



## Energy Storage Technologies

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Sandia National Laboratories



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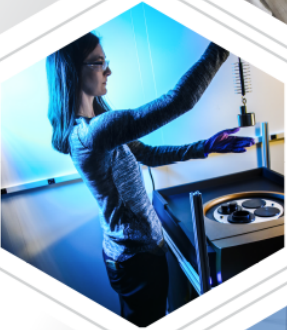
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# ENERGY STORAGE R&D AT SANDIA



## BATTERY MATERIALS

Large portfolio of R&D projects related to advanced materials, new battery chemistries, electrolyte materials, and membranes.



## CELL & MODULE LEVEL SAFETY

Evaluate safety and performance of electrical energy storage systems down to the module and cell level.



## POWER CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Research and development regarding reliability and performance of power electronics and power conversion systems.



## SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Test laboratories evaluate and optimize performance of megawatt-hour class energy storage systems in grid-tied applications.



## DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Work with industry to develop, install, commission, and operate electrical energy storage systems.



## STRATEGIC OUTREACH

Maintain the ESS website and DOE Global Energy Storage Database, organize the annual Peer Review meeting, and host webinars and conferences.



## GRID ANALYTICS

Analytical tools model electric grids and microgrids, perform system optimization, plan efficient utilization and optimization of DER on the grid, and understand ROI of energy storage.

Wide ranging R&D covering energy storage technologies with applications in the grid, transportation, and stationary storage

# Reducing the Cost of Battery Energy Storage



## Li-ion batteries

- Increase reliability and cycle life
- Improve safety

## Sodium batteries

- Lower temperature Na batteries
- Sodium ion batteries

## Alkaline Zn-MnO<sub>2</sub> Batteries

- Make alkaline batteries fully chargeable



# Li-ion Batteries



Family of electrochemical systems

Positive electrode

- Metal-oxides (e.g. LCO, NMC, NCA)
- Phosphates (e.g. LFP)

Negative electrode

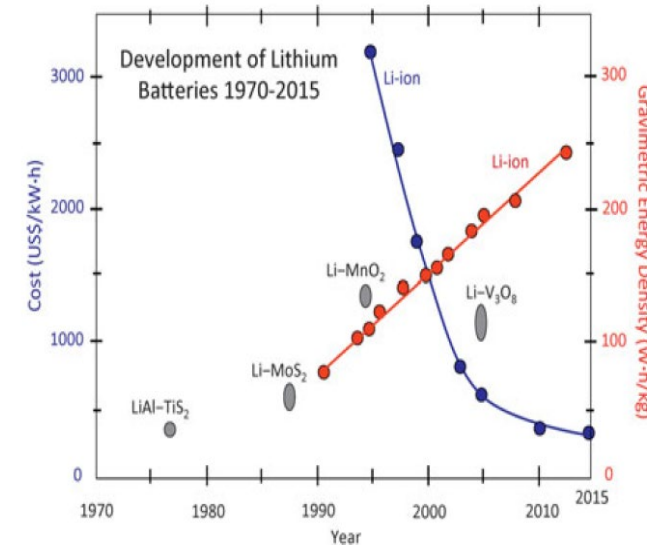
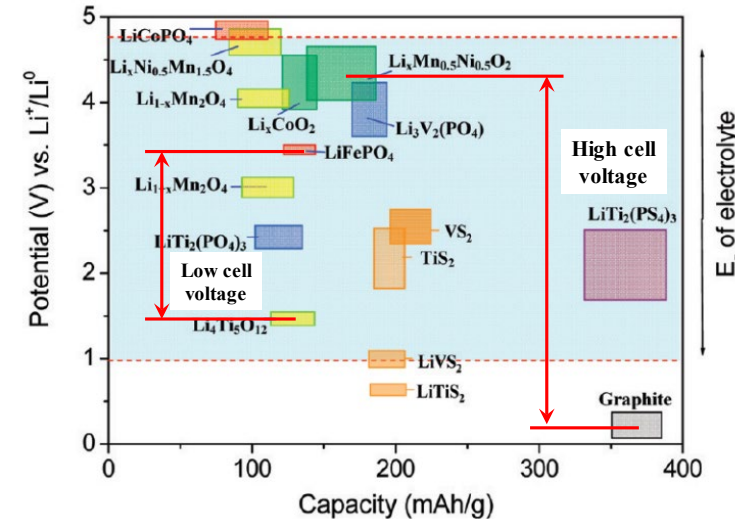
- Graphite and other carbons
- Lithium titanate

SOA EV batteries - Specific energies near 250 Wh/kg

330-350 Wh/kg possible near term with composite anodes (Si-based anodes)

500 Wh/kg as a longer term goal based on significant improvements in electrode design and composition (e.g., lithium anodes), electrolyte formulations, and separator innovations.

