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India's government receives 130GWh bids for advanced battery cell manufacturing incentives

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*India will need plenty of energy storage to enable its renewable energy goals.
Image: Tata Power Solar.*

An Indian government scheme to support domestic battery manufacturing received bids totalling 130GWh of proposals, more than double the anticipated 50GWh of capacity the incentives will support.

Batteries are being seen as a cornerstone of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' push to promote and support high-level manufacturing industries and also a policy to establish "self-reliant" manufacturing of key technologies like energy storage (<https://www.energy-storage.news/hydrogen-mission-encouragement-of-domestic-manufacturing-are-among-indias-budget-highlights/>).

Batteries, along with solar PV, had been included in mid-2020 in a group of eight 'Champion Sectors' in which the government would be incentivising domestic manufacture through its Production Linked Incentive scheme (<https://www.energy-storage.news/india-sees-battery-cell-solar-pv-manufacturing-as-champion-sectors-of-national-self-reliance/>).

Later that year, as it was revealed INR45 billion (US\$603 million) of support would be earmarked for high-efficiency solar PV module development and INR181 billion (US\$2.42 billion) for advanced battery cells, the government described advanced

chemistry cell battery manufacturing as “one of the largest economic opportunities of the 21st century” (<https://www.energy-storage.news/extraordinary-move-indias-government-investing-billions-in-battery-solar-cell-manufacturing/>).

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) issued a Request for Proposals (RfP) in October 2021 for the Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage Programme.

Support via the programme is expected to stimulate domestic manufacturing investment but also facilitate demand creation for battery storage in the stationary energy storage system (ESS) sector, as well as the electric vehicle (EV) sector. This is in addition to direct financial support for promoting electrified transportation.

The government also anticipates that doing so will reduce the national demand for imported crude oil and increase the share of renewable energy on the grid, the MHI said in a press release.

Manufacturing facilities, each with at least 5GWh annual production capacity that could be set up within two years were eligible, while the technology agnostic programme would distribute incentives over a period of five years for batteries manufactured within the country.

The RfP closed on the weekend with bids received from 10 domestic and foreign-headquartered companies which now await the ministry's decision.

Bidders include Reliance New Energy Solar (RNES), a subsidiary of major Indian industrial conglomerate Reliance Industries. On 31 December 2021, it was announced that RNES had signed definitive agreements to acquire UK battery tech startup Faradion, which has an IP portfolio covering several aspects of sodium-ion cell technology. RNES has proposed using the [sodium-ion tech at a gigafactory located at a 'Green Energy Giga Complex' in Jamnagar](https://www.energy-storage.news/upstream-action-northvolt-produces-first-cells-sodium-ion-startup-acquired-by-indias-reliance/) (<https://www.energy-storage.news/upstream-action-northvolt-produces-first-cells-sodium-ion-startup-acquired-by-indias-reliance/>).

Another bidder, automotive parts and equipment manufacturer Lucas TVS, was reported by *Energy-Storage.news* last September to have signed an agreement with US company 24M to use the latter's advanced 'SemiSolid' electrode tech at a battery cell factory in Chennai (<https://www.energy-storage.news/india-gigafactory-for-24ms-semisolid-electrode-lithium-battery-cells/>).

Both Lucas TVS and RNES said that they were aiming to see their products used in grid storage applications as well as electric transport and other sectors including heavy industrial equipment.

Bidders:

- Reliance New Energy Solar
- Hyundai Global Motors Company
- Ola Electric Mobility
- Lucas TVS
- Mahindra & Mahindra
- Amara Raja Batteries
- Exide Industries
- Rajesh Exports
- Larsen & Toubro
- India Power Corporation

'A new beginning'

In a statement sent to *Energy-Storage.news* today, the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) described the oversubscribed scheme's RfP response as marking "a new beginning" for the country's energy storage market.

"This is great news and a major milestone for the Indian energy storage and e-mobility industry," IESA founder and president Dr Rahul Walawalkar said.

Walawalkar said IESA — which is an alliance of companies and organisations accelerating the advancement of the energy storage, e-mobility and hydrogen sectors — was thankful to the MHI and to government policy think tank NITI Aayog, the latter having designed the Production Linked Incentive programme.