

Barbados launches second phase of battery storage project

■ BRIDGETOWN

BARBADOS has launched the second phase of the competitive procurement process for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), which brings the island closer to unlocking the grid and allowing for the further onboarding of renewable energy.

The procurement is being implemented through the Ministry of Energy and Business, and this phase involves the official release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for up to 60 MW of grid-scale energy storage to be built, owned, and operated by private developers.

Speaking at Friday's ceremony to launch the second phase of the BESS procurement, Minister of Energy and Business Senator Lisa Cummins underscored the project's importance, saying it was about unlocking the grid.

'This project...is the transition from not being able to connect people's projects to the grid at an individual level, not being able to unlock over...\$500 million in potential investment that has been trapped in the banking system because these projects need to be operationalised. This is about energy independence and removing and replacing Barbados' import bill for energy....

'We've gone from gridlock to now, this project, ...grid unlock, and it is a clear signal that...Barbados is ready to lead, as it relates to the energy transition for the region and for countries beyond here. I know it has been a difficult journey for many of the investors...and...residential clients in this space,' she told her audience at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre.

Senator Cummins disclosed that the publication of the RFP, Energy Storage Agreement, Energy Storage Licence, Interconnection Agreement, Term Sheets, and detailed documents would be uploaded to the Government's procurement platform Bonfire on July 9.

She stressed that her Ministry is committed to working with all stakeholders to achieve a clean energy transition, where 100 per cent of the energy is derived from renewable energy sources by 2035.

Country Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank, Carina Cockburn, said the Ministry, with its partners, had designed a transparent, competitive and investment-ready auction model, which reflected global best practice.

Cockburn continued: 'The Minister and her team have continued to steer this effort forward with focus and ambition, bringing us to the second phase of the BESS procurement process. By embracing this approach, Barbados continues to set a powerful example for the region, one that reflects clarity of vision, solid policy alignment, and an overall commitment to energy resilience.

-CMC