

SP Group starts vehicle-to-grid technology trial

🕒 THU, JUL 08, 2021 - 9:24 PM | 🔄 UPDATED THU, JUL 08, 2021 - 9:35 PM

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Jimmy Khoo, chief executive of SP PowerGrid, with the V2G-capable Nissan LEAF and a V2G bi-directional charger that will be used in the Singapore trial.

NATIONAL grid operator SP Group (SP) has started its trial of vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology and has raised its investment in a V2G technology firm as Singapore progresses towards wider adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).

The company aims to test the viability of tapping the energy stored in EVs in the trial to enhance the reliability of the grid, which will need to support more than 600,000 vehicles when Singapore phases out internal combustion engine vehicles by 2040, said SP in its media statement on Thursday.

When charged, EVs store energy in their lithium-ion batteries, which serve as small energy storage systems that can transfer energy back to balance the power grid, such as when renewable energy sources such as solar power fluctuate due to weather conditions.

If V2G technology is viable, owners of EVs can be paid for the use of their batteries when they are tapped to mitigate the intermittency problem in other energy sources.

SP has stepped up its investment in the V2G technology firm The Mobility House (TMH), but did not provide the specifics. SP only stated that TMH has a presence in Munich, Zurich and Belmont (in California) , and provides a non-proprietary software for integrating vehicle batteries into power grids using intelligent charging and storage solutions.

SP is providing four V2G charging points at SP's premises for the trial, which will be completed in June 2022. V2G technology allows energy transfer between the batteries within an EV and the power grid, and so is more sophisticated than uni-directional charging of EVs.