

# Session 3.4 Construction of the Big Projects



**James Mills**

Adaptogen Capital



**Pierre Bayart**

Bstor



**Rianne 't Hoen**

Green Energy Storage



**Nicolas Giuliano**

Engie

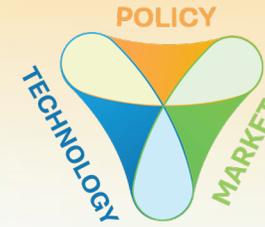


*Moderator:*

**Jacopo Tosoni**

Head of Policy / Energy Storage Europe

# Session 3.4 Construction of the Big Projects



**ENERGY STORAGE**  
Global Conference  
Brussels, 14-16 October 2025

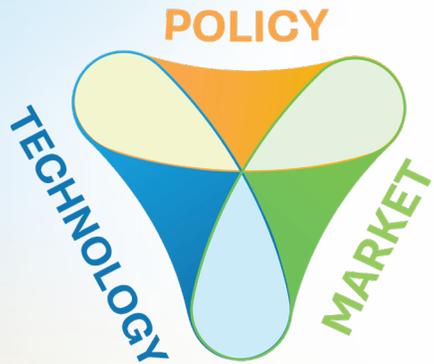
James Mills

Managing Director  
Adaptogen Capital



# Building Large BESS in Belgium

- 1 Adaptogen Capital Introduction
- 2 Track Record in the UK: Varco Energy
- 3 Why Build BESS in Belgium?
- 4 Belgium is at a Critical Nodal Point in EU Power Markets
- 5 Belgium Attractive Market for Large BESS



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Bringing together the  
world of **energy storage!**

# Building Large BESS in Belgium

# Adaptogen Capital Introduction

Adaptogen is a specialist BESS investor, managing over £250m of capital, with significant commitments from its founding Directors and affiliates. Having raised and deployed a UK focused fund, Adaptogen is now developing storage investment platforms across Europe.



## Adaptogen Capital European BESS Platforms

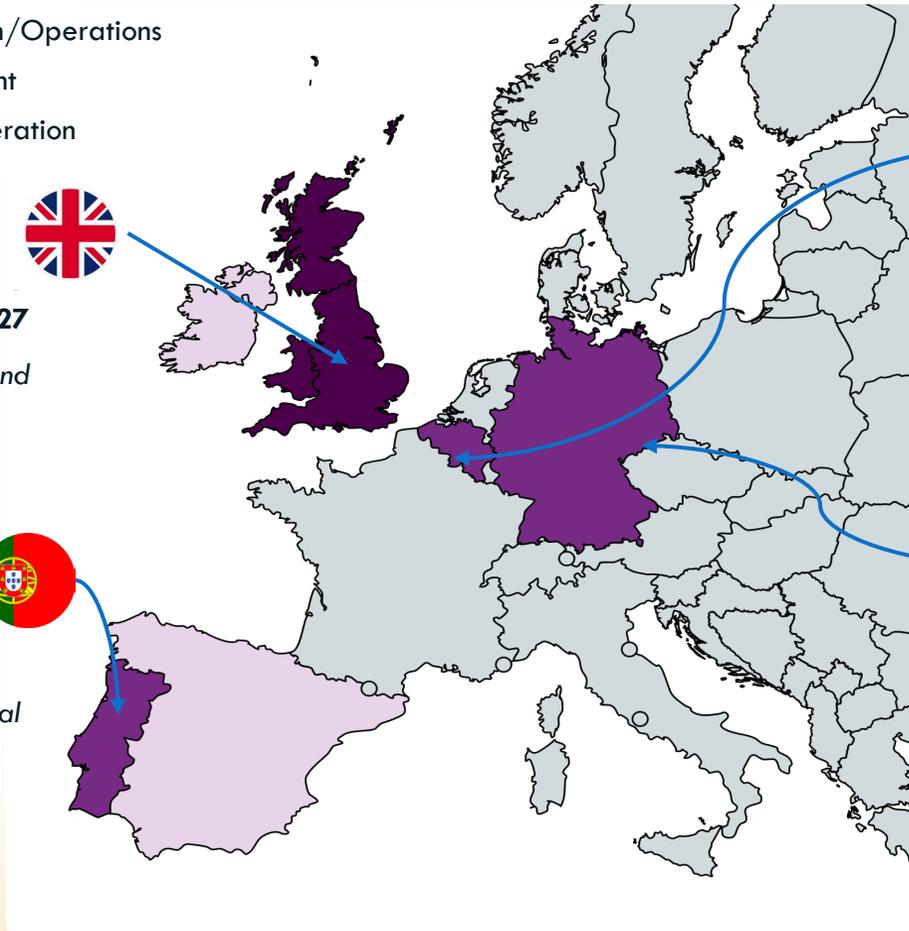
- Projects in Construction/Operations
- Projects in Development
- Projects under Consideration

**VARCO ENERGY** 

**350MW operating by 2027**  
Adaptogen Capital Fund and Co-Invest

**StorSystems** 

**500MW Target**  
Joint development with local partners



 **MVA ENERGY**

**1000MW Target**  
Fully owned by Adaptogen

 **GFG=BA**  
ENERGIE ZUKUNFT SICHER

**500MW Target**  
Funding a local development platform

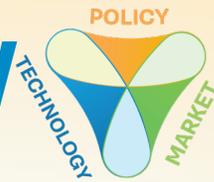
## Adaptogen Capital Background

- Among the earliest investors in UK battery storage, our directors were a part of funding the UK's first grid-scale merchant battery (2019)
- Closed first fund in 2023 with 650MW of BESS under Varco Energy, now raising additional growth capital for European expansion
- Employ a local development strategy that builds relationships with grid operators while leveraging cross-border expertise, equipment, and financing

## MVA Energy Belgium Development



# Track Record in the UK: Varco Energy



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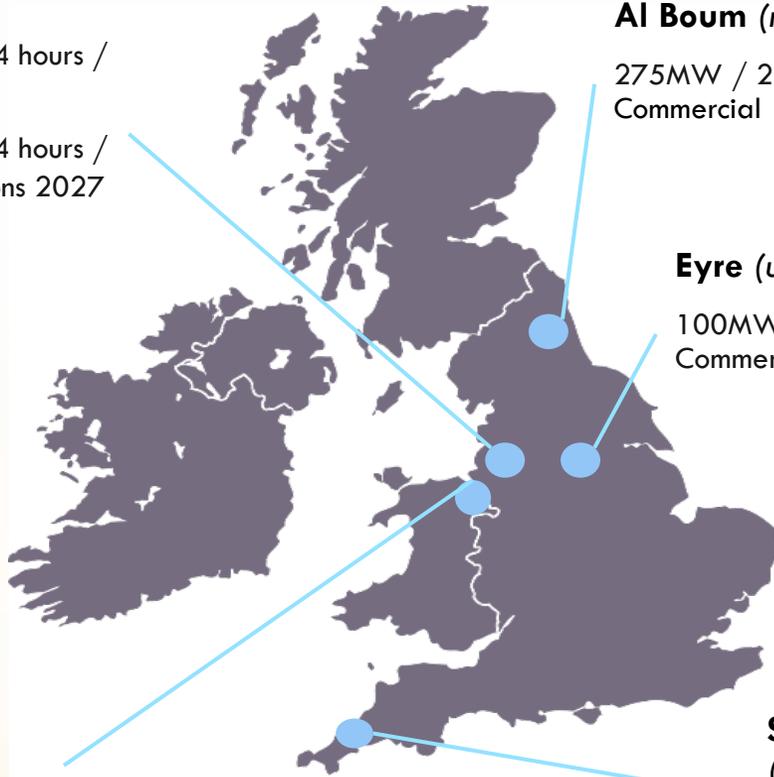
Adaptogen financed a 650MW platform company, Varco Energy, as a UK based developer, owner and operator of transmission-connected BESS. Two projects are operational, with three under construction and further projects in development.

