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150 MW battery at Darlington Point to strengthen NSW grid

On behalf of the Australian Government, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has today announced \$6.6 million in funding to Edify Energy to build a 25 MW / 50 MWh battery with advanced inverters adjacent to the 275 MW Darlington Point Solar Farm in south west New South Wales.

ARENA's funding has enabled Edify to expand the Project to a total of 150 MW / 300 MWh. The entire project will be equipped with advanced inverters to help future-proof the Darlington Point area as renewable energy generation continues to expand in south western NSW.

Edify's battery will be one of the most advanced battery systems in the National Electricity Market once built, further extending the capabilities of large scale batteries equipped with advanced inverter technology by demonstrating that they can substitute for more traditional forms of synchronous generation and synchronous condensers.

The battery could help improve system strength in a weak part of the grid, unlocking opportunities to support more renewable energy generation.

The NSW Government will also provide \$6.5 million in funding for the battery, as part of its \$75 million Emerging Energy Program.

Advanced inverters enable grid scale and grid connected batteries to provide system stability services traditionally provided by synchronous generation, such as coal or gas. Finding new ways of providing stability to the electricity system will enable the grid to operate with higher shares of variable renewable energy. Last year, the Australian Energy Market Operator published its [white paper](#) on advanced inverters highlighting the critical importance of grid scale batteries equipped with advanced inverter technology in supporting the energy transition.

ARENA Acting CEO Chris Faris said large scale batteries are now being seen as more than just energy storage devices for the grid.

"ARENA has been working with key stakeholders, including AEMO, to accelerate the development of the next generation of energy storage"

"To support the rapid transformation of our electricity system, large scale batteries will need to evolve to do more than just store energy. They need to be equipped with advanced inverters that can provide critical grid stability services to keep the system safe and secure, especially as synchronous generators retire and renewables provide a higher share of supply. That's why it's important to support and demonstrate projects like this, where batteries with advanced inverters can help supply critical stability services to the grid."

"Large scale batteries like Edify's Darlington Point battery are not only firming our renewable energy but also strengthening the grid particularly in regional areas, where they will help to unlock more renewable uptake," he said.

"Edify has been one of the early adopters and pioneers of large scale batteries in Australia. Having worked together on the Gannawarra battery, we're excited to be supporting them once again in deploying new battery technologies to strengthen the grid as we transition, he said.

To prove the capability of advanced inverters at scale, ARENA this week announced 12 large scale batteries had been shortlisted as part of a [\\$100 million competitive funding round](#) for grid scale batteries equipped with the technology.

Since 2017, ARENA has supported eight grid scale lithium-ion batteries, including Edify's 25MW [Gannawarra battery](#). ARENA has previously funded four other battery projects which seek to demonstrate advanced inverter functionality, including [AGL's Broken Hill battery](#), Electranet's [ESCR](#) battery, the [Hornsedale Power Reserve expansion](#), and [Transgrid's Wallgrove battery](#).