

South Africa s 2 billion energy storage project construction





Overview

The Red Sands project will be the largest standalone BESS to reach this stage on the continent, designed to store power during off-peak hours and release it when demand is highest—providing essential grid stability and flexibility for South Africa's electricity network. Where is Africa's largest battery energy storage system located?

Africa's largest standalone battery energy storage system (BESS) project, the 153 MW/ 612 MWh Red Sands project in the Northern Cape, has reached financial close, having raised some R5.4-billion in debt financing from Absa and Standard Bank.

Who owns the Red Sands battery energy storage system?

Updated 1st July 2025 – The Red Sands Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), set to be Africa's largest of its kind, has officially reached commercial close. Developed by Globeleq, which is 30% owned by Norfund, in partnership with African Rainbow Energy, the 153 MW/612 MWh project was signed off in June 2025 in Cape Town.

Why should we invest in battery energy storage in South Africa?

We applaud the South African government's commitment and dedication to the renewable energy procurement programmes. Battery energy storage will continue to play an important role in the energy transition, and we will continue to be at the forefront across our core markets," says Scatec CEO Terje Pilskog.

Who owns the energy system in Sub-Saharan Africa?

energy system," adds Alberto Gambacorta, GM and EVP Sub-Saharan Africa, Scatec. and Redstreet Funds owning 44.99% and a Community Trust holding 5%. Scatec will maintenance (O&M), and asset management (AM) services to the project. expected to be concluded by the end of Q1 2026. The project will be located in the Free State Province.



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Globeleq's Red Sands Battery Energy Storage Project ...

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South Africa: Government defends BESS ...

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Construction of Eskom's first battery energy ...

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