## Project Pipeline

### Sizing John

Phase 1: 57MW / 2.4 hours /  
Trading Commenced

Phase 2: 86MW / 2.4 hours /  
Commercial Operations 2027



### Al Boum (ready to build)

275MW / 2 hours /  
Commercial Operations 2031

### Eyre (under construction)

100MW/2.5 hours /  
Commercial Operations 2027

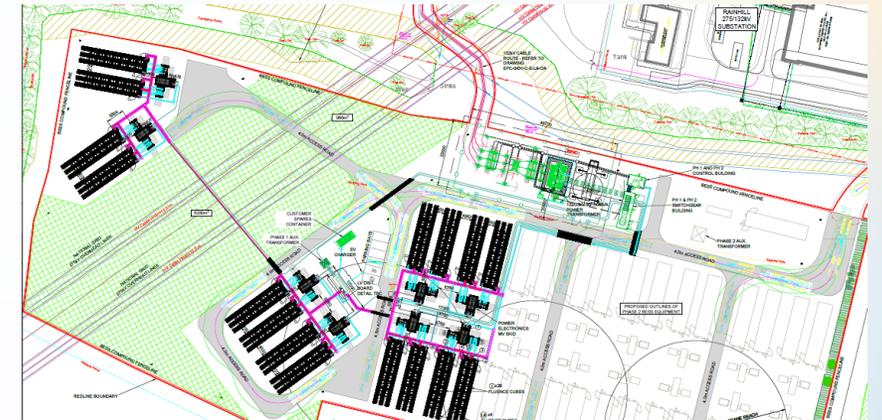
### Sambar Power (under construction)

48MW/2.1 hours /  
Commercial Operations 2026

### Native River

57MW / 2.4 hours /  
Trading Commenced

## Sizing John Layout



## Sizing John Site (Operational)



# Why Build BESS in Belgium?

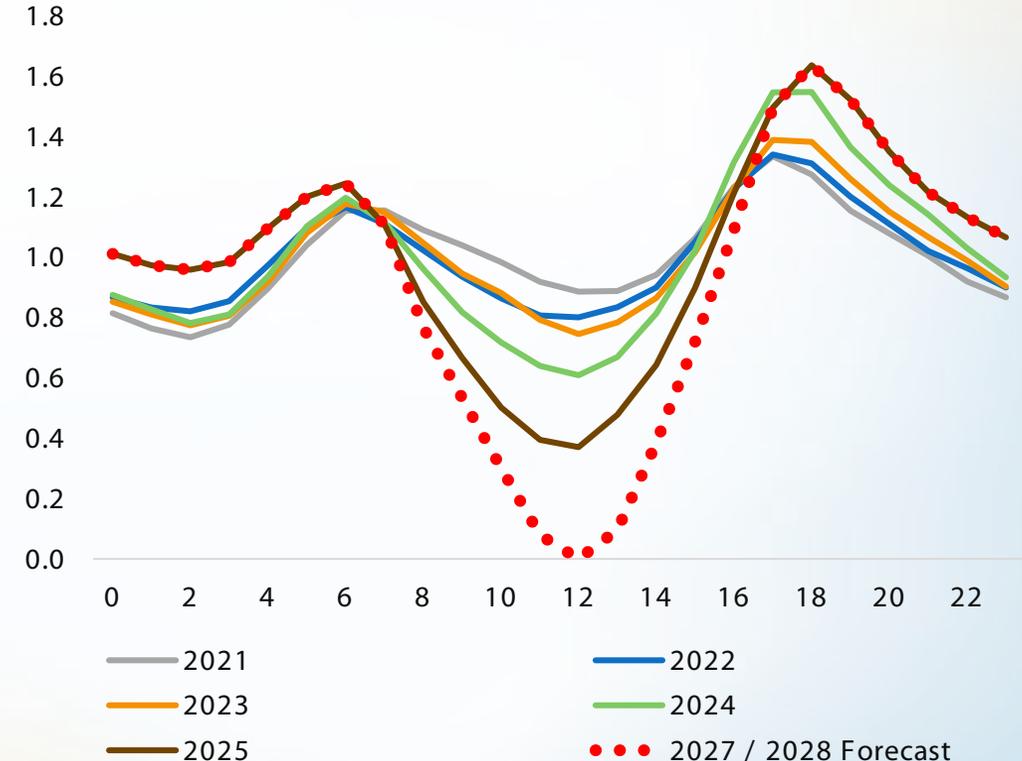
Belgium offers a strong a strong regulatory and favourable market environment for BESS, driven fundamentally by Elia's appreciation of the value of flexibility in a high renewable penetration system

## Positive Regulatory Environment for BESS

- 1 Firm Bi-Directional Capacity Available at the Transmission Level**
- 2 BESS Can Stack Revenues Across Ancillary Services and Energy Markets**
- 3 Intraday and Imbalance Price Signals Clarify the Commercial Value of Flexibility**
- 4 Elia has Embraced the Ability of BESS to Provide Flexibility and Grid Stability Services**

## Positive Market Environment for BESS

Growing Intraday Power Price Spreads<sup>1</sup>

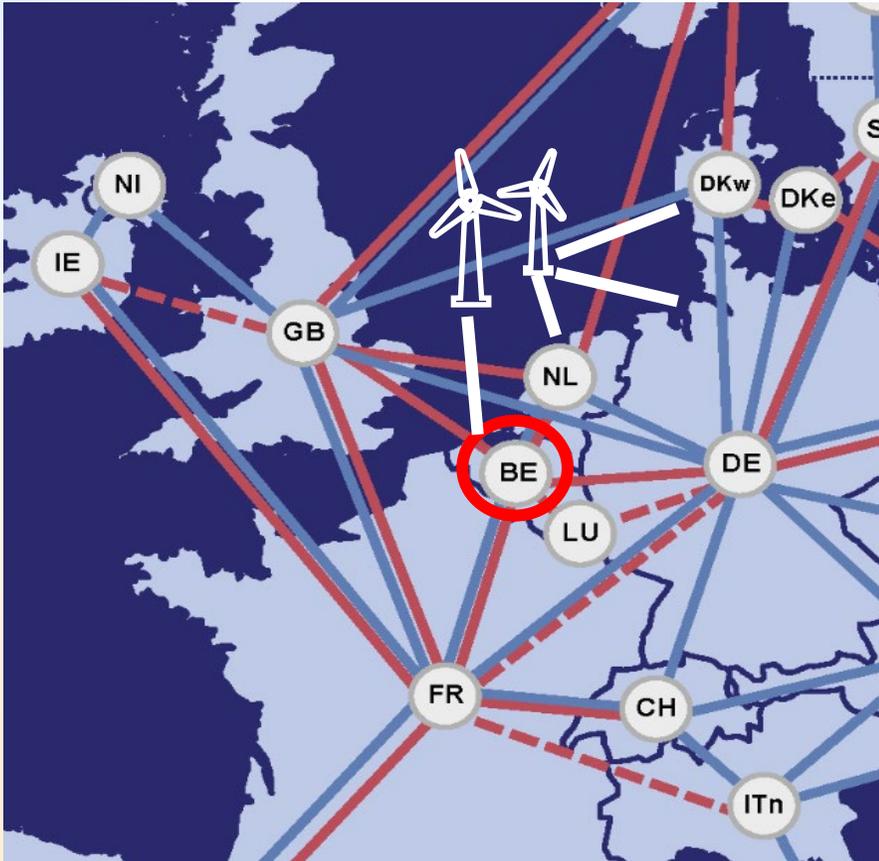


<sup>1</sup>LCP Enact --- 2027/28 Forecast is an MVA Energy Estimate

# Belgium is at a Critical Node in EU Power

Belgium sits at the heart of the Northern European grid, with strong interconnection to large neighbouring systems. This provides system security but also can import regional price and grid instability from less well functioning markets

