

Europe's largest battery production plant charges up

Ground broken on EUR 45 million manufacturing facility investment

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The German lithium-ion battery supplier BMZ is investing EUR 45 million in expanding its manufacturing capacity to meet growing demand. The latest figures show the expected boom in the German battery storage market is here. Market experts from Germany Trade & Invest will be at the Energy Storage Europe trade fair in Dusseldorf from March 9 – 11 to discuss the latest trends and investment opportunities in the German market.

Berlin (gtai) - Europe's largest independent lithium-ion battery system manufacturer BMZ is set to quadruple the size of its facilities in Karlstein near Frankfurt to 55,000 m² (592,000 sq ft) by 2020. The construction will take place in a number of phases.

BMZ expects that up to 1,500 employees will produce up to 80 million lithium-ion batteries of various sizes with a total storage capacity of around 5 GWh annually.

The company is a leading player in the batteries market. In 2014, BMZ invested EUR 14 million in research and development and turned over EUR 300 million. The company expects to achieve an annual turnover of EUR 500 million by 2020.

Tobias Rothacher, energy storage market expert at Germany Trade & Invest, notes that it makes absolute sense that BMZ is investing in Germany now: "We have excellent engineers, world-leading logistics and a highly skilled and motivated workforce. And the timing is right too: The latest figures from the KfW development bank show the number of PV-battery system installations increased by 50% last year. Over 20% of new PV systems under 30 kWp now include batteries."

Grid-scale solutions are also gathering pace: The total battery capacity for primary control provision has increased more than 20-fold in Germany in the last three years.

Visit the energy storage market experts from Germany Trade & Invest at Energy Storage Europe in Dusseldorf from March 9 – 11 at booth CSC09.

Contact Us

Andreas Bilfinger

 +49 30 200 099 173

 +49 151 171 500 12

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