



5-Year Growth Strategy for Al-in-ESG Company

2025 Bain Cup Case Competition | SPY POTATO

Executive Summary: Al-in-ESG Co. should adopt "IPSP" strategy to integrate the entire VPP¹ chain, aiming to become a VPP industry leader by 2030.

Market Analysis

Market Overview



- Surging demand, RE growth, AI penetration, and policy supports drive the VPP boom
- Midstream VPP is a blue ocean with vast growth potential

Consumer Analysis

- The consumer market is split into upstream and downstream for staged expansion
- Identify KPCs² across distinct consumer segments

Competitor Analysis

- The distributed energy sector is still nascent, offering strong growth potential for startups
- Al-in-ESG Co. emphasizes its flexibility in growth and integration

Purposed Strategy

"IPSP" strategy integrates the entire VPP value chain, building a closed-loop advantage for renewable energy AI SaaS





Form DG³ alliances, evaluate flexibility, and prioritize smart subsidies for efficient grid balancing



Unlock aggregated supply, provide Al-based siting and O&M services to enhance supplier loyalty and dispatch agility



Break the bidding barrier, drive market-oriented pricing by providing upstream visibility and actionable supplier insights



Shape user profiles, utilize smart meter data to create dynamic user response profiles and support upstream pricing



By 2030, net profit is projected to reach *4.63M RMB*, and the Al-in-ESG Co.'s valuation will be *2,111.73M RMB*.

Position the AI-in-ESG Co. as the leading AI-driven SaaS provider in the VPP industry, enabling consumers to achieve their ESG objectives.



Agenda

Market Analysis

- Market Overview
- VPP Industry Overview
- Consumer Analysis
- Competitor Analysis

Strategy Recommendation

- Strategy Overview
- S1T1 Integration Platform Strategy
- S1T2 Platform Services Strategy
- S2T1 SC Intelligence Strategy
- S2T2 Profiling Services Strategy

Implementation

- Financial Forecast
- Implementation Timeline & Risk Mitigation

Market Overview: From RE-Al Fusion to VPP Scale, unlock 2035's 171bn RMB Grid Modernization Frontier.

Primary Contributors

Electricity Demand

- · **2023**: 9.2 TWh (+6.7% YoY)
- **2024**: 9.9TWh (+6.8% YoY)

RE Capacity (Supply)

- **2023**: 151.6GW (**52%** share¹)
- **2024**: 189.0GW (+25% YoY)

Generation

RE Power

- Q1 2025: reach 196.6GW

Side

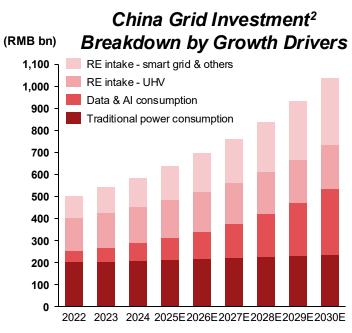
Plant

Al Penetration

- · Global CAGR: 24.54% (2024-
- 2029E)
- CN Coverage: hit 40% (2025E)

Policy Support

Since 2017, China has enacted 8+ relative national policies and 10+ supplemental local policies.



RE & Al integrated solution captures around 60% of the total grid investment growth.

Adoption Constraints

- **COPEX** barriers
- Compete with SOEs
- **Endemic Policy Flip Risks**

Consumption Side

Energy-

Intensive Manufacturer

- High CAPEX
- Data silos Gaps
- Weak policy enforcement

Adjustment Side

Virtual Power Plant (VPP)

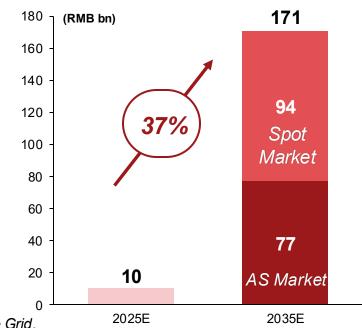
Segment Advantages

5-8 times lower CAPEX

Policy & ESG trend

With evolving AI techs and 15+ VPP policies as guidance...

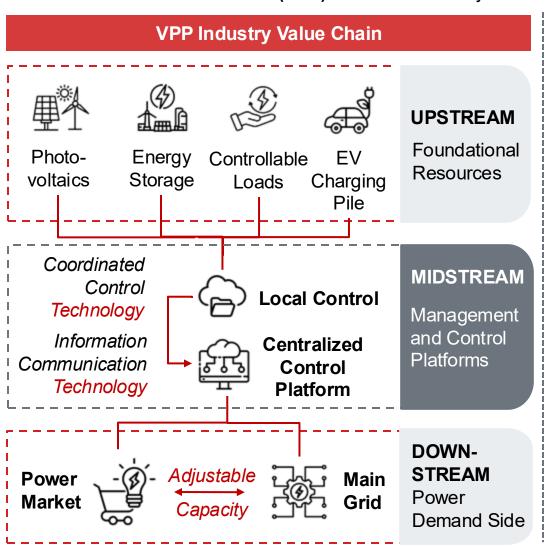
2025E vs 2035E VPP Market Size



Notes: 1Share refers to the percentage of total installed capacity; 2China grid investment refers to the investment made by State Grid.

VPP Industry Insight: On the adjustment side, midstream in the VPP industry is positioned as the strategic business focus.

Definition: Virtual Power Plant (VPP) is an innovative system for the coordinated management of distributed energy resources.