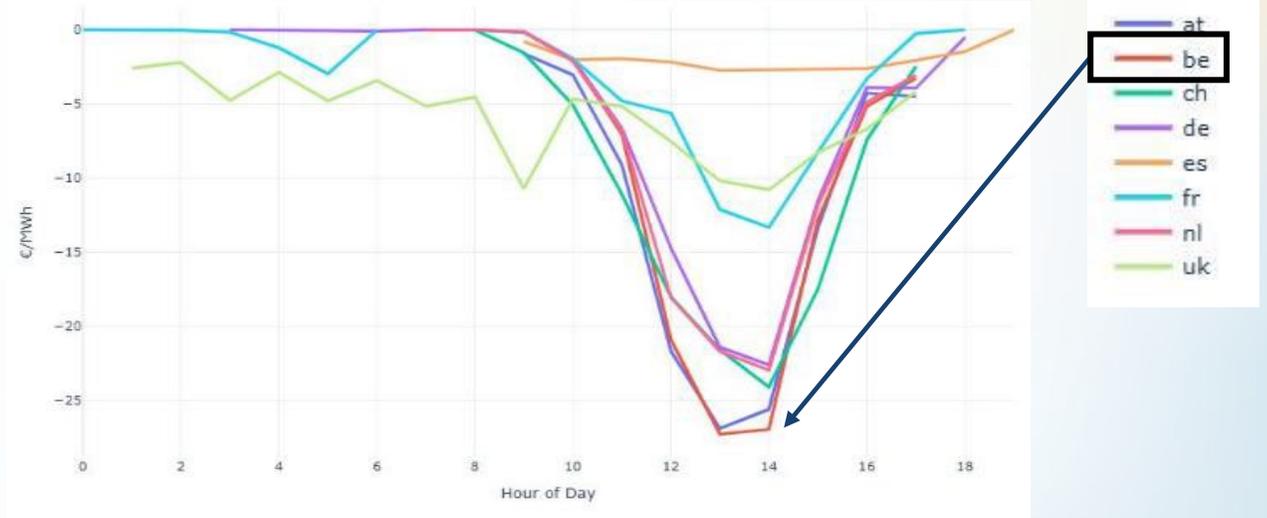
## Belgium is a Key Node for Northern European Power<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>ENTSO-E<sup>2</sup>Value

## Belgium Balances Neighbour's Surplus Power

### Average Negative Day-Ahead Prices by Hour in 2025<sup>2</sup>



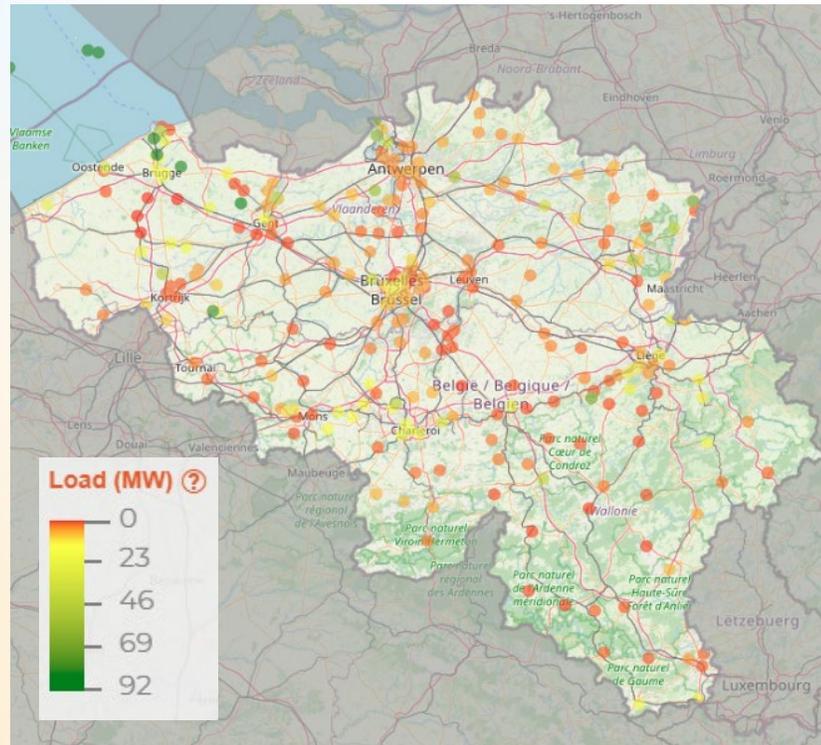
- Dutch power market highly constrained with growing excess solar
- German market suffers severe constraint issues with wind and solar
- French market swings between excess baseload and peak shortages
- Growing North Sea wind resource increases load shifting needs within Belgium

# Belgium Attractive Market for Large BESS

Belgium is a good place to develop large BESS projects, combining grid connection capacity, relatively straight forward planning processes and increasing energy density to accommodate increasingly large projects on rare industrial zoned smaller plots

## Belgium Has Available Grid Connection Capacity

### Belgium Load Grid Hosting Capacity 2031<sup>1</sup>



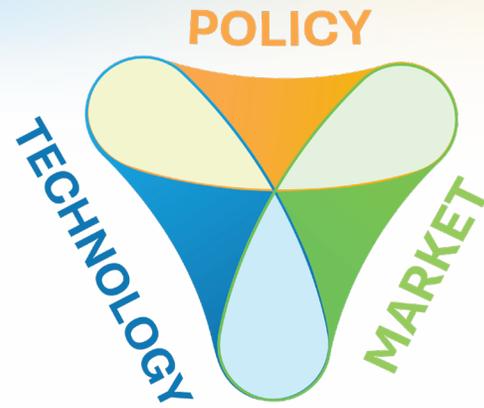
<sup>1</sup> Elia Grid Hosting Capacity Map

## Opportunities

- 1 Significantly More Available Grid Capacity in Belgium than Neighbouring Countries like the Netherlands, France
- 2 Decent Visibility on Permitting Outcomes
- 3 Trend Towards Higher Energy Density BESS Allows Developers to Build Larger Systems in Land-Constrained Location

## Challenges

- 1 Finding Permittable Plots of Land Suitable for 200MW+ BESS Projects is Challenging
- 2 Belgium has Some of the Highest Construction Costs in Europe
- 3 Regulatory Uncertainty Regarding Grid Connection Contracts with Flex



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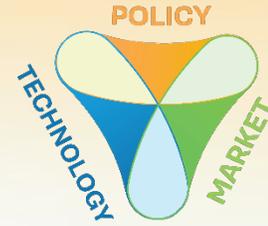
# THANK YOU!



# Session 3.4 Benelux – Construction of the Big Projects

Pierre Bayart

**BSTOR**  
BATTERIES AS A SERVICE



**ENERGY  
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Brussels, 14-16 October 2025



# BSTOR Achievements

## ESTOR-LUX I

- 10MW/20MWh
- TIC 9 MEUR, 50% PF
- BSTOR 75% - Socofé 15% - Idelux 10%
- FC 2020 / COD 2021

## DSTOR

- 50MW/140MWh
- TIC 70 MEUR, 55% PF
- BSTOR 50% - Duferco Wallonie 50%
- FC 2024 / COD 2026

## ESTOR-LUX II

- 100MW/270MWh
- TIC 124 MEUR, 65% PF
- BSTOR 75% - Socofé 15% - Idelux 10%
- FC 2025 / COD 2026



## BSTOR Achievements

- 🔌 3 projects brought to financial close
- 🔌 160 MW/430 MWh
- 🔌 Total investment ~200 MEUR
- 🔌 Fully non-recourse loan of ~125 MEUR sourced, while merchant
- 🔌 ~1,5 GW of reserved capacity for future projects