Safety continue to be a significant concern



# Large Commercial Li-ion Deployments



AES 30 MW / 120 MWh ESS, Escondido, CA  
Peaker replacement



Saft 6 MW / 4.2 MWh ESS  
Kauai - Grid Stability



Tesla 100 MW / 129 MWh ESS  
Australia - Grid stability

# Li-ion Batteries – Challenges for Power and Energy Applications

Battery safety is very important for applications where high power is required.

Heat generation during high power usage must be managed

- Dictates smaller form factor
- Higher production costs

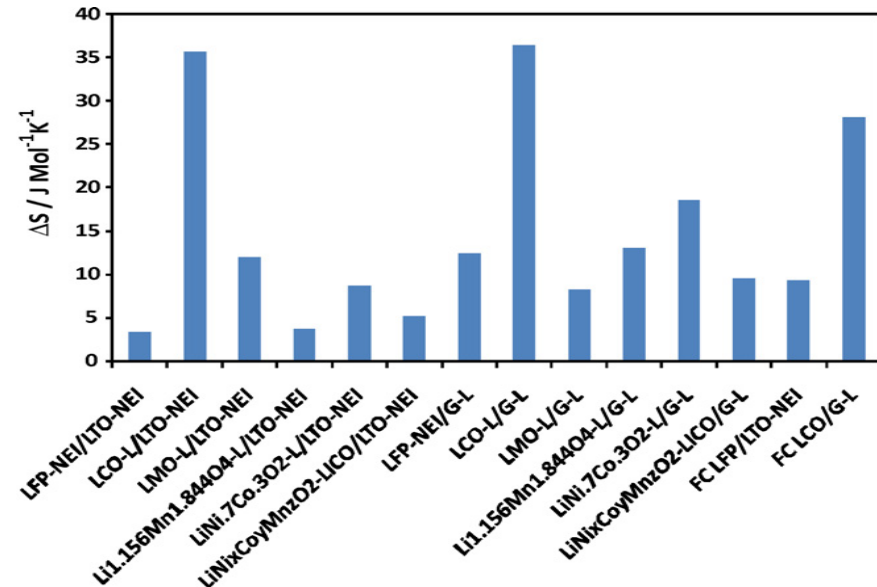
High Temperature

- Typical operating window 0-50°C
- Operation above this temperature can lead to organic electrolyte decomposition and flammable gas, rapid internal pressure build-up

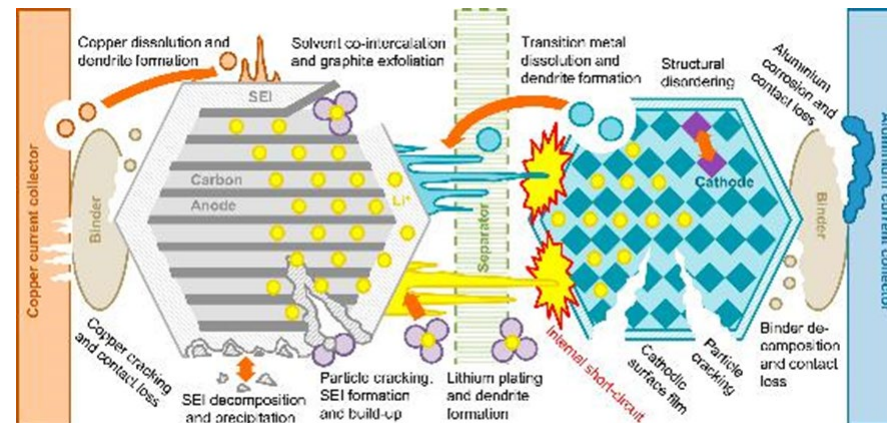
Overcharging

- Overcharging can lead to Li metal plating on anode, potential for short

Need better understanding of the degradation pathways and engineering to control thermal runaway



