

## NEWS RELEASE

### New International Partnership Established to Increase the Use of Energy Storage in Developing Countries

*A global partnership convened by the World Bank Group to foster international cooperation to adapt and develop energy storage solutions for developing countries*

VANCOUVER, May 28, 2019 – On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial and 4<sup>th</sup> Mission Innovation Ministerial, a new international partnership has been established to help expand the deployment of energy storage and bring new technologies to developing countries' power systems. The Energy Storage Partnership (ESP) comprises the World Bank Group and more than 25 organizations working together to help develop energy storage solutions tailored to the needs of developing countries.

Energy transitions are underway in many countries with a significant increase in the use of wind and solar power. To integrate these variable renewable resources into grids at the scale necessary to mitigate climate change, energy storage will be key. The increased use of wind and solar power with storage can help decarbonize power systems; expand energy access; improve grid reliability; and increase energy systems' resilience.

The requirements of developing countries' grids are not yet fully considered in the current energy storage market – even though these countries may have the largest potential for battery deployment. The current battery market is driven by the electric vehicle industry and most mainstream technologies cannot provide long duration storage or withstand harsh climatic conditions and low operation and maintenance capacity.

There is a clear need to catalyze a new market for batteries and other energy storage solutions that are suitable for electricity grids for a variety of grid and off-grid applications and deployable on a large scale. To enable the rapid uptake of variable renewable energy in developing countries, the WBG is convening an [Energy Storage Partnership \(ESP\)](#) that will foster international cooperation on:

- Technology Research Development & Demonstration, Applications
- System Integration and Planning Tools
- Policies, Regulations and Procurement
- Enabling Systems for Management and Sustainability

By connecting stakeholders and sharing international experiences in deploying energy storage solutions, the ESP will help bring new technological and regulatory solutions to developing countries, as well as help develop new business models that leverage the full range of services that storage can provide. The ESP will take a holistic, technology-neutral approach by including all forms of energy storage, including batteries. The ESP will help expand the global market for energy storage, leading to technology improvements and accelerating cost reductions over time.

*“The fast growth we’re seeing in the electric vehicle market is exactly what we need for energy storage in power systems around the world. We want to see batteries connected to the grid, serving mini-grids, and enabling much more use of renewable power from the sun and wind,”* said **Riccardo Puliti**, Senior Director for Energy and Extractives, World Bank. *“This is why we are convening the Energy Storage Partnership and we are honored to work with the partners who have joined this initiative. We’re looking forward to having more partners join the effort.”*

*“Mission Innovation was born out of a global commitment to accelerate clean energy innovation, to make clean energy widely affordable and accessible. We recognize that this cannot be done by Mission*

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*Innovation alone and that we need strong partnerships with organizations like the World Bank to be successful,” said **Frank Des Rosiers**, Chair of the Mission Innovation Steering Committee. “This Energy Storage Partnership with the World Bank aligns with a key innovation opportunity that Mission Innovation members have identified through our Smart Grid Innovation Challenge.”*

*“Power systems are undergoing rapid change. Policy makers and regulators need to actively identify options to increase the flexibility of power systems in their jurisdictions; this not least to accommodate the integration of increasingly larger shares of intermittent renewable generation and distributed energy resources”, said Christian Zinglensen, Head of Secretariat, Clean Energy Ministerial. “This is the focus of several areas of CEM work where storage is an area of increasing interest amongst CEM governments and other partners. Policy and regulatory design will remain key in order for storage-based solutions to contribute cost efficiently to the needs of a changing power mix. Hence, partnerships such as this targeting real-world, deployable solutions are very valuable.”*

The ESP will be hosted at the World Bank’s [Energy Sector Management Assistance Program \(ESMAP\)](#) and will be developed and implemented in partnership with other organizations. The ESP will complement the WBG’s [\\$1 billion battery storage investment program](#) announced in September 2018 to significantly scale up support to battery storage projects and raise an additional \$1 billion in concessional finance.

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**For more information:** Heather Worley, [hworley@worldbank.org](mailto:hworley@worldbank.org); Fernando De Sisternes, [fsisternes@worldbank.org](mailto:fsisternes@worldbank.org)

**Media Contacts:** *In Washington:* Aarthi Sivaraman, +1 (202) 458-7206, [asivaraman@worldbank.org](mailto:asivaraman@worldbank.org)

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