

[News story: Smart battery business signs deal to supply in Japan](#)

[Moixa](#), a leading smart home battery business, is to launch its GridShare platform in Japan after signing a strategic partnership with Fortune 500 company [ITOCHU Corporation](#).

Bringing GridShare to Japan

GridShare trades power stored in home smart batteries with national power grids and allows battery owners to make money from excess energy either stored from the grid or gained from solar panels.

It uses artificial intelligence to optimise battery performance based on patterns of behaviour, weather conditions and market prices. GridShare can also manage large numbers of devices to support solar generation, control electric vehicle charging and deliver services to the electricity grid.

It will be installed in all of ITOCHU's Smart Star home batteries from the summer of 2018. Moixa and ITOCHU forecast that the number of energy storage systems in Japan will increase from 125,000 in 2016 to more than 500,000 in 2020.

The deal also sees ITOCHU invest £5 million in Moixa to help it fund international expansion.

[Find out about more companies that have been successful with Innovate UK support.](#)

Partnership is real opportunity to expand

Simon Daniel, Chief Executive of Moixa, said:

ITOCHU is a major player in the global battery market and this partnership provides a real opportunity for us to expand our business in Japan and provide GridShare technology to many global battery companies.

Moixa is looking to expand its GridShare partnerships with Japanese utilities and electric vehicle manufacturers and is also planning trials in the US and Europe.

Its own smart battery has been installed in 1,000 homes in the UK, and the company has delivered more than £6 million of projects for councils, housing associations, energy utilities and network operators.

Koji Hasegawa, General Manager of Industrial Chemicals Department at ITOCHU, said:

Moixa has pioneered battery management, and we are proud to be investing and working together to target the rapidly growing energy storage market in Japan.

Moixa's GridShare will help our customers get more value for their home batteries and will offer solutions to help our partners manage Japan's low-carbon transition.

Technologies developed with funding support

Moixa has developed its technologies through a number of innovate-UK supported projects over the last 7 years.

These have included research and development into localised energy systems and low-cost storage of renewable energy, and studies into the feasibility of smart power systems.

[Find Innovate UK funding for your innovative project.](#)

[Notice: CV7 7LG, Astwood Energy Limited: environmental permit application advertisement](#)

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

[Press release: £12,159 penalty for unauthorised Leominster scrap metal facility](#)

Following his guilty plea at Hereford Magistrates' Court, Gillum (aged 75), was fined £3,340 and ordered to pay £8,669.54 in costs, along with a £150 victim surcharge.

The charge was brought by the Environment Agency under Regulations 12(1)(a) and 38(1)(a) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 and 2016, also sections 34(5) and 34(6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Gillum traded as Leominster Scrap Metal, from a site off North Road, Leominster between August 2015 and September 2017.

Following a report from a member of the public, Environment Agency officers investigated claims of an illegal scrap metal facility in operation. Officers found piles of miscellaneous scrap metal around the Site. They could see the ground contaminated with oil and found scrap motor vehicles, gas cylinders, wheels, batteries and metal sheeting. Burning of waste had also taken place.

Mr Gillum was advised that he needed an Environmental Permit or an exemption, to carry out the activities at the site. A few months later, an exemption was registered, however on a visit to the site in November 2015, Environment Agency officers noted that conditions of the exemption were not being met. The exemption was de-registered in April and following further illegal activity at the site, an enforcement notice was served in July 2016 requiring Gillum to remove all waste from the site. This Notice was not complied with.

Environment Agency Officers required that Gillum provided waste transfer notes relating to his business. Another enforcement notice was issued, but Gillum failed to provide the required documents. Gillum was interviewed under caution in November 2016, where he confirmed that he was a registered waste carrier and admitted that he had operated the scrap metal business for a few years.

Speaking after the case, an Environment Agency officer in charge of the investigation said:

This case demonstrates that we are willing to take tough action on illegal operations such as Leominster Scrap Metal. Our investigations started with a tip-off from a member of the public, and has resulted in a successful prosecution.

In mitigation, the court took into account that Gillum has traded for 25 years and has suffered some ill health. Gillum apologised for not “moving with the times” or appreciating the consequences of his actions. He said that he was not aware of the sensitive receptors around his site, but had spent £15,000 to put in the necessary infrastructure.

If you see or suspect illegal waste activities, report it anonymously to Crimestoppers: www.crimestoppers-uk.org or call 0800 555 111 or via the Environment Agency Incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

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Deans represent ‘a new dawn’

The Academic Director of Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) says the appointment of three new Faculty Deans is part of the “dawning of a new era” for the institution.