VPP Industry Value Chain: Competitive Landscape Market Maturity **DOWNSTREAM UPSTREAM** (grid, retailers, users) (DER & storage OEMs) **MIDSTREAM** Midstream is the growth point (platforms & for VPP compared to traditional low aggregators) system— a Blue Ocean. mediar

Profit Model

- Capacity tariff/subsidy for power infrastructure
- Distributed generation revenue
- Service fees earned through demand response dispatch participation

The Strategic Significance

Policy Support & Regulatory Visibility

- Facilitating electricity market liberalization
- Enhancing grid stability and operational flexibility
- **Promoting ESG**

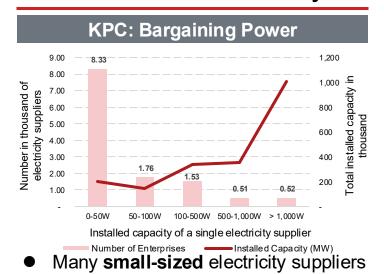
Consumer Analysis: Al-in-ESG Co. should sequentially expand into UP and DW VPP segments based on their respective KPCs.

Current Target: UP Segment

As **cornerstone** of the SaaS platform, the upstream segment should be prioritized by Al-in-ESG company

- Business model more straightforward
- Technical implementation more practical

► UP Consumers Needs Analysis



But individual output is small, difficult to have **bargaining power**

Al-in-ESG Company Segments UP **Basic Resources Distributed Energy Energy Storage** Controllable Load **Al-in-ESG Position: Midstream State Grid Electricity Distributors End-Users** Ind. + Com. + Red. DOWN **Electricity Demanders**

Future Target: DOWN Segment

As the **strategic frontier** of scale and synergy, the downstream segment should be actively developed

- Business model more lucrative
- Closed-loop advantage for RE AI SaaS

► DOWN Consumers Needs Analysis

KPC: Latent Cost

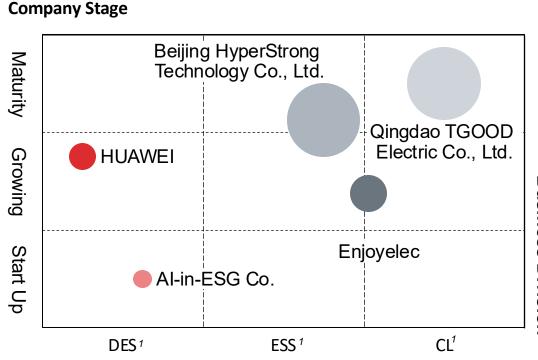
- **Premium purchases** caused by inaccurate renewable supply forecasts
- Costly dispatch caused by demand misestimation

KPC: End User (EU) Data

- Smart meters with over **95% coverage**
- However, these data remain unused

Competitor Analysis: Al-in-ESG Co. has opportunity starting up in Distributed Energy System concerning its comparative features among competitors.



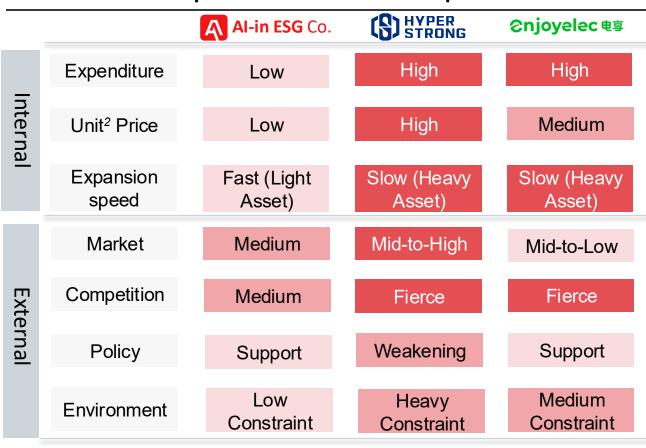


Segmentation Insight:

- In distributed energy system (DES), no monopoly corporation
- Less competitors in the DES market
- There are a lot of potential business opportunities in the DES direction for start-up companies to chase.

Note: ¹DES, ESS, CL stand for distributed energy system, energy storage system, and controllable load.

Comparative features of Competitors



Core Comparative Advantage:

Light assets and high growth rate accelerate the integration and expansion of the industrial chain.

Note: ²Unit refers to single service terminal sales for service users.

Strategy Overview: The core service is to facilitate seamless coordination for the UP and DOWN markets, thereby supporting the marketization of VPPs.

Vision



Al-in-ESG Co.

Leverage the advanced AI tools to improve the operating efficiency and sustainability

Growth Strategy

S1 Aggregation Scale Al's impact by aggregating supply-side E G players into a unified, intelligent dispatch system

S2 Profiling

Distill demand-side behavior through real-time transparency and user-specific profiling tools



Tactic Focus

\$171: Build a renewable energy aggregator of distributed power producers

S1T2: Provide Al siting, storage, and maintenance services to upstream

S2T1: Drive marketization with supply chain coorperation and agile policy alignment

S272: Use smart meter a to build user segmentation for adaptive load and pricing

Rationale

- Leverage scale advantages for grid negotiation
- Filtrate responsive suppliers for market-based dispatch
- Reduces O&M costs for suppliers
- Deepens stickiness and data-sharing incentives

- Reduces information asymmetry in procurement
- Enhances up & down readiness for policy

- Enables personalized incentive structures
- Feeds demand signals upstream for smarter dispatch

Improvement

Added Value & Innovation

Resolve pricing barriers

Improve dispatch flexibility

Raise pricing efficiency

Improvement

improvement

Expand supplier network

Optimize system flexibility

Enhance upstream retention

Accuracy & Controllability

Resolve pricing barriers

Boost electricity marketization

Improvement

RAIN & COMPANY (A) | Company to |

Expected Outcome

BAIN & COMPANY () | Spy Potato | A Al-in-ESG Co.

