Published on 26 June 2026 as part of the Tripartite Agreement for Energy Storage.

Tripartite Agreement for Energy Storage

Projects demonstrating benefits & potential practical applications of the tripartite

Project: Heat Battery – Covestro (Germany)

- **Key project characteristics:** A 100 MWh heat battery is being deployed at Covestro's chemical production site in Brunsbüttel in Germany to support the electrification of industrial processes. The system will store surplus renewable electricity as heat and use it to provide a continuous supply of high-pressure steam, helping replace natural gas boilers. Once operational, the battery is expected to meet around 10% of the site's total steam demand. The project is being developed by Covestro, using a heat battery from Rondo Energy. It has received grant funding from Breakthrough Energy Catalyst and financing support from the European Investment Bank.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project demonstrates large-scale electrification of process heat in the chemicals sector supporting EU energy security, decarbonisation and industrial competitiveness goals. Once operational, it is expected to help avoid up to 13,000 tonnes of CO_2 per year.
- **Next steps:** The heat battery is currently under construction and expected to begin operations in January 2027. Looking ahead, Covestro is exploring pathways to fully electrify the Brunsbüttel site and possibly use the same technology at other production sites, supporting wider industrial decarbonisation efforts.

Covestro

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Project: Integrated Battery Manufacturing Platform – FAENIX (Italy)

- **Key project characteristics:** An integrated battery and energy storage manufacturing platform based at two sites in Italy. The first site, the Teverola gigafactory is currently under construction and has received €505 million in support through the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) program. The second site, the Brindisi industrial hub, will include a gigafactory and a plant for assembling battery energy storage systems. Together, they will create an integrated value chain for battery cells and energy storage manufacturing, including the production of lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery cells, the assembly of modules and packs, and the manufacture of stationary storage systems. The project, a joint venture between Eni Industrial Evolution S.p.A. and FIB S.p.A. – Seri Industrial Group, will reach an installed production capacity of 16 GWh/year at full capacity.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project will strengthen Europe's battery manufacturing supply chain and industrial base, while supporting greater energy independence and cybersecurity resilience. It directly supports the objectives of the tripartite agreement of scaling energy storage deployment by expanding domestic production capacity for both battery cells and stationary BESS systems.
- **Next steps:** The Teverola gigafactory and Brindisi industrial hub are scheduled to start commercial operations by July 2027. The Teverola model is being replicated at Brindisi, demonstrating a scalable expansion pathway. The Brindisi industrial hub will start commercial operations by April 2029.

FIB S.p.A. – Marchio FAAM

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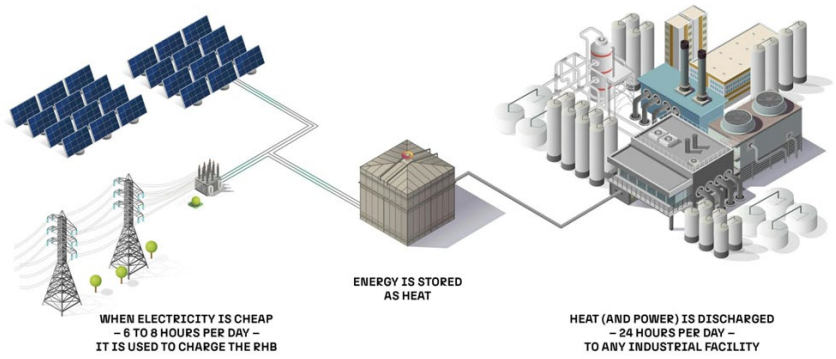
Project: Heat Battery - HEINEKEN / EDP / Rondo Energy (Portugal)

- **Key project characteristics:** Heineken's brewery and malting plant near Lisbon will receive a continuous supply of zero-carbon steam through a new 100 MWh heat battery charged by renewable electricity coming from a 7 MW on-site solar plant and a 25 GWh/year renewable Power Purchase Agreement. EDP supplies the steam under a Heat-as-a-Service model; Rondo provides the battery technology.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project demonstrates how thermal energy storage can reduce fossil fuel use in energy-intensive industries, supporting the EU's energy sovereignty, decarbonisation and industrial competitiveness objectives that underpin the tripartite agreement. It will help avoid an estimated 6,600 tonnes of CO_2 per year.
- **Next steps:** The system is currently being installed and is scheduled to go live in April 2027. The project is replicable across low temperature industrial processes.



