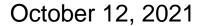


# Three Key Trends Driving Microgrids Today

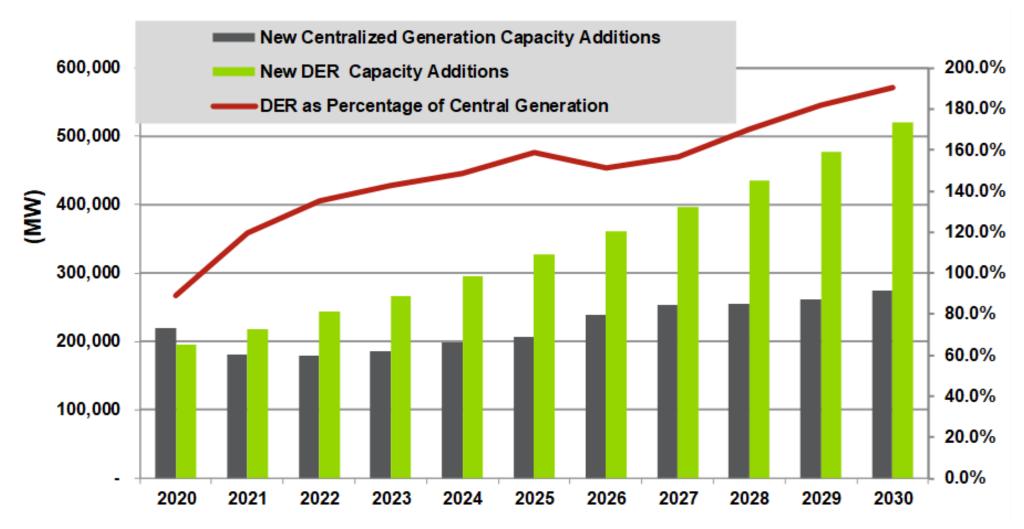
Peter Asmus,

Research Director





## Global Shift In Energy Sources Already Underway





## **Three Key Trends Driving Microgrid Adoption Today**

#### **Energy as a Service**

- One of the long-standing challenges facing microgrids is the ability of potential customers to pay the upfront capital costs.
- Though PPAs have been used for years, these contracts typically only addressed supply, not demand; new EaaS contracts take a more comprehensive view
- "Pay as you go" business models for remote microgrids have been a game changer

# Commercial & Industrial Customers

- C&I customers traditionally shun new innovations – microgrids -due to risk and ROI
- Declines in solar PV and battery costs have made microgrids more attractive
- These customers know the true value of resiliency due to increasing outages
- C&I is now fastest growing microgrid market

#### **Electric Vehicle Charging**

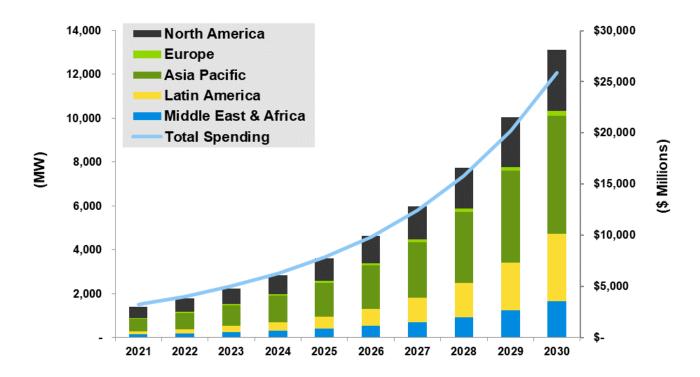
- EV mandates and goals are being established by federal, state and local governments
- Climate change and increased grid outages threaten the transportation sector in new ways due to electrification
- Microgrids can provide the clean energy resilience EV charging systems need
- EVs can also serve as an energy storage resource for microgrids



## **Energy as a Service Microgrids**

## Vendor Offers Becoming Mainstream

Microgrid EaaS Capacity and Spending by Region, World Markets: 2021-2030



- The primary EaaS market segments included in this forecast are:
  - Pay as you Go;
  - PPAs;
  - Advanced EaaS;
  - Energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs)/enhanced use leases.
- The microgrid EaaS market represents a \$3.3 billion market in 2021. By 2030, annual spending is expected to reach \$25.9 billion. Cumulative spending is \$110.5 billion globally between 2020-2030.