S1T1 – **Integration System:** Integrate upstream distributed RE data to enhance bargaining power and improve supplier responsiveness.



Al-Driven Integration Platform

- **Key pain points**
 - 1. Inefficient distribution causing waste
 - 2. Diminished bargaining power



Cross-Regional Power Generator Alliance via Al-driven SaaS Platform

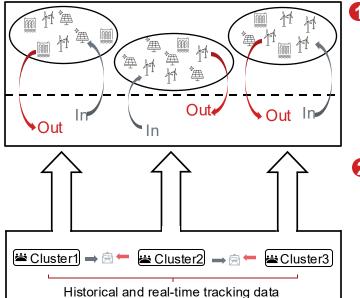
Built-in Al-assisted pricing

- Non-linear fitting
 - Sample Learning
- Deep Learning

- Pricing **Reasonable**
- Downstream acceptable
- Upstream **profitable**

Provide the **better price** for suppliers

Dynamic Performance Evaluation System



- **In-Cluster Optimization** dynamic evaluation system **Target:**
 - Elimination mechanism
 - Reliable electricity output forecast
- **Between-Cluster Optimization** Smart contract system driven by Al

Target:

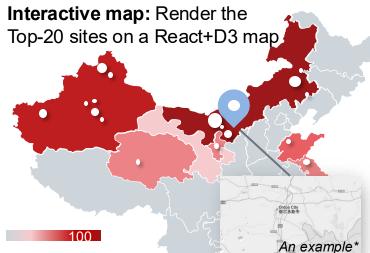
- · Total demand satisfaction
- · Volatility minimization
- · Risk-reduction

Maximize the system's flexibility for market demand

S1T2 - Platform Services: Provide value-added service support for Aldriven site selection, energy storage maintenance, and operational trading.



Al-driven Site Selection



Scoring Dimensions:

- Accessibility
- Land Cost
- Policy Incentives
- Revenue Potential

Report export:

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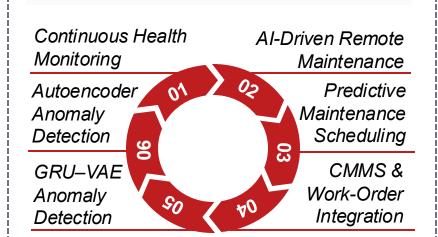
Excel/PDF

Reports

(IRR forecast)

Energy Storage Maintenance

- Timely identify potential faults, assign them to local O&M teams, and track resolution progress.
- Lifecycle modeling
- Maintainance assistant: Built-in virtual



Operational Trading

Scientific Capacity Sizing

Calculate a cost-effective battery size

Saving Arbitrage Costs

Automated Dispatch

Optimal charge schedules

More **Profitable**

Sub-second Response

Continuously pulls marketprice data

Phone Notifications

Grid-access "Pass"

Evaluate interconnection risk

Avoiding approval delays

S2T1 - SC Intelligence: Deliver timely upstream and policy signals to downstream buyers, promoting upstream collective bargaining to advance marketization reforms.



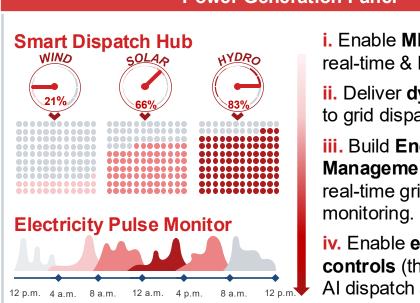
Latent Costs from SC Bottlenecks: Not only procurement contract price but also the following implicit expenditures need to be considered.

▶1. Fragmented Procurement

▶ 2. Upstream Blind Spots

> 4. Misalignment with Up & Down

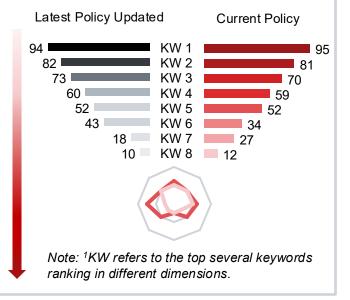
Power Generation Panel



- i. Enable **ML forecasts** with real-time & historical data.
- ii. Deliver dynamic panels to grid dispatchers.
- iii. Build Energy Management System for real-time grid health
- iv. Enable edge-automated controls (threshold alerts + Al dispatch actions).

Policy Pulse Engine

- i. Slice policy texts and score urgency & impact.
- ii. Map policy signals to the VPP supply chain.
- iii. Simulate scenarios in a digital sandbox to identify risk and catch opportunities.
- iv. Generate actionable insights reports.



Benefits

- Closed loop from data to action
- Stability & resilience in aligned operation

- Agility & risk-aversion in proactive response
 - Cross-tier synergy through the whole supply chain

Benefits

BAIN & COMPANY (4) | Spy Potato | A Al-in-ESG Co.

S2T2 – **Profiling Services:** Based on EU data, profile end users to enable precise demand control and pricing optimization.