Inherent Heat Generation of Electrodes



# Future Developments in Li-based Batteries

Higher-voltage positive (cathode) materials

- Lithium manganese phosphate
- Lithium cobalt phosphate

Higher-capacity negative (anode) materials

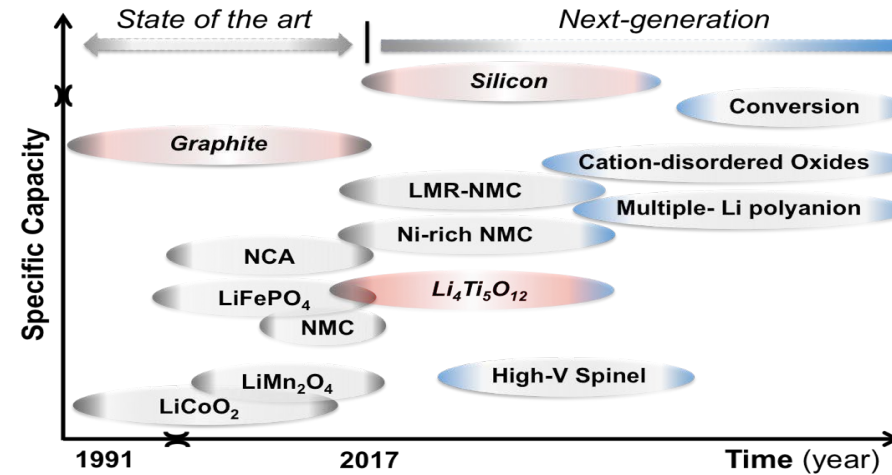
- Silicon-based

Safer electrolytes

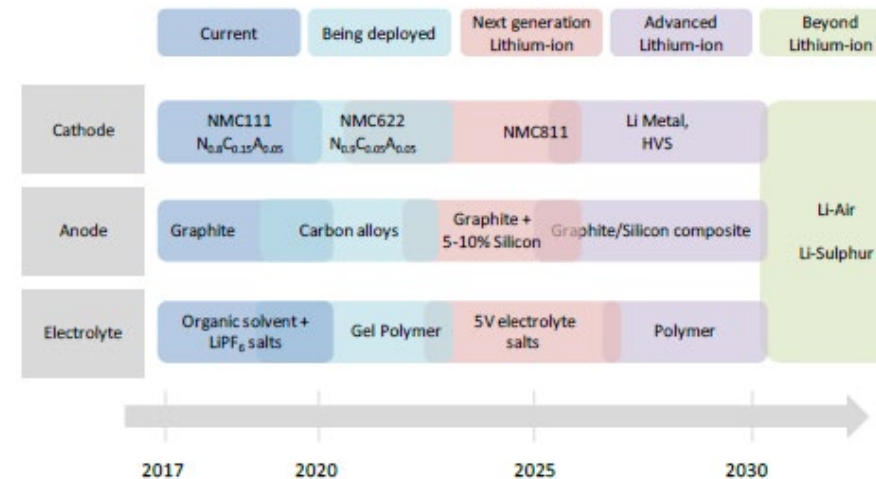
- Inorganic
- Solid-state electrolytes

Other Li chemistries

- Lithium-sulfur



DOE Basic Research Needs Report on Energy Storage  
DOE Office of Science, 2017



Global EV Outlook Report, IEA 2018  
Based on DOE-VTO and NEDO Projections



# High Energy Density Li-S and Metal Air Batteries



Li-S: high theoretical energy density ( $>2700 \text{ Wh/kg}$ ), prototype cells  $\sim 400 \text{ Wh/kg}$

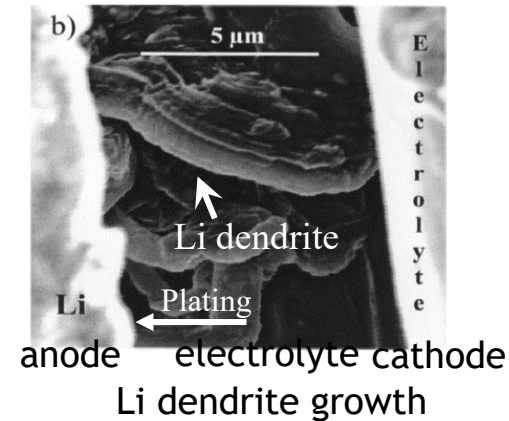
- Suffers from self discharge and poor life
- Breakthroughs needed with Li electrodes
- Managing the Sulphur shuttle reactions

