

Jaguar Land Rover unveils new renewable energy storage system from used car batteries

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has partnered with Wykes Engineering to develop one of the largest energy storage systems in the UK to harness solar and wind power using second-life Jaguar I-Pace batteries.



Image supplied

A single Wykes Engineering BESS utilises 30-second-life I-Pace batteries and can store up to 2.5MWh of energy at full capacity. The batteries supplied have been taken from prototype and engineering test vehicles, and JLR aims to supply enough batteries to store a total of 7.5MWh of energy – enough to power 750 homes for a day – by the end of 2023.

After this point, more containers can be created to house additional second-life batteries removed from used production vehicles in the future.

Each Bess, which is linked to an advanced inverter to maximise efficiency and manage energy, is capable of supplying power directly to the National Grid during peak hours as well as drawing power out of the grid during off-peak hours to store for future use.

Battery storage systems like this are critical to decarbonising the grid, as they can deal with rapid peaks in demand, and maximise solar and wind energy capture during sunny or windy conditions for use when needed.

As part of the technical collaboration, Wykes Engineering and JLR have achieved seamless integration, with no need for additional manufacturing steps or the removal of battery modules. The batteries are simply removed from the Jaguar I-Pace and slotted into racks in the containers on-site, helping to maximise the sustainability of the project.

The partnership represents an important step in JLR's adoption of circular economy principles, part of the business' strategy to achieve carbon net zero by 2039.

Second-life battery supply for stationary applications, like renewable energy storage, could exceed 200 gigawatt-hours per year by 2030, creating a global value of over \$30bn. JLR's batteries are engineered to the highest standards and can therefore be deployed in low-energy situations once their health falls below the stringent requirements of an electric vehicle, which typically leaves a 70-80% residual capacity.

Reusing vehicle batteries will create new circular economy business models for JLR in energy storage and beyond. Once the battery health falls below the required level for these second-life use cases, JLR will recycle the batteries so that raw materials can be recovered for re-use as part of a true circular economy.

François Dossa, executive director, strategy and sustainability at JLR, said:

"Our sustainability approach addresses the entire value chain of our vehicles, including circularity of EV batteries. Our EV batteries are engineered to the highest standards and this innovative project, in collaboration with Wykes Engineering, proves they can be safely reused for energy sector applications to increase renewable energy opportunities.

Using the 70-80% residual capacity in EV batteries, before being recycled, demonstrates full adoption of circularity principles."

Reuben Chorley, sustainable industrial operations sirector at JLR, said: "We're delighted to be working with Wykes Engineering on this pioneering project that will help unlock the true potential of renewable energy. Developing second-life battery projects like this is crucial to helping JLR adopt a new circular economy business model and drive us toward achieving carbon net zero by 2039."

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