EDP and Rondo

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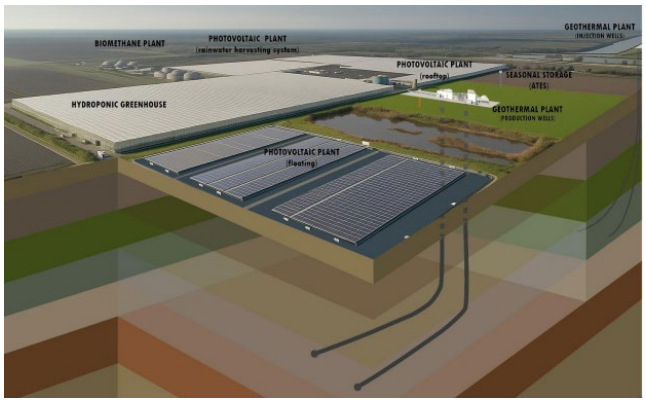
Project: GESIIS – Fri-El (Italy)

- **Key project characteristics** GESIIS has 4 wells at a depth of 2,500 meters that extract a geothermal resource at 70°C (9 MWht). It provides renewable heat for 30 hectares of hydroponic greenhouses with a zero-emission system that fully reinjects the resource into the subsoil.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project demonstrates how thermal energy storage can maximise the value of renewables, reduce emissions and fossil fuel use, and thereby contribute to a reduction of financial flows for energy imports.
- **Next steps:** The project provides a replicable model and scalable solution for integrating geothermal energy with high-temperature aquifer thermal energy storage (HT-ATES). The concept is particularly suited to applications with seasonal heat demand, such as district heating systems and large industrial heat consumers. The pilot validates not only the technology, but also a digital design and optimization platform and a replicable business model that can be adapted to different geological conditions and end-users, reducing development risks and accelerating deployment across Europe.



FRI-EL Geopower Srl

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Project: The Kuebebierg project – Karno (Luxembourg)

- **Key project characteristics:** The project is a large-scale thermal project composed of 21 energy hubs serving a mixed-use district of over 8,000 people (3,500+ apartments, schools, healthcare, public and commercial buildings). It combines 10 GWh of seasonal solar-to-ground thermal storage with photovoltaic thermal (PVT) panels, 800 geothermal boreholes, and a district energy network integrating air-source heat pumps and cooling. The network acts as the backbone for optimising energy flows, flexibility and seasonal storage.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project demonstrates how thermal storage coupled with PVT panels, geothermal boreholds, heat pumps and cooling can contribute to integrate renewable electricity into district heating, supporting grid flexibility and displacing fossil fuels, therefore also reducing financial flow for energy imports.
- **Next steps:** The project is currently being constructed, with entry into operation expected in 2028. The concept is already being replicated in more than 10 projects across Luxembourg and Belgium

Fond Kirchberg

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Project: Isis BESS project - and Izida 1894 - IPS Group (Bulgaria).

- **Key project characteristics:** A 10 MW battery energy storage system (BESS) using the IPS Group's EXERON X-BESS technology is being deployed at the Izida-1894 factory, Bulgaria's oldest ceramic manufacturing facility. The system will help reduce electricity costs and peak demand charges by optimising on-site energy consumption. It will also improve overall resilience against grid disturbances and help avoid interruptions to operations, which is essential for chemical manufacturers. The IPS Group's BESS Gigafactory, which is supplying the BESS technology, has been classified as a strategic manufacturing project by the European Commission under the Net Zero Industry Act.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project showcases how BESS can directly benefit energy-intensive industrial consumers by reducing exposure to electricity market volatility and supporting grid services, in line with the tripartite agreement's objective of making use of the full potential of storage technologies as a tool for industrial decarbonisation and competitiveness. It also demonstrates the commercial viability of European-manufactured battery systems.
- **Next steps:** The project is expected to be delivered by the end of 2026. The project model is replicable across energy-intensive industries. The IPS Group already has similar orders from an industrial park, a hydropower operator, and a logistics provider.