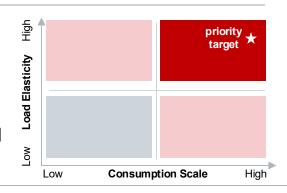


Dynamic EU Behavior Profiling

- Data Analysis: Analyze smart meters data to extract load features and quantify consumption volatility
- User Profiling: Generate concise load profiles from data analysis

Key Features:

- Load Elasticity
- •
- **EU Clustering**: Use Al for dynamic EU segmentation to cluster EU profiles under different feature criteria
- Precise Allocation: During power shortages, target specific EU in different situation with subsidies
 - **Target:** Precisely cut demand and ease shortages



Reverse-driven Dynamic Pricing Criteria

Data Collection

Historical Price

Corresponding EU Response

Price-related Indicators

- Price
- Fluctuation Range
- Volatility

Public Opinion

Sentiment signals on social media and news comments

Churn & Complaints

Complaint frequency, late payments, and sudden drops in usage

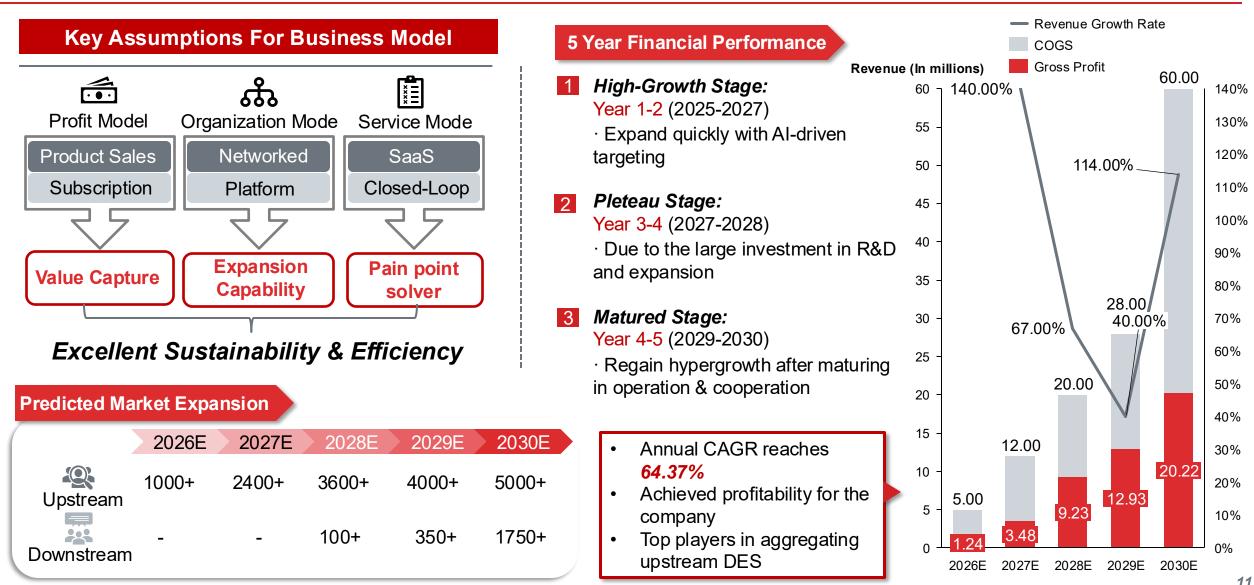
Quantified EU acceptance and satisfaction

EU price sensitivity modeling to identify acceptable **price ceilings** and tolerance for the **slope of change**

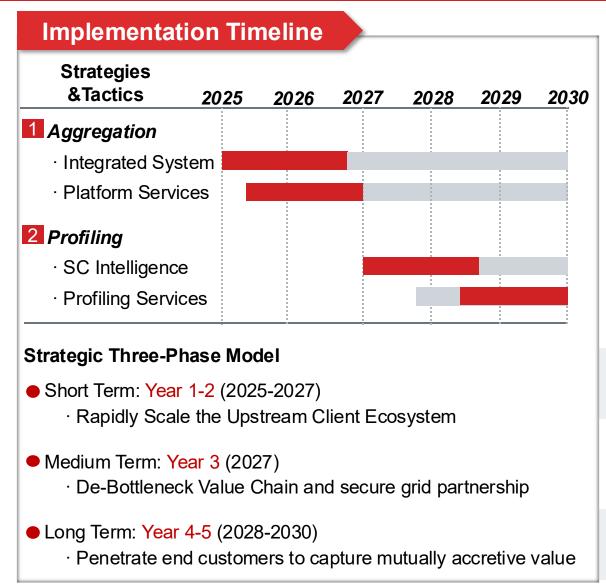
Target: Build an upward channel for dynamic EU price sensitivity modeling to inform reverse pricing decisions

10

Financial Forecast: Optimistic phased growth based on excellent business model, achieving 12x revenue growth in 5 years.



Implementation: Utilizing a Three-Phase Value Capture Pattern From Aggregation to EU for Market Domination.



Risk Mitigation High Severity 3 **₩**0 Low High **Probability Mitigation** Risk Data Sovereignty & · Form an ESG Data Ethics Monitor Committee Privacy Compliance · Implement Opt-In Consent Mechanisms Competition with · Speed up scale via private sector partnerships traditional SOEs · Build barriers with patents and core tech Complexity from · Prioritize intra-cluster energy balancing DER to connection · Advocate for "VPP-Friendly Zones" with infrastructure streamlined interconnection approvals.



