

Press Release

Nippon Koei Energy Europe and Aquila Clean Energy announce start of commercial operations of a battery energy storage system in Belgium

Hamburg, 02 March 2023 – Nippon Koei Energy Europe B.V. (NKEE), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Japanese listed company Nippon Koei Co., Ltd., and Aquila Clean Energy EMEA, Aquila Capital's clean energy development platform in Europe, are pleased to announce the completion of the construction of their battery energy storage system (BESS) located in Ruien, Belgium.

The BESS has already started commercial operations and the project is thus actively contributing to improving the stability of the Belgian high-voltage (HV) grid as well as operating in the short-term electricity markets. The plant is located on the site of a former 800 MW coal fired power plant and therefore constitutes a good example of how to drive the energy transition forward by embedding flexible BESS assets in a market with an already elevated penetration of renewables in the production mix. The project also highlights the importance of battery energy storage systems for the energy transition throughout Europe, as a decisive part of a future integrated European energy system.

The 25 MW/100 MWh grid-scale BESS in Ruien is one of the largest connected to the Belgian HV grid as well as one of the first four-hour long duration BESS units in the EU. It is one of the first projects of this type in Europe that meets all relevant ESG standards and has a strong focus on sustainable construction and operation.

Masato Suzuki, President and CEO of Nippon Koei Energy Europe B.V.: *“Since 2018 we have co-developed this project with YUSO and are extremely proud that NKEE has delivered it through a full wrap EPC, with the support of Spie and Wärtsilä. We are pleased to continue to co-own the asset together with our partner Aquila Capital, whereby we can contribute to the energy security of Belgium's electricity system. Energy security is a key challenge facing the world's transition to a net zero economy. We aim to continuously contribute to power grid flexibility in accordance with Nippon Koei's philosophy: ‘Act with integrity and contribute to society through technology and engineering’.”*

Susanne Wermter, CEO of Aquila Clean Energy EMEA: *“We were able to realise the construction of the battery system through excellent cooperation with our partners at NKEE and we are looking forward to contributing to the commercial optimisation of the plant in the*

operating phase that will now follow. Batteries are a crucial building block of the energy transition because they balance the power grid and make it possible to integrate clean energies into the production mix. With the completed construction of this BESS, we are thus making an active and important contribution to the expansion of electricity storage and the integration of renewable energies. We aim to continue to further expand our exposure to this asset class and reaching this milestone has been an important step in this expansion.”

About Nippon Koei Energy Europe

Nippon Koei Energy Europe is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. Nippon Koei Group is the number one engineering consultant in Japan, which supports the safety and security of people all over the world. Since being established in 1946, Nippon Koei has been involved in solving social issues via business in the field of social infrastructure maintenance as the leading company in Japan.

The company now provides sustainable business related to the basis of building nations and human resources in over 160 countries and regions around the world. The company implements reforms according to the changing needs of the times, while achieving improved profitability and sustained business expansion.

Nippon Koei Group has three major segments consisting of power engineering and energy business, domestic and international engineering consultation, and urban & spatial development, and in the energy field in particular, power generation and energy management business utilizing distributed energy resources such as renewable energy and energy storage system has been undertaken in response to increasing domestic and global demand for energy and its flexibility.

Further Information: <https://www.n-koei.co.jp/english/>

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About Aquila Clean Energy

Aquila Clean Energy EMEA is Aquila Capital’s clean energy platform in Europe. Aquila Clean Energy develops, realises and operates clean energy assets using the technologies of solar, wind, hydropower and battery storage. Currently, Aquila Clean Energy manages a portfolio with a total capacity of more than 9.5 GW.

With a local approach and through local teams of experts, Aquila Clean Energy initiates, develops, realises and operates what it identifies as essential assets along the entire value chain and over the lifetimes of the assets. Aquila Clean Energy has built a permanent presence in seven countries with 140 employees, believing that local, on-site management teams are key to the company’s operations.

Aquila Clean Energy is part of Aquila Capital, an investment and asset development company focused on generating and managing essential assets on behalf of its clients. Currently, Aquila Capital manages assets worth EUR 14 billion on behalf of institutional investors worldwide. The company has been carbon neutral since 2006 and aims to become carbon negative.

Further information: <https://www.aquila-capital.de/en/>

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