

E.ON UK Researches Energy Storage

E.ON UK is researching and developing a giant battery that will be able to store energy in a move which could unlock the full potential of renewable energy and micro generation. The battery will store energy generated from wind farms and distributed microgeneration such as solar panels. A large-scale prototype is currently being developed that will be able to store 1 MW of electricity for four hours. Energy Wholesale and Technology managing director Bob Taylor, says: "Green power is only generated from wind farms when the wind blows and that might not be when the power's needed by customers. By researching and developing this battery we can store the power generated by wind farms any time and then use it when our customers need it the most." The prototype is expected to be in place and operational by autumn 2009. E.ON has also announced a £40 million research fund which will support the further development of energy storage and other promising energy technologies. The new international fund will provide an important source of cash for researchers around the world for the next ten years.

[Source essa news]