Appendix Agenda

Appendix 1

VPP Industry Specific Nomenclature

Appendix 2 (ABCDE)

Primary Contributors in AI+ESG Market

Appendix 3

Investment in RE

Appendix 4

Regional Distribution Map of Energy Storage

Appendix 5

EU Profiling Standard and Process

Appendix 6 (ABC)

Financial Projection Model

Appendix 1: VPP Industry Specific Nomenclature

- AS: Auxiliary Service
- CIRN: China Industrial Research Net
- Com.: Commercial
- CL: Controllable Load
- DBI: Davies-Bouldin Index
- DES: Distributed Energy System
- DG: Distributed Generation
- EC: Electricity Consumption
- ES: Electricity Supplier
- ESS: Energy Storage System
- EU: End-Users
- Ind.: Industry
- KPC: Key purchasing criteria

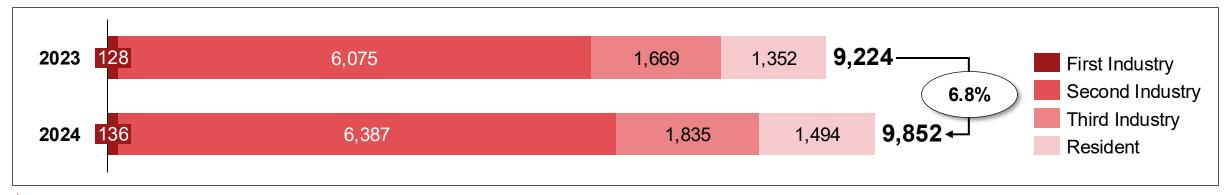
- NDRC: National Development and Reform Commission
- NEA: National Energy Administration
- NMI: Normalized Mutual Information
- O&M: Operation and Maintenance
- PGC: Power Grid Company
- PT Ltd.: Power Trading Ltd.
- **RE**: renewable energy
- Red.: Resident
- RI: Rand Index
- SaaS: Software as a service
- SOE: State-Owned Enterprise
- VPP: Virtual power plant

Appendix 2A: Primary Contributors in AI+ESG Market

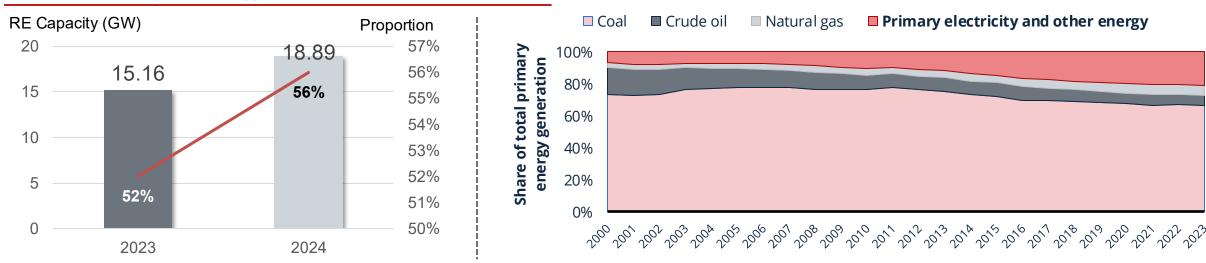
(Market Overview)

We started by analyzing the AI+ESG market, the 4 primary contributors...

Electricity Consumption in 2023 & 2024 (billion kW)

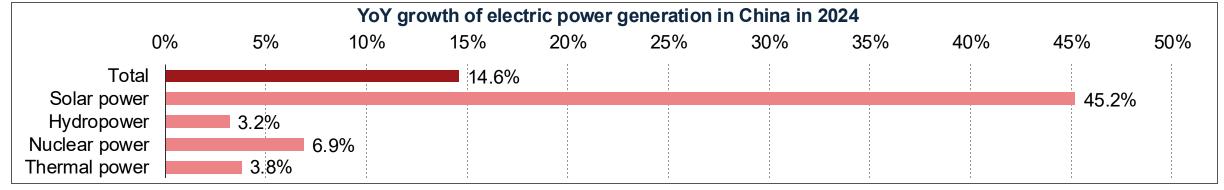


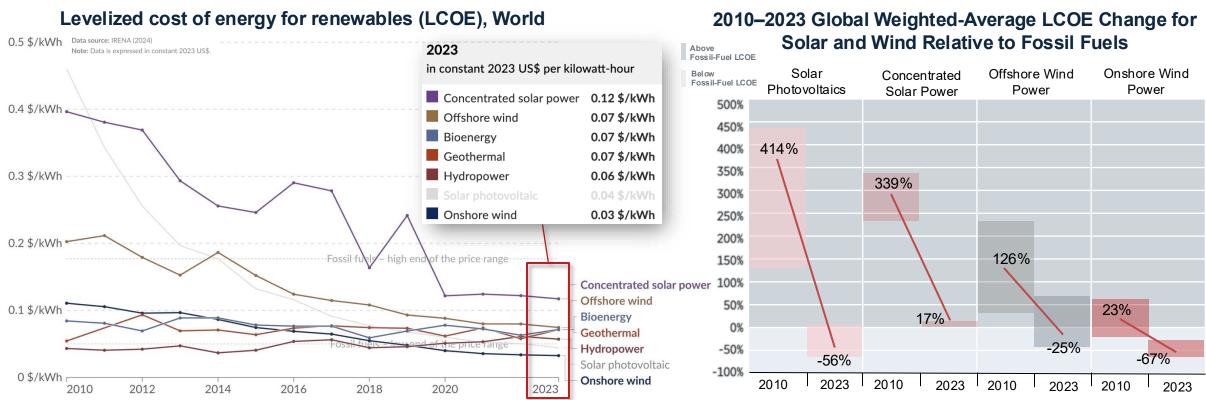
RE Capacity & Energy



Appendix 2B: Primary Contributors in AI+ESG Market

(Market Overview)