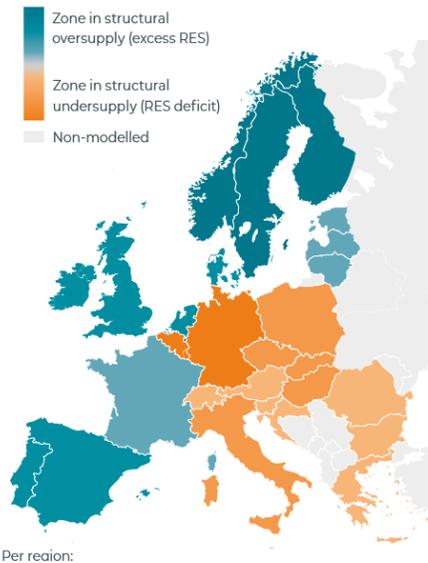
# Belgium big BESS enablers

## Deep market “at grid parity”

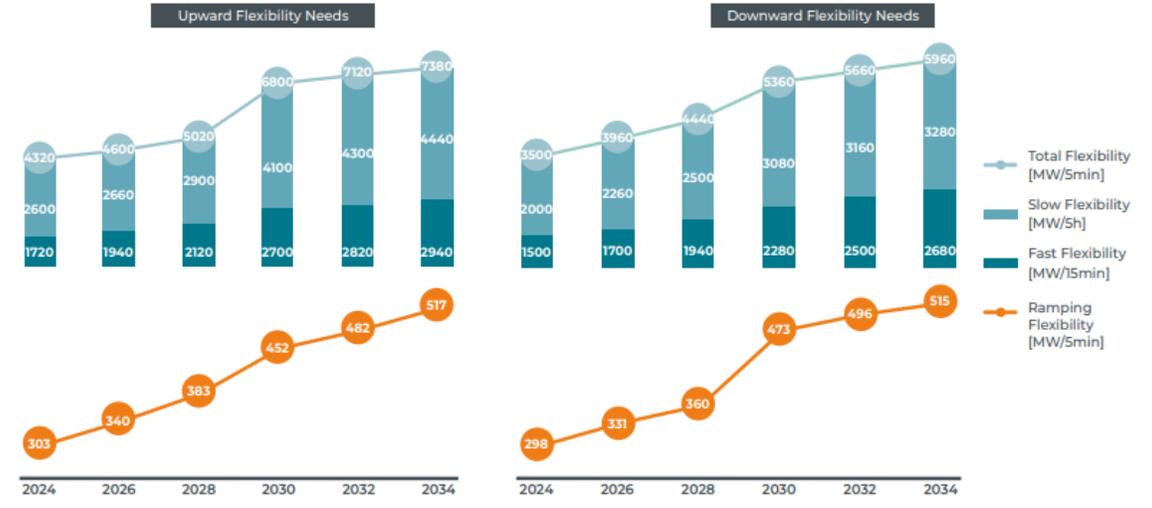
Potential for RES in Belgium is limited, not prone to “duck curves” enabling viability of arbitrage spot market

But “fast flexibility market” is deep, with conditions providing for sound, but highly volatile revenue generation

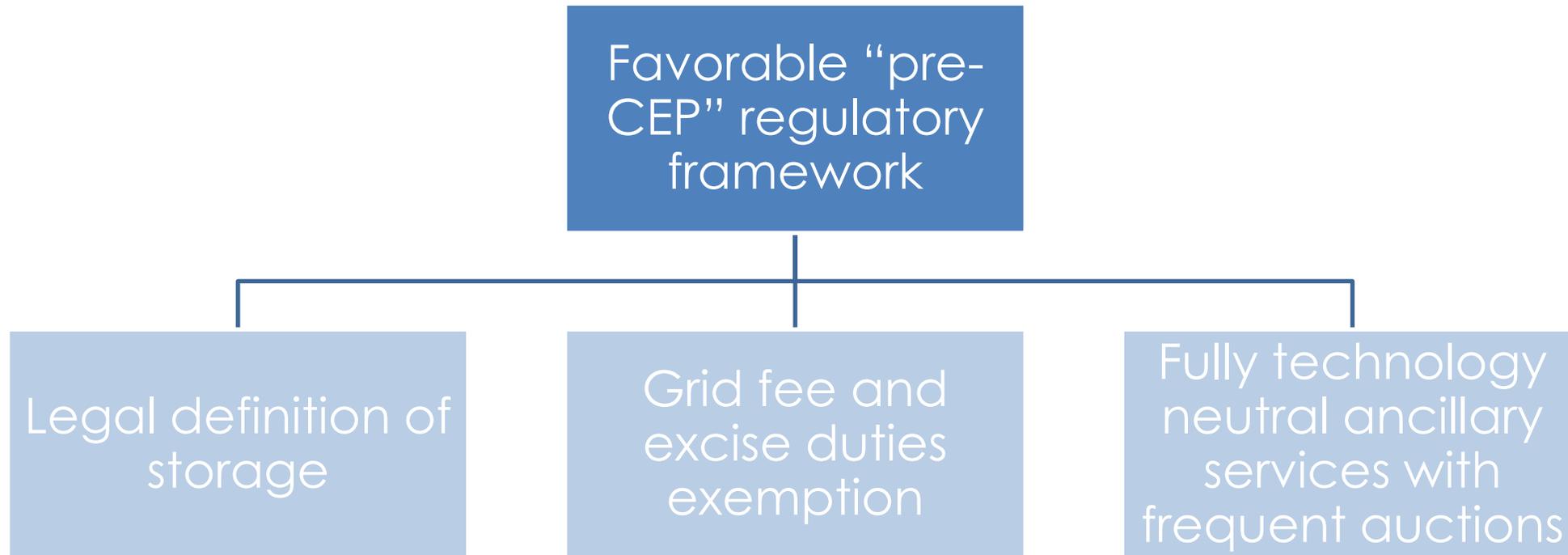
**FIGURE 3: THE UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF RES ACROSS EUROPE. WHILE BELGIUM AND GERMANY ARE SHORT ON RES, THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF RES IN NORTHERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**



**FIGURE 6-1 — EVOLUTION OF FLEXIBILITY NEEDS BETWEEN 2024 AND 2034 IN THE CENTRAL SCENARIO**



## Belgium big BESS enablers



- But reluctance in full translation of Clean Energy Package afterwards
  - No explicit ban on double charge for (front-of-meter) storage in Electricity Law
  - (Flexible) Grid connection allocation everything but “transparent, objective, non-discriminative”
  - Procrastination on market based congestion management, “cost-reflexivity” very limited for BESS in meantime

## BSTOR keys for success



Project finance (fully non-recourse) replicable to large scale embedded in development from scratch



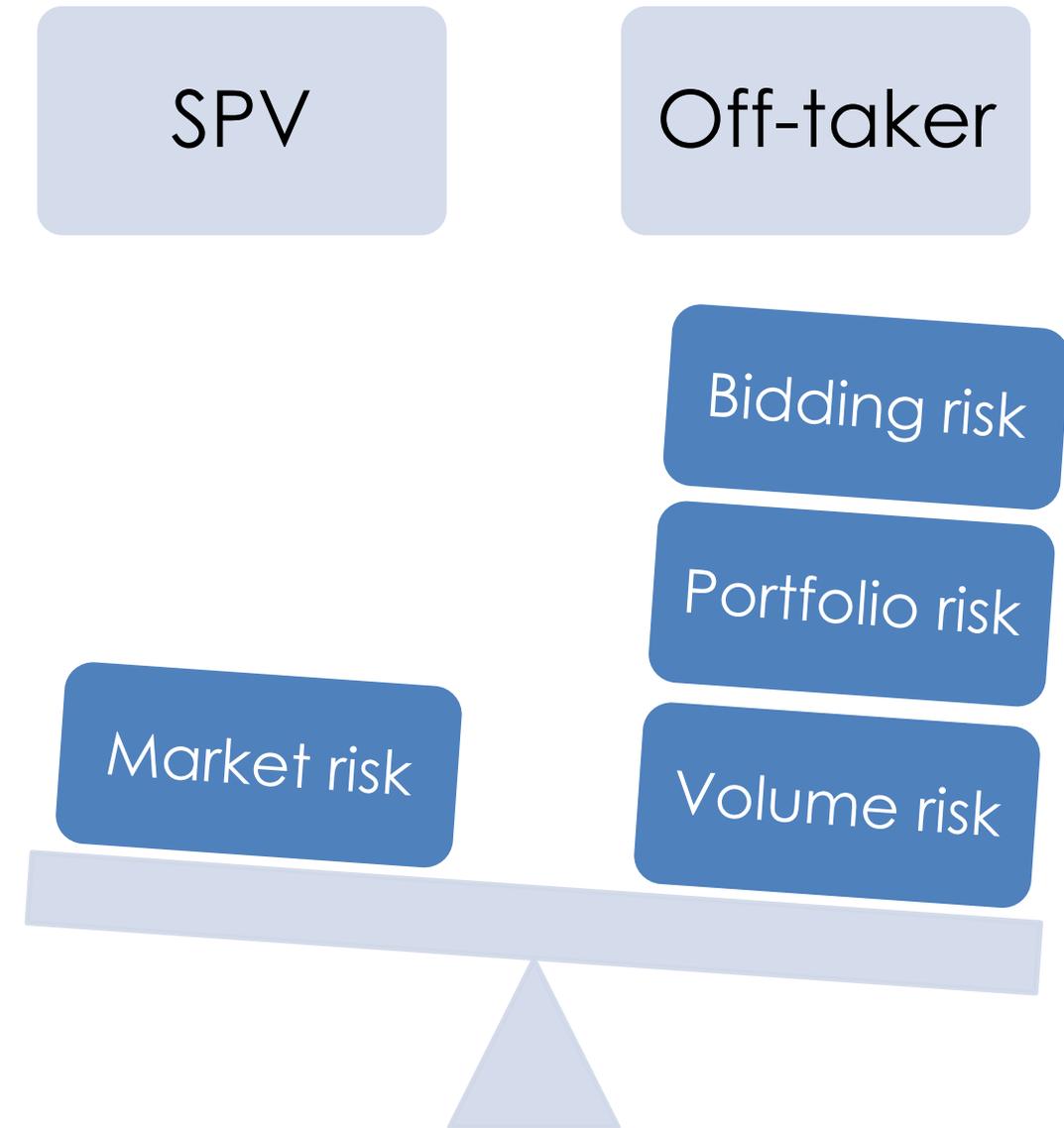
Respect (but don't worship) the codes from project finance known on past deals