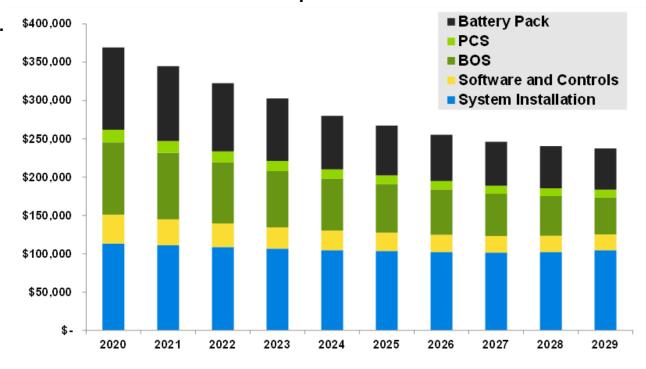
## **C&I Microgrids Now Fastest Growing Segment Worldwide**

Reduced Costs and Increased Outages Driving Adoption

# Past Challenges for C&I Customers:

- Large industrials often pay the lowest electric rates of any customer class.
- This market segment often is required to make a valid value proposition in the absence of government funding.
- Internal competition for capital outlays is fierce within these companies and subject to intense scrutiny from CFOs.

C&I Building Li-Ion Battery System Pricing, 250 kW/500 kWh System, US Base Case: 2020-2029



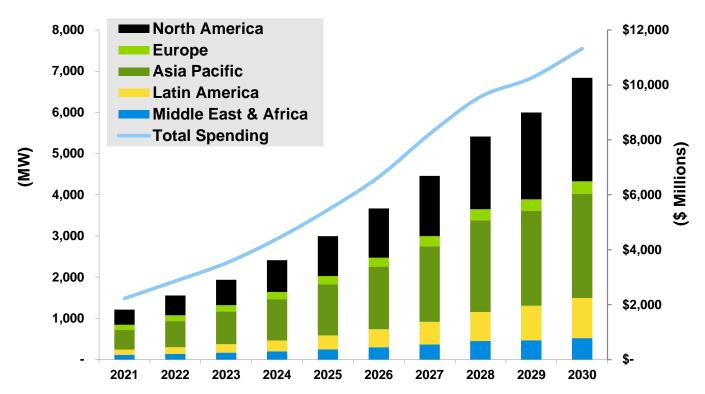




## Investors Now Driving C&I Shift to Clean Energy

## Sustainability and Resiliency Are Being Linked

# Total C&I Microgrid Capacity and Implementation Spending, World Markets: 2021-2030



(Source: Guidehouse Insights)

#### Guidehouse

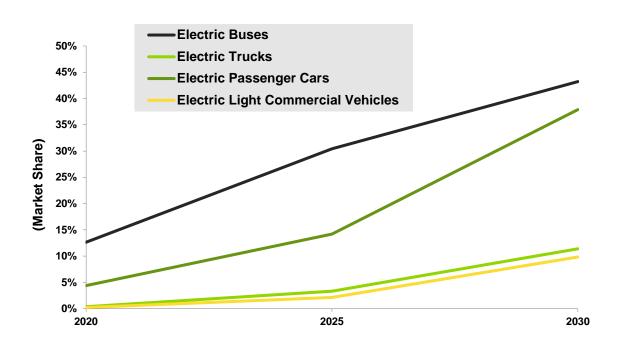
#### **Today's C&I Market Drivers:**

- Clients are fiscally sound and value innovation in business models, especially EaaS.
- Reliability is highly valued in C&I—more so than in any other microgrid segment, with the exception of military projects.
- Project portfolios with a single client can scale up rapidly, replicating commercial success within shorter development cycles than slow-moving segments (utilities, military and community projects).