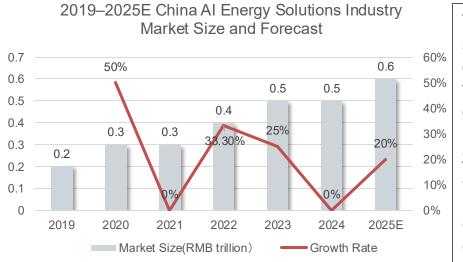




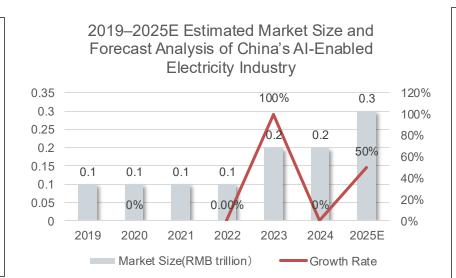
Appendix 2C: Primary Contributors in AI+ESG Market

(Market Overview)

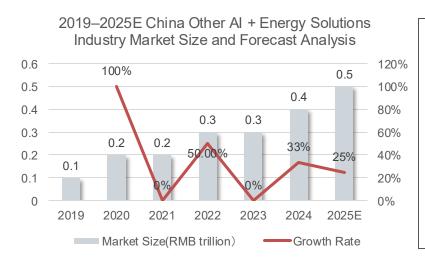
Al Penetration



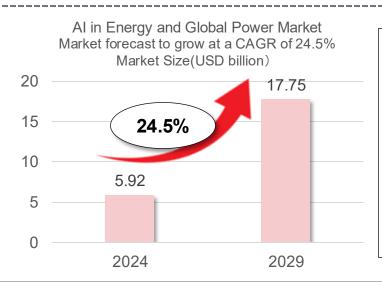
The market size shows an overall upward trend; although growth is projected to be zero in 2021 and 2024, the market continues to expand.



From 2019 to 2022. the market size remained steady at CNY 0.1 trillion; it grew to CNY 0.2 trillion in 2023, and is projected to reach CNY 0.3 trillion in 2025.



Market size was CNY 0.1 trillion in 2019, increased to CNY 0.3 trillion during 2020–2023, and is projected to reach CNY 0.4 trillion in 2024 and CNY 0.5 trillion in 2025.



Al adoption in this field is growing by 24.6% annually as power generation companies steadily embrace Al solutions for higher productivity.

Appendix 2D: Primary Contributors in AI+ESG Market

(Market Overview)

Policy & VPP Market

Virtual Power Plant Market Space Forecast

Unit / Metric	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E
Total electricity consumption (100 million kWh)	83,128	86,374	91,500	96,000	98,000	103,390	109,076	115,076	121,405	128,082
VPP curtailed volume as % of total	0.30%	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%	2.00%	2.50%	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%	5.00%
VPP curtailed volume (100 million kWh)	249	432	915	1,440	1,960	2,585	3,272	4,028	4,856	6,404
		A. G	overnment	Subsidies	i					
(1) Peak-shaving subsidy scale (CNY 100 million)	60	104	220	346	470	558	628	677	699	768
(2) Valley-filling subsidy scale (CNY 100 million)	30	52	110	173	235	279	314	338	350	384
Total subsidy revenue (CNY 100 million)	90	155	329	518	706	837	942	1,015	1,049	1,153
			B. Market T	rading						
Electricity traded via market (%)	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Trading spread (CNY/kWh)	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Revenue from trading (CNY 100 million)	0	4	18	43	78	129	196	282	388	576
A + B: Total VPP Market Space (CNY 100 million)	90	160	348	562	784	967	1,139	1,297	1,437	1,729
VPP aggregator's share of revenue (%)	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Aggregator revenue market space (CNY 100 million)	45	80	174	281	392	483	569	648	719	865

Appendix 2E: Primary Contributors in AI+ESG Market

(Market Overview)

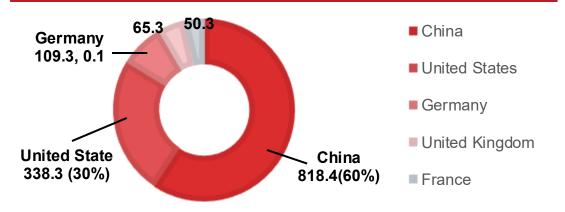
Policies Related to the Development of Virtual Power Plant (VPP) Industry

