e-STORAGE
A subsidiary of Canadian Solar

e-STORAGE BESS Solution Featuring SolBank 4.0

Next-Generation Performance — A Utility-Scale Energy Storage Whitepaper

Whitepaper | Version 1.0 | June 2026

PREPARED FOR

Global Utility-Scale Storage Market

DOCUMENT NO.

WP-SB4.0-2026-001

PREPARED BY

e-STORAGE, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar

REVISION | DATE

1.0 | June 2026

e-STORAGE
4273 King Street East, Suite 102, Kitchener, Ontario, N2P 2E9, Canada

Executive Summary

The economics of utility-scale storage are shifting. A project now hinges on land access, grid access, and the lifetime performance risk that lenders and owners carry for decades In Europe, roughly 455 GW of battery storage, about €100 billion of assets, is waiting in grid-connection queues [1], and a single high-profile fire can stall permitting across a region. Success here means putting more usable, longer-lived, and safe energy on each constrained site.

The e-STORAGE BESS Solution featuring SolBank 4.0 is e-STORAGE's answer to that reality. Built on a platform with over 35 GWh delivered and in operation across 97 projects worldwide, it pairs a 25% gain in container-level energy density and a 25-year design life with safety validated from cell to system, so that density, longevity, and protection each show up directly in project economics and long-term bankability.

For this paper, we also refer to the e-STORAGE BESS Solution featuring SolBank 4.0 as "the Solution."

In practical terms, container-level energy density rises 25%, with service beyond 10,000 cycles, so a site needs fewer enclosures and less land per MWh where space and grid access are tight. Configurations now extend to 8 hours, letting one platform cover both today's 2–4-hour duty and the emerging long-duration market. The back-to-back and side-to-side Quad Arrangement raises site density and trims EPC and installation cost per MWh, fitting more capacity onto the same approved land. The system also arrives tested and integrated with Canadian Solar's storage portfolio, including the PCS Skid and EQ-S EMS, so a project team works with one accountable partner across the whole system.

The New Constraints: Land, Time, and Lifetime Risk

As storage scales, the constraints that decide whether a project gets built, financed, and kept running are moving away from cell cost toward three others, and each one rewards a product that is denser, longer-lived, and safe.

Land and grid access. The interconnection queue has become the bottleneck. In Europe — where the next generation of projects is being planned — roughly 455 GW of battery-storage capacity, about €100 billion assets, sits waiting in distribution-grid connection queues [1], part of some 1.7 TW of renewable and hybrid projects stuck across 16 EU member states and Great Britain [2]. Germany alone has on the order of 130 GW of storage awaiting connection, and in Great Britain connection waits have reached as long as 15 years [3]. The pattern repeats in the United States, where roughly 890 GW of storage was seeking interconnection at the end of 2024 and the typical project now waits about 55 months to reach operation [4]. When the parcel and the grid position are fixed and scarce, energy density becomes project economics: every additional megawatt-hour per acre is revenue that would otherwise demand land and a grid slot the market cannot supply.

Lifetime risk. What lenders and owners care about is the capacity that will still be there in year 15. LFP cells lose roughly 1–2% of capacity per year, and many utility-scale projects plan a capacity augmentation around year 7 to 10 simply to hold their contracted output [5] — a real, scheduled cash outflow. Slower, more predictable degradation pushes augmentation later or out of the model entirely, supports stronger warranty terms, and improves bankability. Seen this way, a 25-year design horizon and high cycle life are financial features as much as engineering ones.

Delivery and compliance risk. Safety has become the gate every project must pass to be sited, permitted, insured, and financed. The January 2025 fire at Moss Landing — the largest battery-storage fire in U.S. history — triggered emergency moratoria and proposed setback legislation that slowed or stopped projects well beyond the site itself [6], and the standards tightened in step: UL 9540A was substantially revised in its 2025 fifth edition, and the 2026 edition of NFPA 855 adds large-scale fire-propagation testing expectations [7]. Insurers now routinely require UL 9540 and UL 9540A evidence before underwriting. The encouraging countertrend is that engineering works: EPRI's failure-incident data show the BESS failure rate falling roughly 98% between 2018 and 2024 even as global deployment grew from about 11 GWh to over 300

GWh, with only about 0.3% of projects experiencing a safety-related fire in 2024 [8]. In this market, cell-to-system certification is a permitting and bankability asset in its own right.