IPS Group

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Project: Narboflex – Newheat (France)

- **Key project characteristics:** A Power-to-Heat project combining a 1 MW electric boiler with a 1,000 m^3 hot water thermal storage system, integrated with an existing 3 MW solar thermal plant. It supplies the local district heating network of Narbonne. The project has received public financing support from the Occitanie Region and from France's ecological transition agency (ADEME).
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project demonstrates how thermal storage coupled with Power-to-Heat can integrate renewable electricity into district heating, supporting grid flexibility and displacing fossil fuels. It avoids approximately 800-1000 tonnes of CO_2 per year and illustrates the tripartite's objective of deploying storage to enhance renewable system integration and reduce energy costs.
- **Next steps:** The project is expected to be able to participate in the flexibility market by July 2026. The model is directly replicable across European district heating systems. Newheat is developing similar projects for district heating networks and industrial clients, with electric boilers ranging from 1 to 20 MW.

Newheat

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Project: Lounavoima – QHeat (Finland)

- **Key project characteristics:** QHeat has built six deep geothermal wells at Lounavoima's Korvenmäki waste-to-energy plant in Salo, Finland. The seasonal thermal energy storage system stores excess heat from waste incineration and supplies it to Salo's district heating network when demand is higher. The system provides 6 MW of peak district heating capacity and is expected to produce 8–14 GWh of stored energy annually.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project demonstrates how thermal energy storage can improve energy efficiency and reduce fossil-fuel-based peak heat production.
- **Next steps:** The project is currently in operation. The system has attracted significant international interest and can inspire other energy producers.

QHeat

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Project: Royal Swinkels (The Netherlands).

- **Key project characteristics:** A hot water buffer (6,000 m^3) provides up to 250 MWhth of multi-day thermal storage capacity to Royal Swinkels' Lieshout brewery and malthouse. The system captures residual heat from their operations, upgrades it to higher temperatures where needed, storing it, and redeploys heat when demand arises. Heat is upgraded through low-temperature and high-temperature heat pumps with a combined capacity of up to 6.5 MWth and/or via a 5.5 MW hybrid boiler powered by biogas from their wastewater treatment plant, natural gas, or green electricity.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project demonstrates how thermal storage can help industries decarbonise, reduce gas consumption, improve energy efficiency, and provide grid flexibility - absorbing electricity during periods of high renewable generation and reducing electricity consumption during peak demand. Royal Swinkels' hot water buffer, effectively demonstrates that a clean and environmentally friendly 'battery' based on hot water works in practice. It is directly relevant to the objectives of the Tripartite Agreement for Energy Storage of accelerating storage deployment and lowering industrial energy costs.
- **Next steps:** The project is already in operation. The next step is to connect additional residual heat streams alongside onboarding new heat users to maximise the efficiency of the system. This approach aims to maximise utilisation of the hot water buffer, enable more efficient cascading of heat, and flexibility of the energy system. The Lieshout site will also serve as an example for replication across Royal Swinkels' other brewery locations.

Royal Swinkels

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Project: Volt (The Netherlands).

- **Key project characteristics:** PepsiCo's flagship industrial electrification project at its snacks manufacturing facility in the Netherlands replaces natural gas with renewable electricity for high-temperature crisp-frying. The system uses Kraftblock's modular thermal energy storage (9 MW charge/discharge, 70 MWh) combined with 6 MW direct electric heating, with flexible grid connection developed with local grid operator Liander. Once fully operational, it is expected to deliver over 8,500 tonnes of CO_2 savings annually, with potential for up to 98% emissions reduction in subsequent phases.
- **Relevance for EU objectives:** The project is one of the first large-scale industrial electrification projects combining thermal storage with flexible grid use in the food sector, directly supporting EU decarbonisation and energy security objectives.
- **Next steps:** It has been commissioned and the project is expected to be fully finalised by September 2026. The project is replicable across heat-intensive industrial sectors including food and drink, paper, chemicals and other hard-to-abate industries. Additional units at PepsiCo are being assessed.

Kraftblock