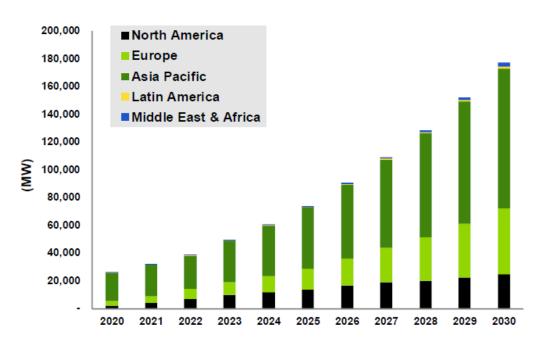
## **EV Growth Requires Clean & Resilient Electricity Supplies**

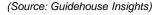
## Microgrids are Perfect Solution for EV Charging

EV Market Share by Segment, World Markets: 2020, 2025, 2030



**EV Charging Load by Region, World Markets: 2020-2030** 



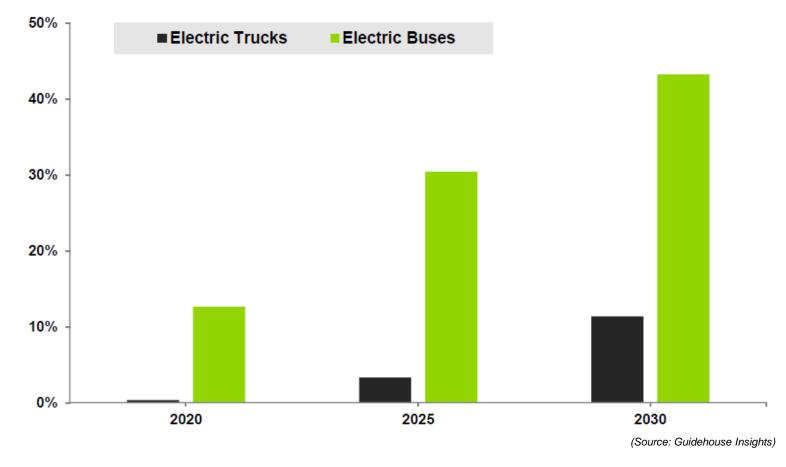




## **EV Fleets also a Resource for Microgrids**

## EV Batteries Can Serve as Stationary Energy Storage

- Just as microgrids bolster reliability for EV charging stations, EVs can bolster resilience by modulating charging schedules or offering batteries as a stationary form of energy storage.
- Fleets are the focus today, especially of busses and trucks.
- With right market structures, EVs can benefit the larger grid via provision of grid services that move microgrid value proposition beyond resiliency.







## Modular Systems, Distributed Controls & Hydrogen

#### Three More Trends to Monitor

- Increased interest in modular, plug-and-play systems reduce customized engineering costs and could speed up deployments of microgrids (< 4 MW)</li>
  - Dovetails with EaaS and C&I trends
- Shift in controls approach from top-down to bottoms-up reflect increased reliance on variable renewables
  - Distributed or decentralized approaches push intelligence to devices and grid edge
  - Enhanced flexibility for microgrid designs
  - Innovators are start-ups but acquisitions and partnerships between large and small vendors are also increasing
- Need for Long Duration Storage Growing with 100% Clean Energy Goals
  - Most common battery deployed in a microgrid is lithium ion, which provides resilience for 2 to 4 hours
  - Flow batteries are one option, but many suppliers have gone bankrupt over the past 5 years
  - Distributed hydrogen being deployed in remote systems and Stone Edge Farm in Sonoma, California

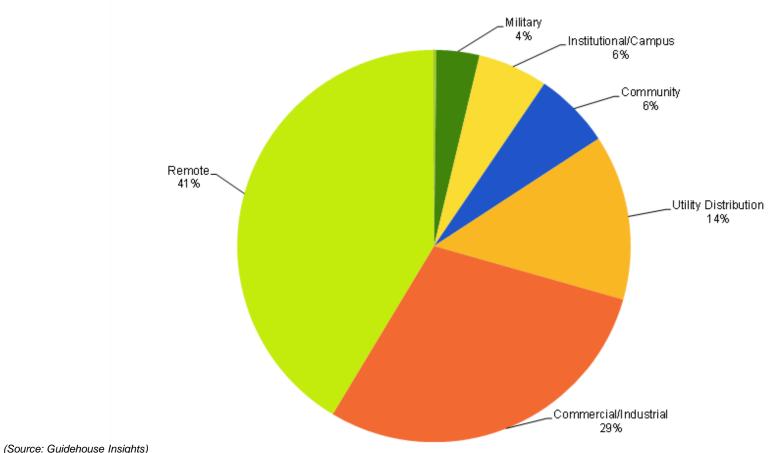




## **Conclusion: Microgrids Have Come of Age**

Remote Microgrids Still Leading the Way

Microgrid Capacity by Segment, World Markets: 1Q2021





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