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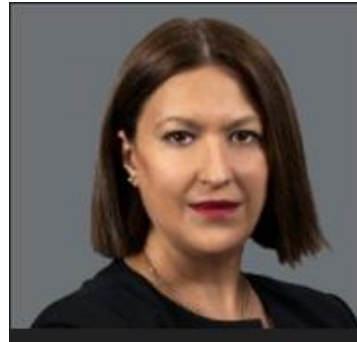
Articles for Lexology

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**Topic : “Bulgaria launches Second Tender for EU-funded 1,900 MWh Standalone Battery Storage Facilities (RESTORE 2)”**

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## **Introduction**

On 19 September 2025, the Bulgarian Ministry of Energy announced the commencement of the second tender under the National Infrastructure for Storage of Electricity from Renewable Sources - RESTORE 2 program (the "Procedure"). The Procedure is designed to provide financial support for the construction and commissioning of a standalone Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), financed under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility. Under the first RESTORE procedure, 82 projects were approved, with total funding of BGN 1.149 billion.

## **Legal and Regulatory Framework**

The Procedure is conducted in accordance with the state aid scheme approved by European Commission Decision SA.114306 (2024/N): State Aid Scheme for Supporting the Development of Standalone Energy Storage Facilities. It also aligns

with Section 2.5.1, Point 77, Letter a), Subpoint (ii) of the European Commission Communication on the Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures to Support the Economy in the Context of the Crisis and Transition Related to the Aggression of Russia Against Ukraine (2023/C 101/03) and its subsequent amendments.

## **Procedure Objectives**

The Procedure aims to provide funding for the construction and commissioning of at least 1,900 MWh of standalone Battery Energy Storage capacity. The storage facilities will be distributed across Bulgaria and connected either to the transmission network operated by TSO EAD or to the distribution network, provided that they maintain a direct optical connection to TSO EAD's SCADA/EMS telecommunication system.

## **Funding Framework**

The total funding available under the Procedure is EUR 118 million (approximately BGN 230,787,94). While there is no minimum grant amount per application, the maximum intensity is up to 50% of eligible projects' costs, with a ceiling of EUR 79,999 (approximately BGN 156,466) per 1 MWh of installed capacity.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Applicants must comply with the following criteria:

### **1. Legal Status**

Applicants must constitute commercial legal entities as defined under the Bulgarian Commercial Act, duly registered under the Commercial Register Act and the Register of Non-Profit Legal Entities, or be established as equivalent legal entities registered in an EU/EEA Member State.

### **2. Anti-Money Laundering Compliance**

Beneficial owners must be registered in accordance with Article 63 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, unless legally exempt, or under the legislation of the jurisdiction in which they are established.

### **3. Bid Bond**

Applicants must provide a 3% bid bond, calculated on the total amount of the requested grant.

### **4. Equity Requirements**

- Projects with planned storage capacity of  $\geq 20$  MWh and  $\leq 50$  MWh: EUR 3,067,751 (approximately BGN 6 million).

- Projects with planned storage capacity > 50 MWh: EUR 5,112,918 (approximately BGN 10 million)

Equity must be provided by the applicant's direct shareholders or partners; affiliated or associated entities are not eligible.

## **Technical Requirements**

### **1. Project Eligibility**

- The BESS must not have commenced operation by the submission date of the investment proposal.
- Alternatively, the facility may have commenced operation on or after 25 June 2024, but must not be fully commissioned at the time of application.

### **2. Battery Storage Capacity**

- The system must have at least 10 MW (AC) capacity.
- Guaranteed storage time capacity must be at least 2 hours.
- Compliance with primary frequency regulation reserve requirements is mandatory.

### **3. Technical Advisor**

- For investment proposals of 10 to 20 MW, the technical advisor must have experience in either combined production and storage projects or standalone storage projects.
- For projects above 50 MWh, the advisor must have experience with projects of at least 20 MW capacity.

## **Project Readiness Requirements**

At the time of application, projects must comply with the following criteria:

### **1. Connection Agreement**

A valid preliminary or final connection agreement with the relevant electricity network operator.

### **2. Permits**

A valid building permit for the battery storage facility or a permit for the installation of a movable object.

### 3. Commitments

Signed contracts, purchase orders, or other documentation demonstrating the first legally binding commitment to order the equipment, including high/medium voltage transformers.

### 4. Secured Financing:

Evidence of secured funding for the project implementation.

### Eligible Costs

Funding may be used for:

- Acquisition of Fixed Tangible Assets (FTA).
- Acquisition of Intangible Fixed Assets (IFA).
- Construction and Installation Works (CIW).
- Engineering and Technical Services related to project design.
- Construction of grid connection facilities and connection to the electricity transmission or distribution network (with direct optical connection to TSO EAD's telecommunication network).
- Administrative costs associated with registration, licensing, and permitting.

### Deadlines

- Application Submission: 17:00, 19 November 2025
- Project Commissioning Deadline: 31 July 2026

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