution to the grid, the primary energy savings are around 4.5 GWh/yr.



The concept of the proposed project can be applied to many other repowering projects to overcome technical restrictions of non-interconnected electricity systems and diminish wind power curtailments.



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