Policy Name	Issuing Authority	Year	Key Contents
Blueprint for the Development of New Power Systems 《新型电力系统发展蓝图》	National Energy Administration (NEA)	2023	Outlines the development vision, characteristics, and roadmap for new power systems across China. Emphasizes enhanced coordination among power generation, grids, loads, and storage. Promotes market mechanisms and the digitalization of energy systems.
Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Digital and Intelligent Development of Energy Systems 《关于加快推进能源数字化智能化发展的指导意见》	National Energy Administration (NEA)	2023	Supports data resource aggregation, intelligent regulation, and the development of new load resources like electric vehicles. Promotes VPPs and demand-side aggregators to improve the flexible regulation capability and intelligence of energy systems.
Implementation Rules for Guangdong's Demand Response Market (Trial) 《广东省市场化需求响应实施细则(试行)》	Guangdong Energy Bureau; South China Energy Regulatory Office, NEA	2022	Encourages participation of demand aggregators and VPPs, promotes multi- type flexibility assets like industry, commerce, electric vehicles, and distributed energy. Supports load-side participation in peak shaving and market-based electricity pricing.
Work Plan for Strengthening Power Market Regulation in Southern China in 2022 《2022年南方区域电力市场监管工作要点》	South China Energy Regulatory Office, NEA	2022	Promotes flexible resources like VPPs and aggregators; supports two-tiered power markets and VPP participation in dispatch. Emphasizes improving dispatch coordination, enhancing inter-provincial trading, and enabling energy digital infrastructure.
14th Five-Year Plan for Modern Energy System Development 《"十四五" 现代能源体系规划》	National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC); National Energy Administration (NEA)	2022	Strengthens flexible load development, improves demand response mechanisms, encourages smart and market-based coordination of power system operations, and supports VPP integration in grid and market. Promotes intelligent interaction of distributed resources.
Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Development of a Unified National Power Market 《关于加快建设全国统一电力市场体系的指导意见》	Central Committee for Deepening Overall Reform	2021	Encourages participation of VPPs as independent market entities in the unified national electricity market. Supports their integration into electricity transactions and ancillary service markets. Emphasizes full market participation and fair competition.

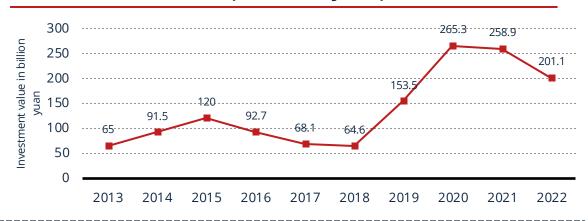
Appendix 3: Investment in RE

(Competitor Analysis)

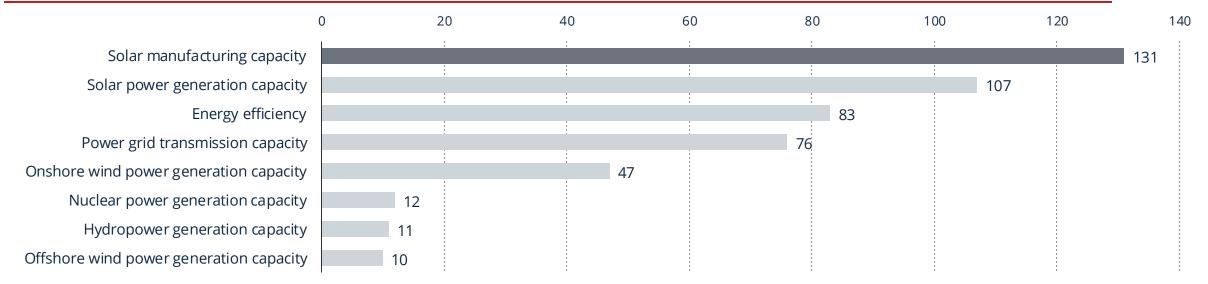
Investments in the energy transition worldwide in 2024, by leading country (in billion U.S. dollars)



Value of investments into wind energy in China from 2013 to 2022 (in billion yuan)



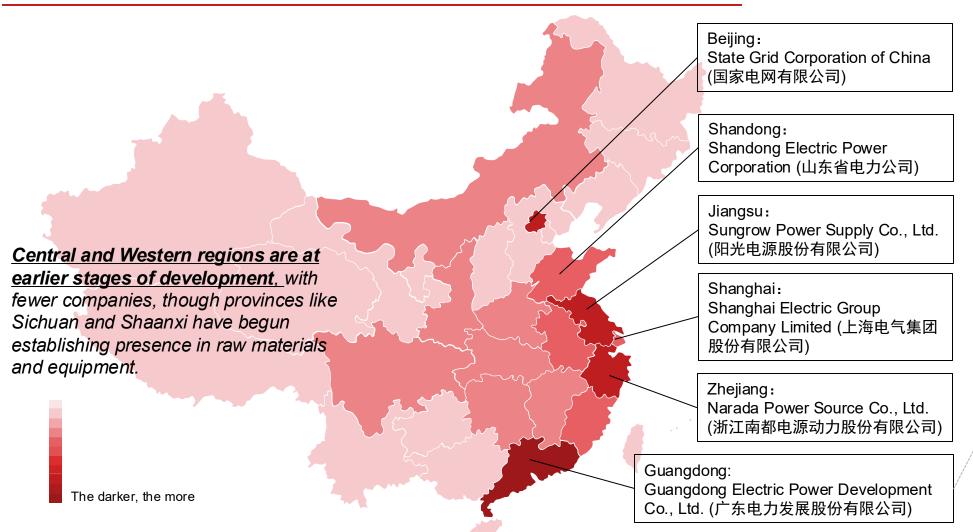
Leading clean energy segments in China in 2023, based on investment value (in billion U.S. dollars)



Appendix 4: Regional Distribution Map of Energy Storage

(Strategy1 T2 Platform Services)

Regional Distribution Map of Energy Storage Projects in China (2023)



Overall, the pattern is one of "strong east, weak west; more in the south, fewer in the north", reflecting regional differences in industrial bases and energy market liberalization.