Back to basics: risks to be borne by fittest party

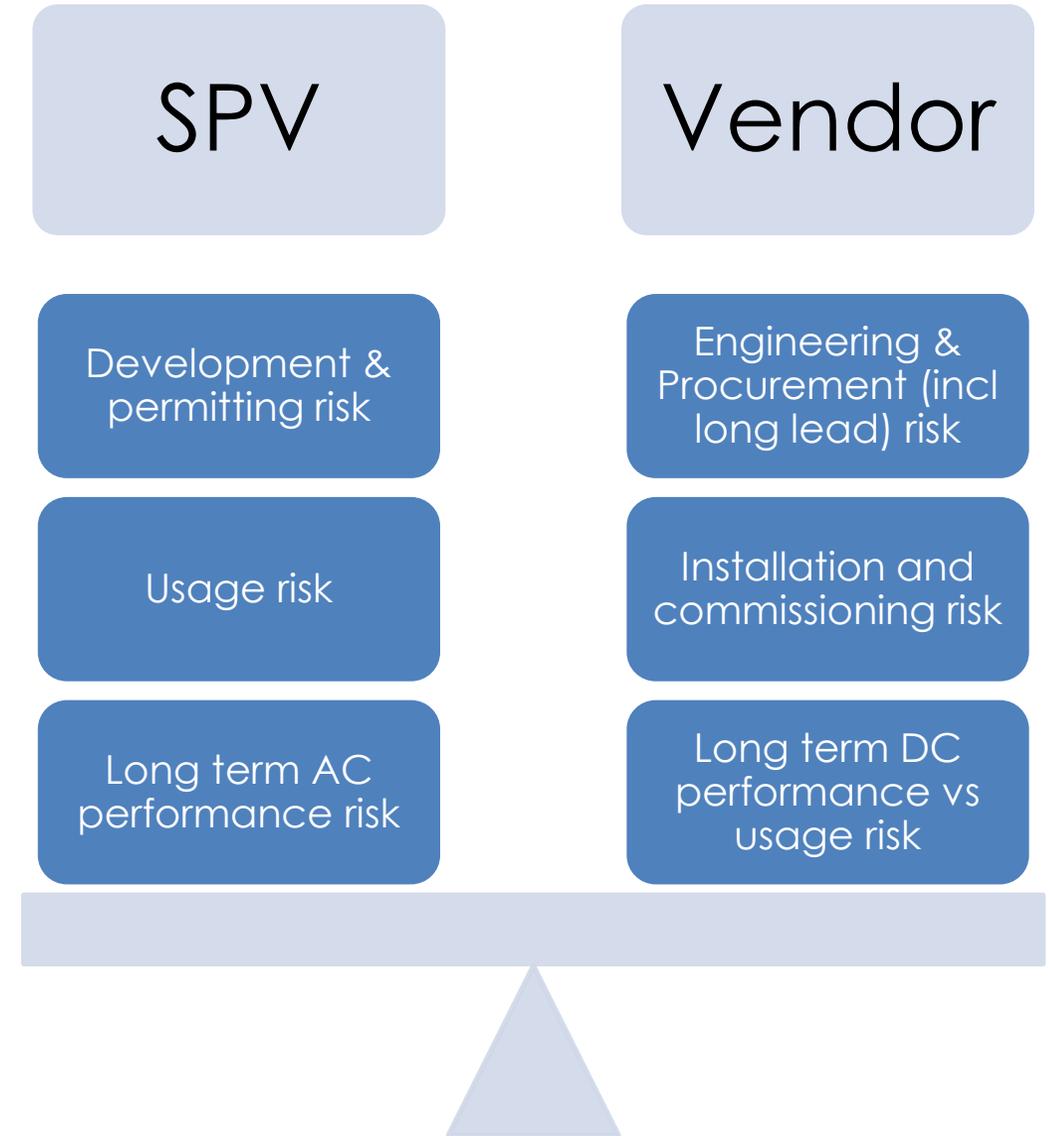
## Revenue side risks

- 🔌 Bidding, portfolio and volume risk externalized through a long-term “Flexibility Purchase Agreement”
- 🔌 Take-or-pay fee per “hour of MW availability” depending on
  - Energy retention and associated daily throughput budget
  - Market index encompassing all flexibility markets



## Asset side risks

- ⚡ EPCI & BESS LT performance (vs usage) risks outsourced on investment grade (or ~) vendor
- ⚡ EPCI including long lead items
- ⚡ Flexible and anticipable performance guarantees (availability, energy retention, RTE) with very limited excuse event under 15 – 20y LTSA



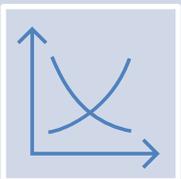
## Overall risk allocation



Asset with strongly guaranteed availability and energy retention (+ lifetime) under a “reference daily throughput budget”



Revenues partially de-risked (over a long period):  
No volume risk, take-or-pay on availability and reference daily throughput budget



But fully exposed to market risk (**and opportunities**). Addressed through price curves with sufficient sensibilities to allow for definition of “P50, P90, P95” revenue scenarios enabling “classical” gearing and DSCR sizing

# Session 3.4 Construction of the Big Projects

Rianne 't Hoen

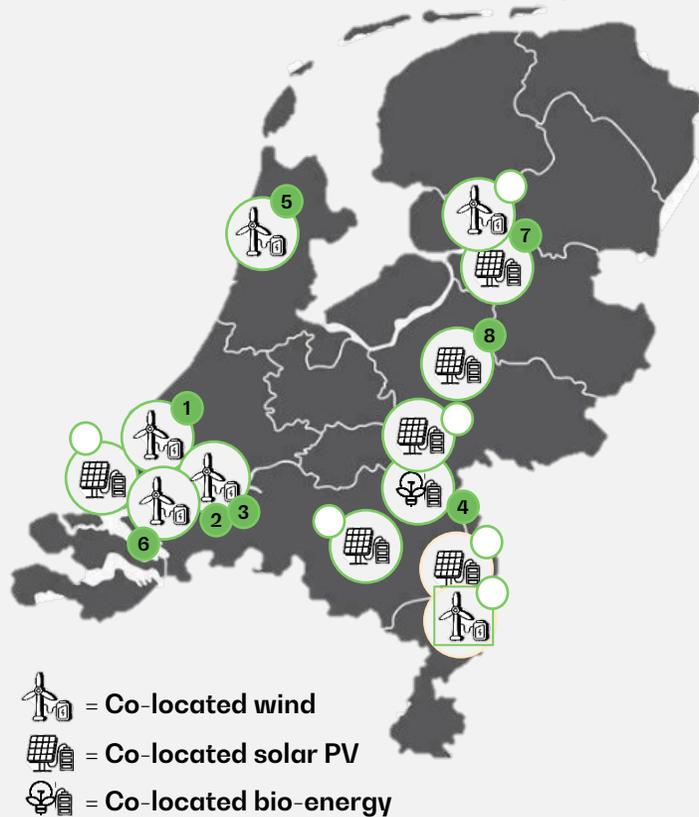
Senior Project Manager BESS  
Green Energy Storage



