California Shifts Dollars to Support Behind-the-Meter Energy Storage for Low-Income Communities

One thing that is a constant in California is the threat of wildfires. Over the last decade, the wildfire season has increased in both its duration and its intensity. Earlier this year, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) earmarked $613 million from the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) to fund behind-the-meter battery-based energy storage for medically-vulnerable, low-income, and other groups impacted by the power outages that often accompany wildfires.

CPUC “doubled down” by adding an addition $108.5 million from SGIP to accelerate the deployment of battery-based behind the meter storage in low-income communities not previously addressed by the $613 million program. The program includes funding for energy storage at schools, wastewater treatment plants, and hospitals. The hope is that these funds will help to reduce the impact of grid-wide shutoffs that often accompany wildfires.

The Fight for Grant Money in the EV Space

There is a legislative commitment to the EV space at the federal, state, and local levels. But, how does one company demonstrate that their vision is worthy of taxpayer or ratepayer dollars? CPUC wants something to demonstrate that an investment is going to be the one to deliver. The answer is often the company that does their homework, shares their vision with the sponsoring agency, and demonstrates the ability to solve a real problem. Let’s find ways to partner and push our industry forward for all of our benefit – contact Rhombus here if you want to partner!

Investment Community Pours More Funds into Electric Vehicles

BlackRock demonstrates confidence in battery-powered electric vehicles (EVs) with an $118 million investment into electric vehicle maker Arrival. Previous investments from CEO Denis Sverdlov, Hyundai, and Kia focused on building battery-powered delivery vans like the one shown here, as well as buses and trucks in “micro-factories” to reduce costs through weight reduction. Arrival’s first US micro-factory will open in Rock Hill, South Carolina in 2021, and will focus on building transit buses.
Rhombus Energy Solutions Multiport Smart Inverter Gains UL 1741, UL 1741-SA Certifications

Late last month, the Rhombus RES-BESS60-DP-480 dual-port smart inverter completed its testing and was certified under the UL 1741 and 1741-DS standards. This newest addition to the Rhombus smart inverter family, has two independently controlled SD input ports that can be utilized with either battery storage systems or photovoltaic (PV) solar energy sources, providing a combined 60kW AC output. The Rhombus 30kW/60kW multi-port smart inverter allows customers to add battery-based energy storage to existing solar installations, or to construct independent microgrids. The Rhombus 30kW/60kW Multi-Port Smart Inverter is one of the few UL 1741-SA certified smart inverters that possesses multiple independent DC ports. It is targeted at commercial and small industrial applications, particularly for peak shaving, load balancing and power factor correction.

Two Ends of the Spectrum – GM Hummer EV, Dacia Spring Electric

In the truck world, bigger is usually considered better. If this is truly the case, General Motors new Hummer EV supertruck fits the bill, especially for electric trucks. Boasting a battery capacity of over 200kWh, three motors, a 350 mile range, and up to 1000 hp, the Hummer EV impresses. It also features four-wheel steering with “crab walk” (the ability to move diagonally), and the ability to raise the body up to six inches. The Hummer EV will be available in Fall 2021 for those who have an extra $112,595 in their pocketbook.

On the other end of the spectrum is the Dacia Spring Electric vehicle from parent company Renault. The Dacia Spring will be released in Europe in Spring 2021 and has a very small price tag of €10,000 (about $12,000), will feature a 140 mile range from its 26.8kWh battery pack and 33kW electric motor, and can be charged with a 6.6kW Level 2 charger or DC charger up to 30kW. If it fits in the back of the Hummer EV, maybe you could use it instead of a spare tire!
Join Rhombus Energy Solutions and IoTecha in Our Upcoming Webinar on Smart Charging Solutions for V2G, Energy Storage, and PV Solar

Join Rick Sander, CEO of Rhombus Energy Solutions, and Oleg Logvinov, CEO of IoTecha, on Thursday November 12th at 10:00am Pacific time as they discuss the role of energy management in Vehicle to Grid (V2G) and energy-storage equipped EV charging infrastructure. Register for the webinar here. If you missed our previous webinar, subscribe to the Rhombus YouTube channel and/or view any of our other webinars or video content here.

Quick Notes from the Electric Vehicle (EV) / Energy Storage Ecosystem

- Electric cars ‘as cheap to manufacture’ as regular models by 2024.
- DoE selects National Labs to establish partnerships for battery manufacturing innovation.
- Tesla clocks record quarter, GMC Hummer EV officially revealed.
- DOE to fund EV charging cybersecurity in Michigan.
- EPA and South Coast AQMD spend $21.7M on electric Volvo trucks.
- GM’s renamed Factor ZERO to be retooled for all-EV production.
- California’s air pollution cops are eyeing Uber and Lyft – proposal would require 60% of ride-hail miles to be in electric vehicles by 2030. And the companies are on board.
- BYD to deliver 106 electric buses to Finland.

About Rhombus Energy Solutions

Rhombus develops and manufactures next-generation bi-directional electric vehicle charging infrastructure, high-efficiency power conversion systems and energy management system (EMS) software for vehicle-to-grid (V2G) capable electric vehicle fleet charging, energy storage and microgrid applications. The high reliability of our solutions is the result of decades of experience developing high-power systems for a variety of applications and deployment scenarios, including UL-1741-SA system-to-grid solutions. For more information, please visit www.rhombusenergy.com.