

Storage instead of routes

Düsseldorf, 29 April 2024 - The German government's Solar Package I has been fast-tracked through the Bundesrat and Bundestag. The aim is to further accelerate the expansion of solar energy. "The big gap in the package, however, is storage," criticises Markus W. Voigt, CEO of the aream Group. "Increased storage capacity could further reduce the costs of photovoltaics and reduce subsidies."

The expansion of solar energy is a success story. In less than 20 years, the sector has developed from a subsidy-dependent industry in Europe to a market industry throughout the world thanks to government support measures such as the 100,000 Roofs Programme. Components such as modules are now over 90 per cent cheaper than they were 15 years ago. At the same time, various models have ensured that communities can participate in the expansion of solar energy and benefit from installations.

However, security of supply remains a problem: without sun there is no solar energy and without wind there is no wind power. At certain times of the year, there can be significant local troughs in wind or solar irradiation, in which case production reductions must be replaced by alternative sources of energy. In order to make renewables capable of meeting base load requirements, they need to be significantly expanded over large areas and the grids and, above all, the storage facilities that can be tapped into in the event of production shortfalls need to be expanded. And that's not all: "If there is more storage, the grids need to be expanded less, especially in the medium-voltage and distribution grids," says Voigt.

"This is where the solar package falls short of what would be important and desirable," says Voigt. Regulatory adjustments are being made step by step in order to further optimise the generation and storage of solar and wind energy and thus bring them closer to base load capability. "However, subsidies could be put to good use when expanding storage, as increased storage capacity reduces the need for new lines," explains Voigt. "The storage infrastructure could be financed, among other things, by not having to invest so much money in the large electricity transmission lines."

About the aream Group

aream Group, founded in 2005, is an investment and asset manager for institutional investors and industrial clients with a focus on sustainable infrastructure in the renewable energy sector. With its three divisions Fund and Asset Management, Project Development and Operation Management, aream covers the entire value chain for renewable energy investments. With a transaction volume of more than 2.5 billion euros, aream is one of the leading asset managers in this market, and its own portfolio of plants generates around 40 million euros worth of green electricity per year. Since 2008, aream has produced more than one billion kWh of green electricity. As part of the growth strategy, several solar and wind parks are to be realized or acquired in the coming years. Through its own project development alone, aream currently has a long development pipeline with great potential. Further information: www.arem.de.

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