# GES has a proven track-record of successfully developing and constructing multiple BESS



## Project locations



8 projects operational & construction, adding up to 86 MW/ 115 MWh

6 co-located projects in (advanced) development: 115 MW/ 270 MWh

# Development of 5 stand-alone BESS projects in NL

## Project locations

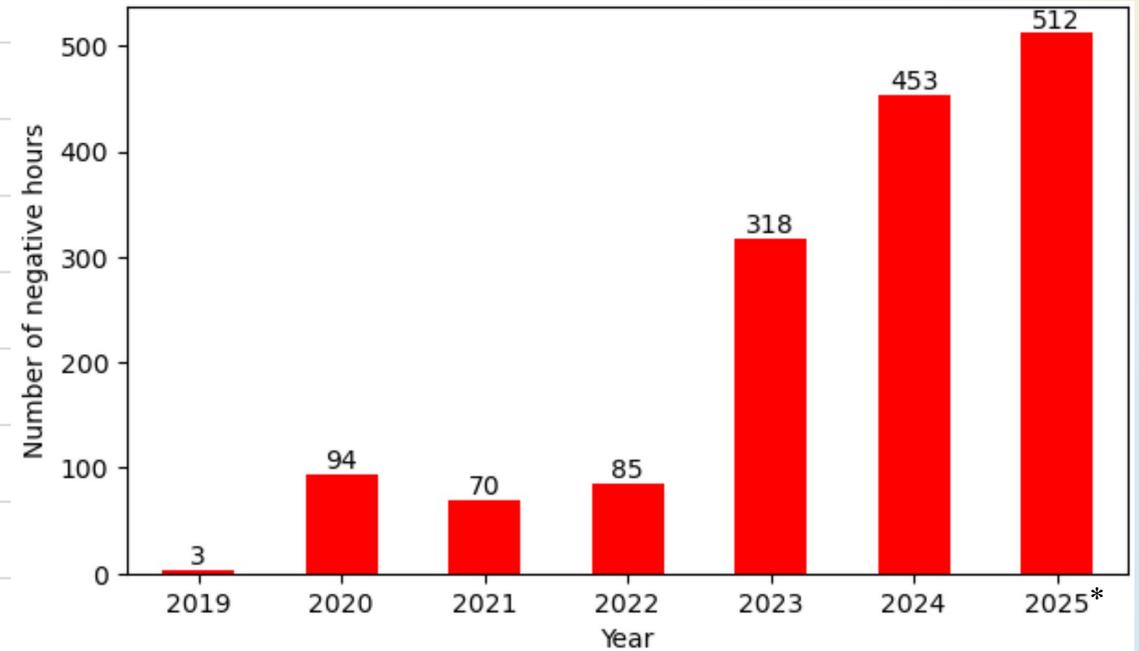
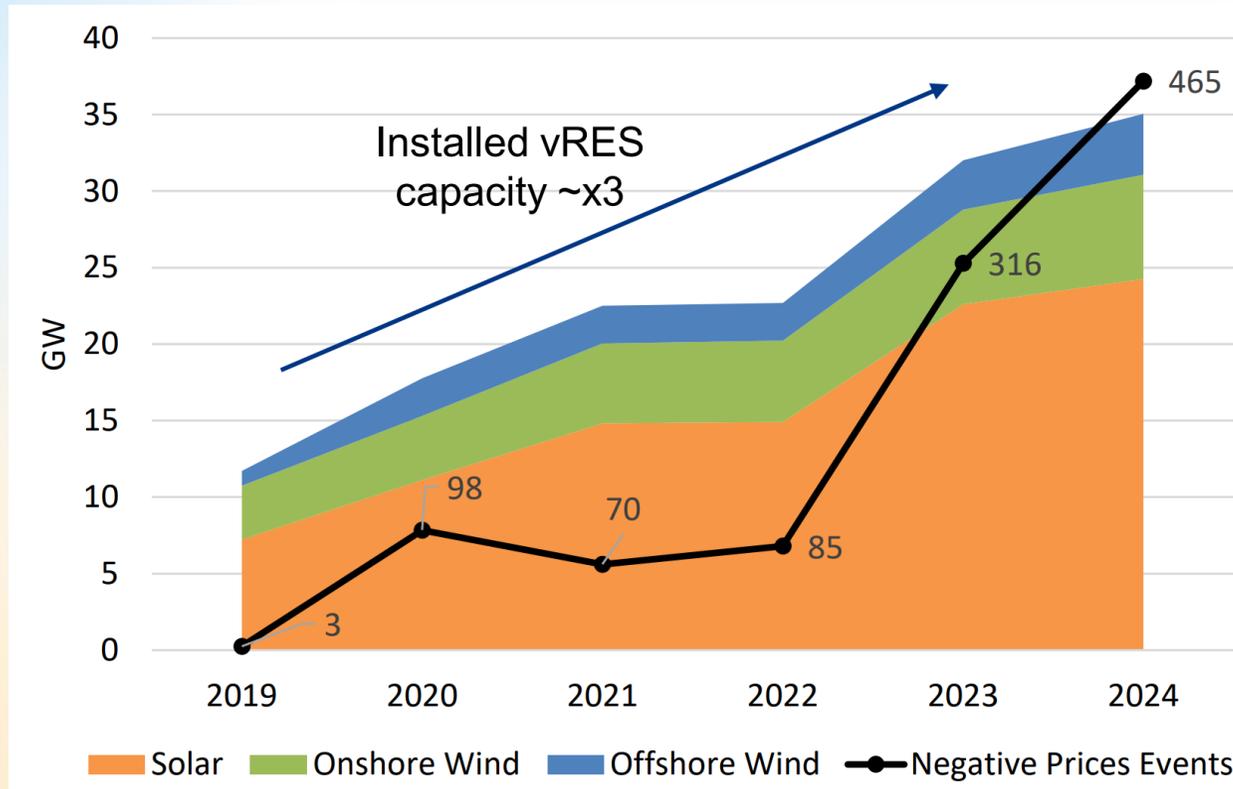


 = Stand-alone



Additionally, GES is developing 5 stand-alone BESS projects, 200+ MW, of which the first will go live in Q3 2027

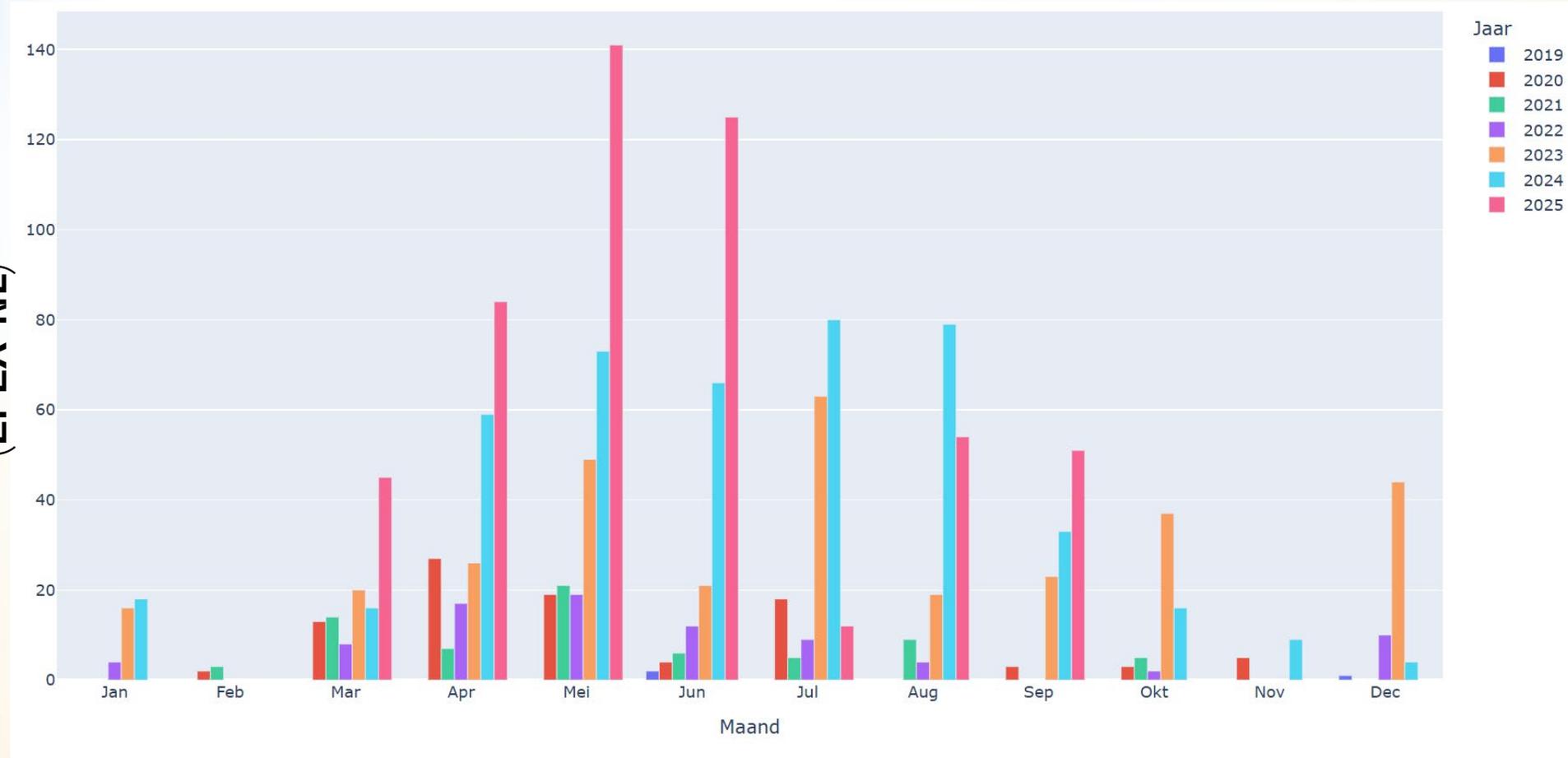
# Netherlands: Installed variable renewable energy sources capacity is increasing



