

Press Information

Renewable energy microgrid to power Japan's Okinoerabu Island

The microgrid will use Kyocera's energy management system, storage batteries, solar, and wind to maintain power even during emergencies or natural disasters and promote local economic development and reduce carbon emissions.

Kyoto/London, 25. November 2021. Kyocera has entered a comprehensive partnership agreement with the towns of China-cho (pronounced Chi-na) and Wadamari-cho on Okinoerabu Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan, to construct a renewable energy microgrid¹. The agreement, completed in September 2021, is designed to support sustainable economic development while reducing carbon emissions on the 93.2km² island with a population of about 12,000² residents. The microgrid will operate on locally produced renewable energy, using a power-balancing technology to maintain energy supply even during natural disasters.

Comprehensive Partnership Agreement Overview

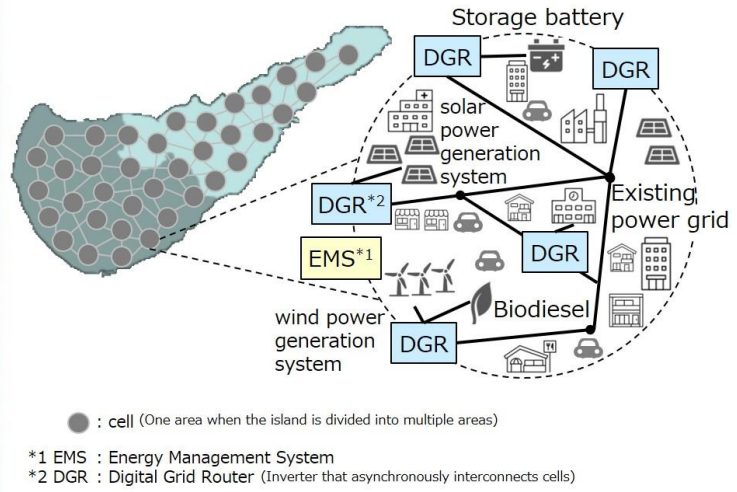
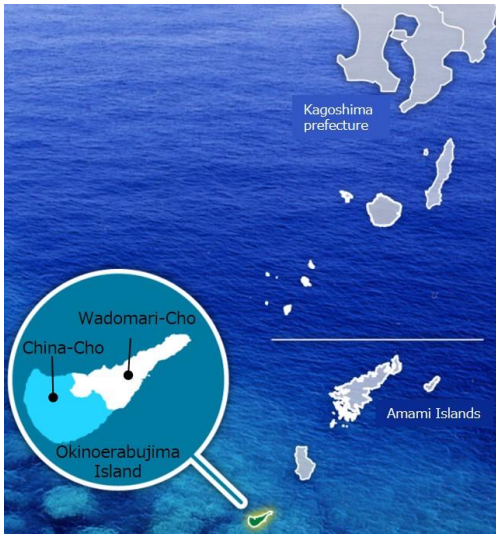
The three parties will prepare construction plans for the microgrid by March 31, 2022, which will utilize renewable power generation and storage batteries to supply power throughout Okinoerabu Island. After feasibility verification, construction is expected to begin after April 2022. The project has been selected by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) for a subsidy promoting community cooperation through the use of renewable energy.

The microgrid will require no new power lines, instead utilizing the existing power distribution network under license to serve consumers throughout the island. It will generate carbon-free power with a combination of a solar power generation system, wind power generation system, storage batteries, and an energy management system (EMS) that balances power supply and demand.

As a result, the towns of China-cho and Wadamari-cho plan to use renewable energy as their primary power source leveraging the EMS and storage battery technologies to overcome the intermittency of solar and wind solutions and provide consistent power even during emergencies or natural disasters. The parties also plan to create local jobs by establishing a local power company on the island to maintain the microgrid facilities.

¹ Microgrid: a small-scale energy network enabling local power production for local consumption using community-based energy sources and facilities instead of a large-scale power plant.

² as of October 28, 2021.



Okinoerabu Island Microgrid Concept

Background

The residents of China-cho³ and Wadamari-cho are acutely aware of the need to reduce carbon emissions. The towns currently rely on diesel-fueled power generation that releases a significant amount of greenhouse gases, and their renewable energy deployment remains low. In addition, typhoons and other challenges create frequent power outages on the island – sometimes requiring days to restore – and transportation of liquid fuel for diesel generators is difficult during turbulent weather. The agreement to build a renewable energy microgrid will reduce carbon emissions throughout the island while improving power supply reliability, economic development, and power rates to consumers.

Timeline

September 2021 to March 2022	Develop plans for microgrid deployment on the island.
After April 2022	Construct microgrid; install solar modules, storage batteries, EMS, and related equipment.

³ In September 2020, China-cho declared a climate emergency, aiming to reduce its CO₂ emissions to zero by 2050.



For more information on Kyocera: www.kyocera.de

About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, KYOCERA Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the KYOCERA Group, which is comprised of 307 subsidiaries (as of March 31, 2021), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the most experienced producers of smart energy systems worldwide, with more than 45 years of know-how in the industry. The company is ranked #603 on Forbes magazine's 2021 "Global 2000" listing of the world's largest publicly traded companies.

With a global workforce of over 78,000 employees, Kyocera posted sales revenue of approximately €11,74 billion in fiscal year 2020/2021. The products marketed by the company in Europe include printers, digital copying systems, semiconductor-, fine ceramic-, automotive- and electronic components as well as printing devices and ceramic kitchen products. The KYOCERA Group has two independent companies in the United Kingdom: KYOCERA Fineceramics Ltd. and KYOCERA Document Solutions Ltd.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (approximately €763,000* per prize category).

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