Guangdong hosts numerous leading companies

Enterprises are heavily concentrated in South and East China

Guangdong:

BYD Company (比亚迪)
Penghui Energy (鹏辉能源)
Shenzhen Sinexcel Electric Co.,
Ltd.(盛弘股份)
Kstar (Shenzhen Kstar Science
& Technology Co., Ltd.) (科士达)
Hopewind Electric Co., Ltd.(禾望电气)
EVE Energy Co., Ltd.(亿纬锂能)

Appendix 5: EU Profiling Standard and Process

(Strategy2 T2 Profiling Services)

Data-Driven Feature Extraction

Individual Behavioral Profiling

Cluster EU by Profile

Internal Data Resources

Smart Meter Interval Data

15-minute smart meter load data

- Timestamp
- EUID
- Consumption

Demand Response & Pricing Log

EU historical data for demand response event

- DR Event ID
- EU Response
- Load Shed
- Response Delay
- Price Signal

External Data Resources

Weather & Environmental Data

Key natural factors affecting load changes

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Wind Speed
- Solar Irradiance

Calendar & Temporal Data

Key time factors affecting load changes

- Clock
- Day of Week
- Holiday Flag
- Season

Based on Internal and External data, use "load dictionary" to encode each EU from 7 dimension (genes)



Cluster the constructed user profiles and divide users into different EU behavior categories

Some Common Categories and Corresponding Control

- Peak-Concentrated EU: Prioritize for peak shaving incentives and smart load shifting
- Stable Baseline EU: Use pre-adjusted loads and off-peak scheduling
- Seasonally Driven EU: Design seasonal DR packages, trigger post-peak recovery
- Night-Focused EU: Use TOU pricing and controlled EV/smart device load shifting
- All-Day EU: Maintain stable power, limit active curtailment, use for emergency backup
- Responsive Flexible EU: Deploy real-time pricing, VPP participation, AI-based load optimization
- Inertial EU: Apply gradual education & subsidies, not suitable for aggressive DR

Appendix 6A: Financial Projection Model – Income Statement

(Financial Forecast)

► Income Statement for 5-Year

Income Statement (in million RMB)						
		Resourd Integration		Downstre Docking S		Industry Expansion Stage
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Onevetina	Upstreams	5	12	18	21	25
Operating	Downstreams	0	0	2	7	35
Income	Total revenues	5	12	20	28	60
	Cost of good sold	3.758	8.524	10.775	15.073	39.777
	Taxes and surcharges	0.048	0.098	0.184	0.262	0.549
Operating	Selling expenses	0.325	0.723	3.310	3.769	5.871
Cost ¹	Management fees	0.135	0.310	0.693	1.939	3.682
	R&D expenses	0.220	0.675	2.375	3.194	4.993
	Total Operating Cost	4.485	10.330	17.337	24.237	54.872
	Gross Profit	1.24	3.48	9.23	12.93	20.22
	Total Operating Profit	0.51	1.67	2.66	3.76	5.13
Profit	EBIT	0.51	1.67	2.66	3.76	5.13
	Less: Income tax expense	0.08	0.25	0.40	0.56	0.77
	Net profit	0.44	1.42	2.26	3.20	4.36

Notes: ¹See Appendix 6B for details.

Source: S&P Analysis

BAIN & COMPANY (1) | Spy Potato | A Al-in-ESG Co.

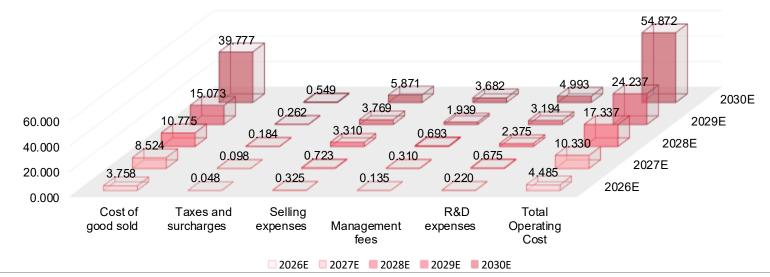
Appendix 6B: Financial Projection Model – Operating Cost

(Financial Forecast)

Expenditure Rate for 5-Year

Expenditure Rate					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Cost of good sold	83.79%	82.52%	62.15%	62.19%	72.49%
Taxes and surcharges	1.06%	0.95%	1.06%	1.08%	1.00%
Selling expenses	7.24%	7.00%	19.09%	15.55%	10.70%
Management fees	3.00%	3.00%	4.00%	8.00%	6.71%
R&D expenses	4.91%	6.53%	13.70%	13.18%	9.10%

Cost Proportional Allocation



BAIN & COMPANY (4) | Spy Potato | A Al-in-ESG Co.

Appendix 6C: Financial Projection Model - Intrinsic Valuation

(Financial Forecast)

► Al-in-ESG Co. EBIT After 5-Year

Stage 1: High Growth (Y0-Y5)

Expected WACC: 60%Expected WACC: 35%

PV of FCFF (in Million RMB)

	(
Year 0	4.63
Year 1	5.49
Year 2	6.50
Year 3	7.71
Year 4	9.14
Year 5	10.83

Stage 2: Slower growth (Year 6-20)

Expected WACC: 35%Expected WACC: 12%

PV of FCFF (in Million RMB)

	(III IIIIIIIIIIIII)
Year 6	13.05
Year 7	15.73
Year 8	18.96
Year 19	9.14
Year 20	10.83

Stage 3: Perpetuity growth (Year 20-)

• Expected WACC: 7.4%

• Expected WACC: 5.0%



Terminal Value: 7,430.84 Million RMB

PV of Terminal Value: 533.57 Million RMB



Total Value of Al-in-ESG Co.

2,111.71 Million RMB

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