TenneT, Market-Based Flexibility from Renewables, May 2025

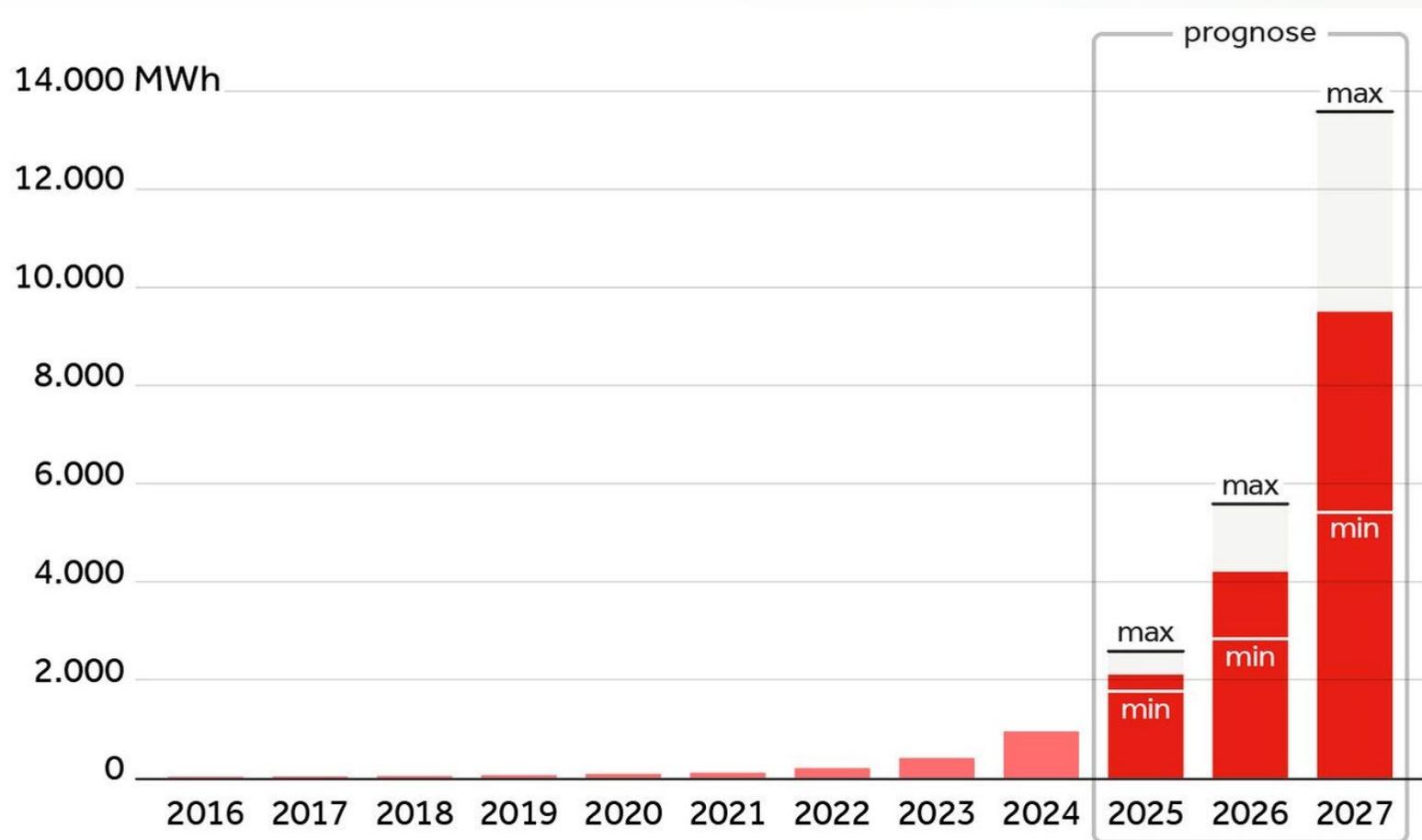
# Mismatch between demand and supply leads to negative day-ahead prices

Number of negative hours on the day-ahead market (EPEX-NL)



# Battery energy storage system

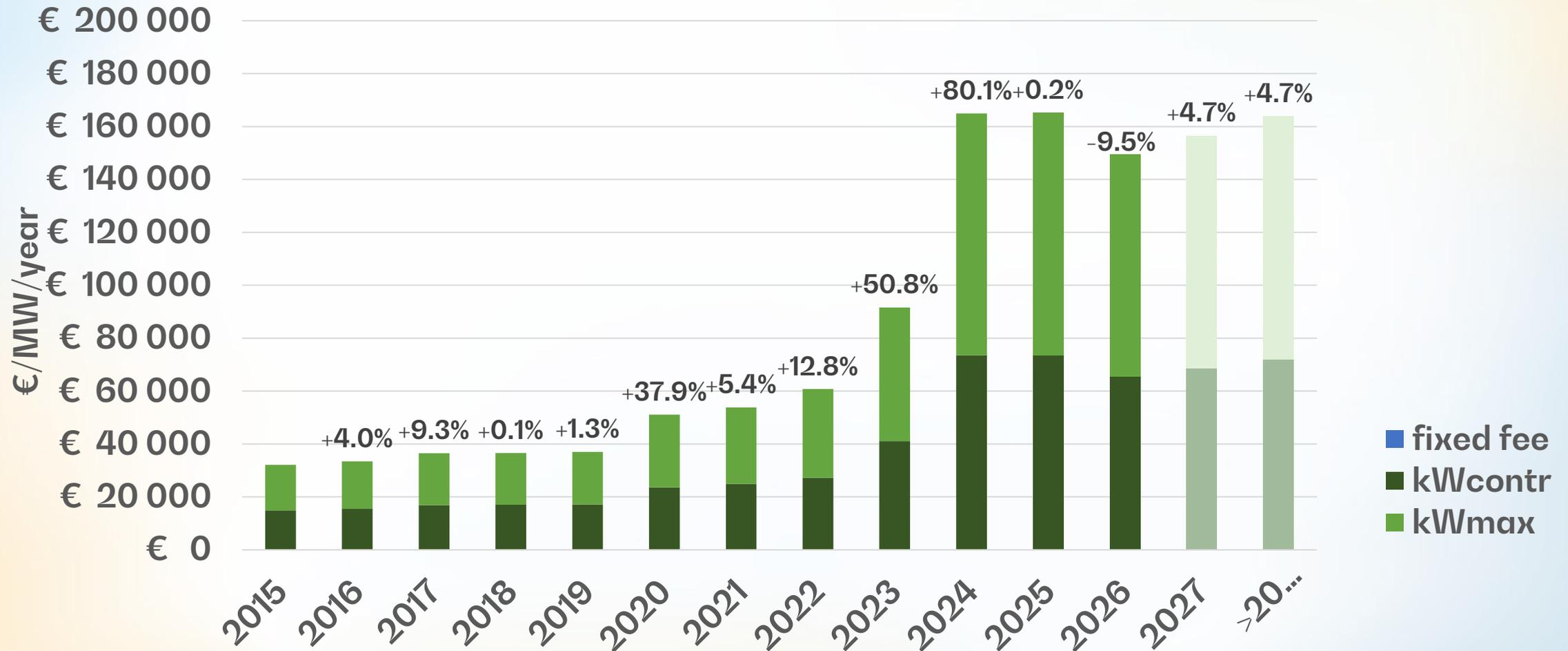
## Expected BESS capacity in NL (MWh)