Hardware alone does not resolve these constraints. Meeting them takes a denser, longer-lived, fully certified product delivered by a partner with the execution track record to get projects financed and built. That is what the e-STORAGE BESS Solution featuring SolBank 4.0 is engineered to provide — and the sections that follow detail how.

SolBank 4.0: A Generational Step in Density, Life, and Duration

SolBank 4.0 represents the most significant generational leap in the SolBank platform to date. Every headline metric moves in the owner's favor — more energy per enclosure, more energy per site, longer design life, and broader duration coverage — improvements that translate directly into stronger project economics and long-term bankability. The table below summarizes the step change from SolBank 3.0:

Specification	SolBank 3.0	SolBank 4.0
Nominal Capacity	5016 kWh	**6250 kWh**
Energy Density Increase (Enclosure)	-	**+25%**
Energy Density (Site Level)	-	**+37%**
Design Life	20 yrs.	**25 yrs.**
Duration	2-4 hrs.	**2-8 hrs.**
Average YoY Degradation	0.98%	**0.97%**

One Platform, One Accountable Partner

The e-STORAGE BESS Solution is a fully validated, flexible platform built around our SolBank 4.0 energy storage system. The solution is scalable and built to address the operational complexity, safety rigor, and execution discipline that large-scale storage projects require.

The platform is built around a cell-to-system architecture whose active balancing at every level delivers higher throughput and more usable energy over the asset's life. Its PCS and EMS options are pre-validated and tested, giving project teams flexibility while holding technical reliability, and factory integration with pre-connection cuts engineering complexity and speeds installation on site to keep projects on schedule.

Engineering That Shows Up in Your Pro Forma

Several of these improvements show up directly in project returns. Better cell- and system-level balancing raises module efficiency and protects long-term battery health, and a 25-year design life carries system performance across the full term. The redesigned enclosure ventilation allows a denser back-to-back and side-to-side layout, the Quad Arrangement, which lowers EPC and installation cost and adds site flexibility; for noise-sensitive sites, several operating modes hold average sound pressure as low as 50.4 dB(A) at one metre in quiet mode.

Safety is engineered in at every layer. The battery system is tested and certified from cell to system under UL 9540A, including large-scale fire testing, and a Heat Flux Analysis covers a range of scenarios and environmental conditions. High-efficiency thermal aerogel and zero-weld seals block heat transfer under extreme conditions. Each SolBank 4.0 ships as a factory-validated assembly — batteries, BMS, thermal management, auxiliaries, fire protection, and controls tested together as one system — with UL 9540 system-level certification confirming that every layer, from cell to system, is coordinated and controlled.

Safety as a Bankability Asset

Safety is at the core of our solution, beginning with the rigorous protection systems embedded within the SolBank 4.0, up to the entire BESS level solution. Real-time SolBank monitoring along with coordinated system level control creates a layered protection framework designed to detect and rapidly respond before conditions escalate.

Protection starts with early fault detection. A three-layer Battery Management System monitors at the cell, rack, and system level, keeping batteries in their optimal range while detecting and responding to abnormal conditions. The Battery Control Interface (BCI) ties the parts together, managing communication among the BMS, the PCS and inverters, and the EMS: it receives plant-level active and reactive power setpoints, passes commands to the inverters, and sequences the start and stop of individual energy stations. System data such as state of charge, state of health, available energy, temperatures, and status flags flows through the BCI into the EQ-S EMS for real-time visualization, analytics, and emergency response, with KPIs shown to operators on its Web HMI.

Control follows pre-defined procedures that check readiness, interlocks, and health system before acting, so faults are isolated quickly, operators are alerted, and escalation is prevented. Global certifications sit underneath all of it — UL 9540A, UL 9540, NFPA 855, IEC 62619, and IEC 62477 among them — giving the assurance the system needs for deployment worldwide.