Metal air batteries (Li-air, Zn-air)

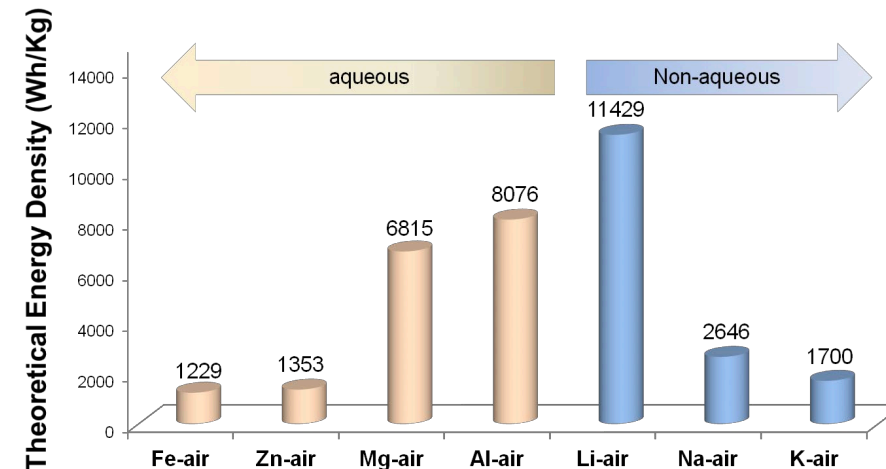
- Potential to deliver high energy densities at low cost. Challenges with recharging have so far precluded commercialization of the technology.
- Not mature, many years away
- Potential fundamental problems

Li-Air combines difficulties of air and lithium electrodes

- Breakthroughs needed in cheap catalysts, more stable and conductive ceramic separators
- Developing a robust air electrode is a challenge, need major breakthroughs



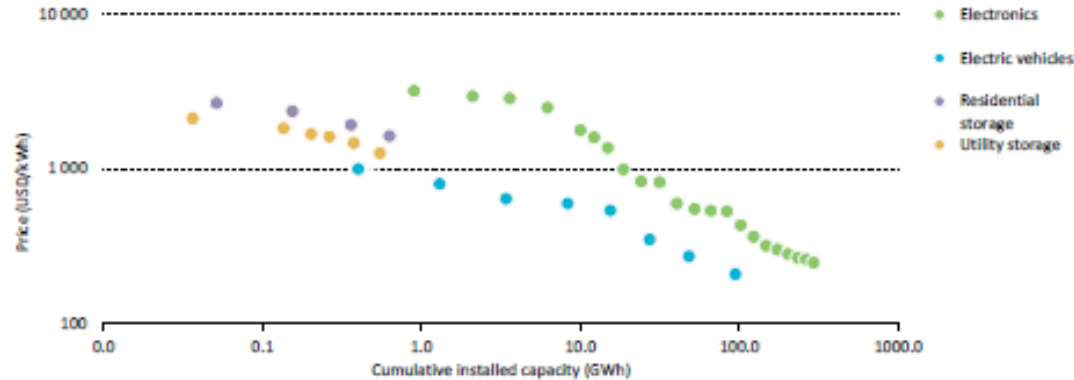
H. Pan, et. al, Adv. Energy Mater., 2015



Y. Li and J. Lu, "Metal-Air Batteries: Future Electrochemical Energy Storage of Choice?," PNNL, 2017



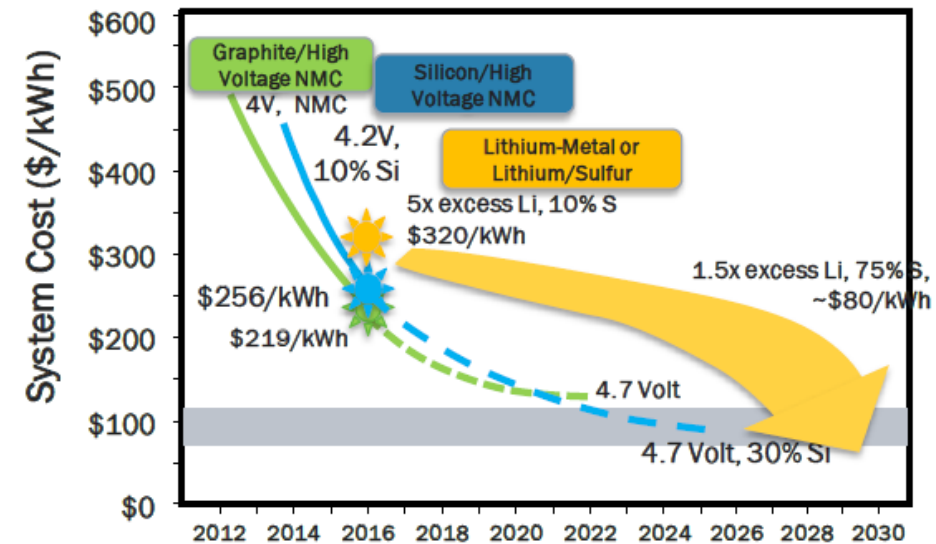
# Manufacturing Scale and Cell/System Costs



