



## A-Core Container

**China's telecommunications  
base station inverters  
connected to the grid 7MWh**



## Overview

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Can China's communications industry reduce reliance on grid-powered systems?

While focused on China, the model and findings can serve as a blueprint for countries worldwide facing similar energy and infrastructure challenges in the age of digital expansion. It is important for China's communications industry to reduce its reliance on grid-powered systems to lower base station energy costs and meet national carbon targets.

Why do Chinese communication companies rely on a power grid?

This is primarily due to the reliance of these base stations on the power grid, which derives over 70% of its energy from coal.<sup>19,20</sup> Compounded by the Chinese government's stringent low-carbon policies, which mandate environmental responsibility across all industries,<sup>21</sup> communication companies face considerable policy pressure.

Why are China's leading communications companies incorporating energy storage batteries and photovoltaic power?

In addition, China's leading communications companies are progressively incorporating energy storage batteries and photovoltaic power generation to offset the mounting cost pressures stemming from the continued expansion of energy usage. The relative importance attached to this issue depends on the sense of urgency.

Do communication base station operations increase electricity consumption in China?

Comparing data from 2021, 2025, and 2030,<sup>41</sup> we found that the electricity consumption due to communication base station operations in China increased annually.

How many telecom base stations are there in China in 2024?

In 2024, the number of telecom base stations in China is expected to increase to 12.65 million. Based on this, we estimate that the total electricity consumption of telecom base stations in China in 2024 will be 146,242.621 GWh.

Why were solar power inverters disabled from China?

In November, solar power inverters in the U.S. and elsewhere were disabled from China, highlighting the risk of foreign influence over local electricity supplies and causing concern among government officials, three people familiar with the matter said.

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