



SMA Solar Technology AG Press Release

### **SMA solution secures grid stability in Europe's largest battery system**

**Niestetal, March 6, 2025 – A big step towards Net Zero for Great Britain. Blackhillock, Europe's largest transmission-grid-connected battery storage system has now been successfully put into operation. In addition to the medium-voltage solution including battery inverters, SMA Solar Technology AG (SMA) has delivered innovative grid-forming solutions to the flagship project. These enable the seamless integration of renewable energy into the Scottish power grid and ensure its stability. The Blackhillock battery storage system was built by Wärtsilä for the operator Zenobē and is launching in two phases. Phase 1 comprises of 200MW, followed by a further 100MW in 2026, making a total of 300MW/600MWh.**

"With our innovative energy storage solutions, we are setting new standards and laying the foundation for a clean and sustainable energy future," said Florian Bechtold, Executive Vice President of Large-Scale and Project Solutions at SMA. Our grid-forming battery inverters ensure the provision of short-circuit level and inertia, therefore safeguarding grid stability. We deeply appreciate the collaboration and shared vision of our trusted partners Zenobē and Wärtsilä."

The SMA Grid Forming solution will provide a stability service consisting of 116MVA of short circuit level contribution and 370MWs of inertia. This meets the challenge of the growing number of renewable power plants and the decommissioning of conventional power plants. SMA also supplied critical components for the project, including 62 medium-voltage power stations equipped with Sunny Central Storage battery inverters.

The plant was designed with the help of SMA to be meticulously optimized to deliver the best balance of performance and cost and has successfully completed the first of its kind compliance process for the new Great Britain grid connection requirements (grid code 0137), including grid forming requirements. This solution, integrating hardware, software, and engineering services has successfully demonstrated that it fulfils all the specifications of the British grid operator National Energy System Operator (NESO).

#### **Background: Blackhillock large-scale battery storage**

Blackhillock is currently Europe's largest transmission-grid-connected battery storage system. By facilitating greater integration of wind energy into the power grid, the project is expected to save around 2.3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the next 15 years. Through efficient storage and demand-based redistribution of excess renewable energy, energy waste and dependence on fossil fuels will be reduced. The large-scale storage system is part of the



UK's Pathfinder program, which aims to address stability issues in the transmission grid. SMA, Zenobē and Wärtsilä will also work together in 2025 to implement the Kilmarnock storage project as part of the Pathfinder program.

### **About SMA**

As a leading global specialist in photovoltaic and storage system technology, the SMA Group is setting the standards today for the decentralized and renewable energy supply of tomorrow. SMA's portfolio contains a wide range of efficient PV and battery inverters, holistic system solutions for PV and battery-storage systems of all power classes, intelligent energy management systems and charging solutions for electric vehicles and power-to-gas applications. Digital energy services as well as further comprehensive services round off SMA's range. SMA solar inverters installed worldwide in the last 20 years, with a total output of around 132 GW, help avoid over 70 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually. SMA's multi-award-winning technology is protected by more than 1,600 patents and utility models. Since 2008, the Group's parent company, SMA Solar Technology AG, has been listed on the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (S92) and is listed in the SDAX index.

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