bron: Voltho

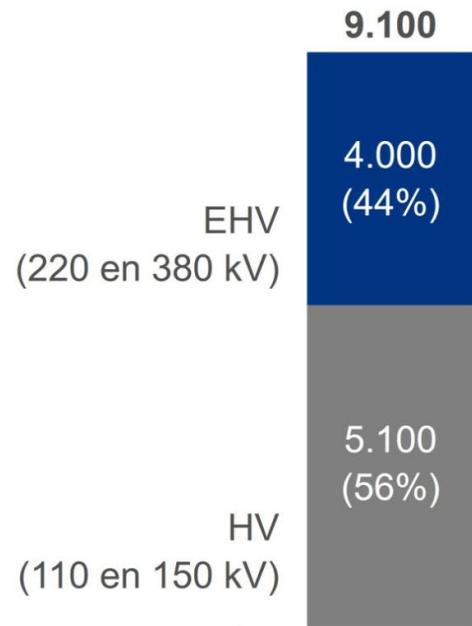
# Grid costs

## TenneT HV connections (110-150 kV)

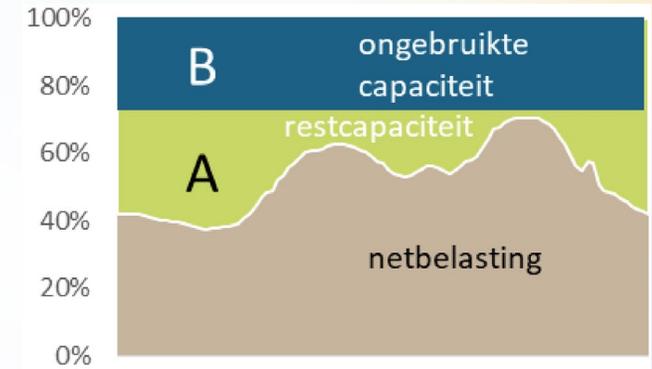


# TenneT announced 9.1 GW of capacity available for TDTR

**De resultaten: het totaal per spanningsniveau**  
(in MW, afname TDTR, afgerond)



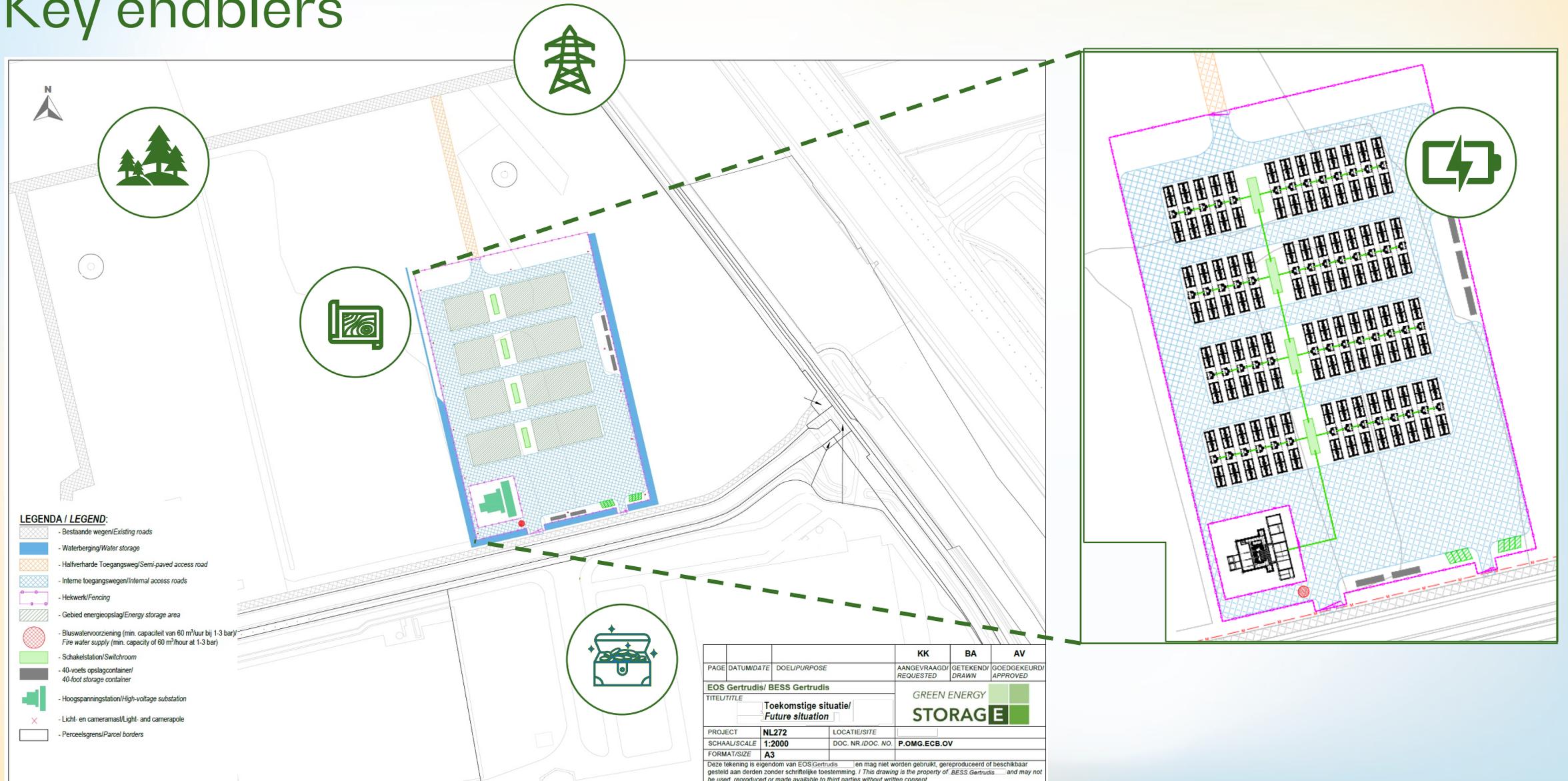
**Verdeling per deelgebied**

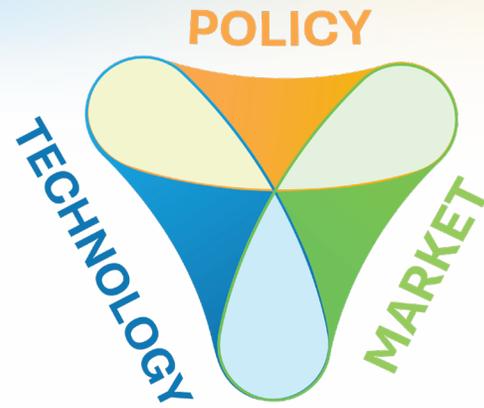


Hour	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Jan	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	
Feb	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Mar	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	
April	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
May	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
June	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
July	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Aug	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Sep	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Oct	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Nov	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Dec	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	
weekend	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	

# Project Gertrudis

## Key enablers





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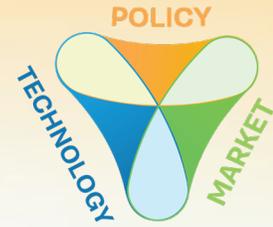
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Nicolas Giuliano

VP Development and Public Affairs

Engie