De-Risked Delivery, From Factory to Final Year

The Solution is backed by a globally distributed and adaptable supply chain, ensuring timely delivery, compliance, and cost efficiency across regions.

A globally distributed, adaptable supply chain stands behind the Solution, supporting timely delivery, compliance, and cost efficiency across regions. Batteries are made and assembled in China and the United States through e-STORAGE's own plants and qualified partners; inverters and EMS are sourced across the United States, Europe, and Asia to fit each project; and regional configurations meet local compliance, safety, logistics, and cost requirements. Behind this sits a record of more than 35 GWh delivered and operating across 97 projects worldwide.

As a total-solution provider, e-STORAGE stays with a project from start to finish: integrated system design and engineering, permitting and regulatory support, full EPC and turnkey execution, and long-term service and performance guarantees.

Built for Today's Revenue Stack — and Tomorrow's

The Solution is designed for a wide range of current applications and is built with the flexibility to support emerging energy storage needs across global markets. That flexibility matters because the market is both large and shifting: the EU installed a record 27.1 GWh of new batteries in 2025 (up 45% year over year, with utility-scale now 55% of additions) and must reach roughly 750 GWh by 2030 to meet its flexibility needs [9], while globally BloombergNEF expects about 92 GW / 247 GWh added in 2025, rising toward 2

TW / 7.3 TWh of cumulative capacity by the mid-2030s, some 61% of it for energy shifting — the duration-hungry duty SolBank 4.0's 2–8 hour range is built to serve [10]. As the grid evolves toward deeper renewable integration, long-duration energy needs, and more dynamic grid services, the Solution's modular design, advanced control architecture, and compliance-readiness make it a platform built for what is ahead. Through the EQ-S EMS, the Solution executes automated control of active and reactive power, power factors, voltage regulation, and frequency response (where enabled) the control foundation that underpins the grid services it supports.

Today the Solution handles renewable firming that smooths solar and wind, energy time-shifting and arbitrage, peak shaving and demand management, frequency regulation and grid stability, black start and grid-forming support, microgrid operation and islanding, transmission-and-distribution deferral, and hybrid solar-plus-storage integration.

It is also ready for where the market is heading: fast-response participation in capacity and ancillary markets, grid-forming and virtual-synchronous-machine capability for inverter-dominated grids, AI-enabled optimization across hybrid systems and portfolios, scalability for long-duration and dispatchable clean energy, and compliance with lifecycle traceability, the Battery Passport, and evolving ESG reporting.

Conclusion

The SolBank 4.0 marks a step change for the e-STORAGE BESS Solution: 25% more energy per enclosure, 37% more at the site level, a 25-year design life, and duration flexibility from 2 to 8 hours — gains that flow directly into stronger project economics and the long-term bankability that owners, developers, and operators demand. Performance and protection advance together: safety-first engineering, validated from cell to system under UL9540A and UL9540, is built into every layer of the stack.

Delivered as a fully integrated platform — SolBank 4.0, PCS Skid, and EQ-S EMS — and backed by a global supply chain and full-lifecycle services, the Solution gives project teams a single accountable partner from initial design through decades of operation. For the next generation of utility-scale storage projects around the world, the e-STORAGE BESS Solution featuring SolBank 4.0 is ready today — and built for what comes next.

See it on your site. Every project is different. To translate these gains into numbers for a specific site — MWh per acre, augmentation schedule, and lifecycle economics -STORAGE offers a site-specific layout and performance study. Contact your e-STORAGE representative to begin the conversation.

References

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[5] Energy-Storage.news, “Augmentation strategies to manage long-term battery degradation,” 2024.

[6] Energy-Storage.news and CTIF, coverage of January 2025 Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility fire and ensuing California moratoria and AB 303, 2025.

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[8] EPRI, “Insights from EPRI’s Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Failure Incident Database: Analysis of Failure Root Cause,” 2024.

[9] SolarPower Europe, “EU Battery Storage Market Review 2025,” 2026.

[10] BloombergNEF, “2H 2025 Energy Storage Market Outlook,” 2025.

Market and industry figures are drawn from third-party sources current as of mid-2026 and are provided for context; project-specific performance depends on configuration, site conditions, and dispatch profile.