



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism



News Release

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NELHA Announces Partnership with Sandia National Laboratories and Installation of Aquion Energy Storage Demonstration System

KAILUA-KONA – The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to express their intent to collaborate on the implementation of Electrical Energy Storage (ESS) into innovative renewable energy projects at the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park (HOST Park) administered by NELHA. The two organizations plan to work closely to coordinate, share information, encourage and plan for ESS related activities.

Gregory Barbour, NELHA Executive Director said that “this effort builds upon the 2014 initiative by the County of Hawaii, Hawaiian Electric Light Company and NELHA to cooperate, share resources, and attract companies interested in testing and evaluating pre-commercial energy storage units on the Island of Hawaii.” He added that “SNL is a world leader in the field of ESS and brings a tremendous amount of expertise and knowledge to NELHA projects”.

Both groups have been working together to bring online and evaluate the first of three ESS systems to be installed at NELHA’s new energy storage test bed. The 21.9 kWh M100 battery module by Aquion Energy Inc. was installed in March, 2015 by Hawaii Island based Renewable Energy Services and will be monitored for a minimum of 6 months. A second ESS system by a separate manufacturer is expected to come online later this year.

Ted Wiley, founder and vice president of product and corporate strategy at Aquion Energy, said “NELHA’s efforts are critical at this time because Hawaii desperately needs energy storage systems that can help improve power reliability and resiliency while allowing for higher penetration of renewable energy sources. Through the installation at NELHA, we plan to demonstrate to the Hawaii market that our battery systems are high performance, safe, and cost effective, and are the only non-toxic and environmentally-friendly battery in the world.”

About NELHA: NELHA administers the world’s premier energy and ocean technology park. This unique master-permitted park is located on 870 acres of prime coastal property in Kailua-Kona Hawaii and offers research support facilities for the development of renewable energy and other demonstration projects that utilize the unique resources found at the park. It is the world’s only facility that continually brings ashore high quality, pristine supplies of both warm surface and cold deep seawater 24 hours a day which allows for various tests to take place with views to reap economic potentials from the dual temperature seawater delivery system and high solar insolation. Tenants located in HOST Park work at the pre-commercial, commercial, research and educational levels. It is the largest diversified economic development project in the State and is solely focused on developing green economic projects. More information on NELHA can be found at www.nelha.org.

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