Li-ion storage technology price with manufacturing volume  
Source: IEA, 2018

Future cost projections predicated on stable commodity prices, significant improvements in energy density and cell performance

## Cost Trends for Lithium-based EV Batteries



Cost trends for Li-based EV Batteries (pack level)  
Source: David Howell, DOE VTO, 2018

# Lead-Acid Batteries



## Overall Reaction

- $\text{Pb(s)} + \text{PbO}_2\text{(s)} + 2\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\text{(aq)} \rightarrow 2\text{PbSO}_4\text{(s)} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O(l)}$
- OCV ~ 2.0 V

## Flooded lead-acid

- Requires continuous maintenance
- Most common

## Sealed lead-acid

- Gel and Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM)
- More temperature dependent

## Advanced Lead Acid Energy Storage

- Carbon plates significantly improve performance

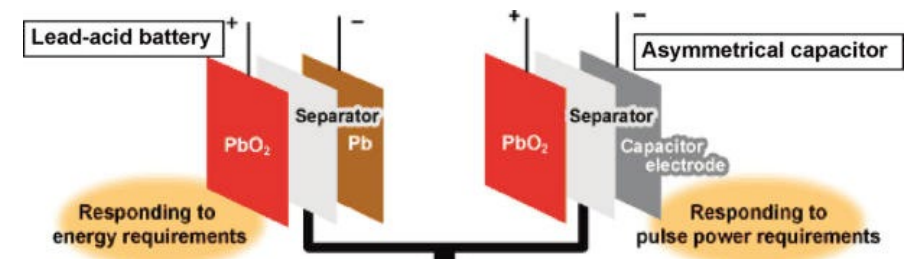
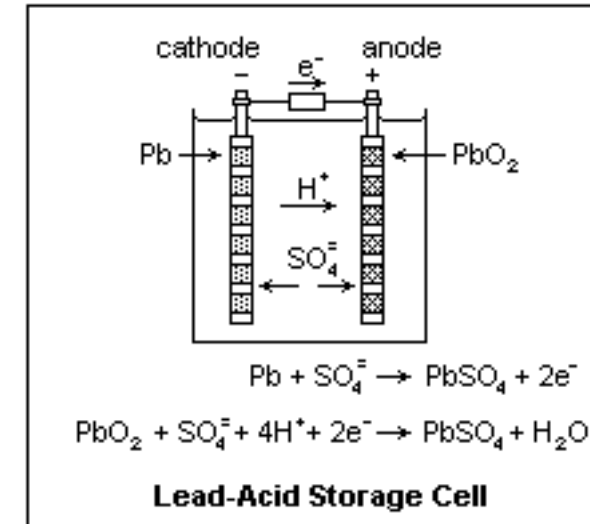
## Mature technology

## High recycled content

## Good battery life

## Advantages/Drawbacks

- Low cost/Ubiquitous
- Limited life time (5~15 yrs)/cycle life (500~1000 cycles) and degradation w/ deep discharge (>50% DoD)
- New Pb/C systems > 5,000 cycles.
- Low specific energy (30-50 Wh/kg)
- Overcharging leads to H<sub>2</sub> evolution.
- Sulfation from prolonged storage



<http://www.ultrabattery.com/>

# Lead Acid Batteries – Deployment for Grid Services



3 MW/3 MWh advanced lead acid battery system for utility applications (Source: EastPenn, East Lyons, PA)



Solar plus ultrabattery storage (Source: PNM Albuquerque, NM)



1.3MW/1.9 MWh advanced lead acid battery system providing support for a 68MW solar farm in Alt Daber, Germany (Source: BAE Batteries, 2018)

# Redox Flow Batteries



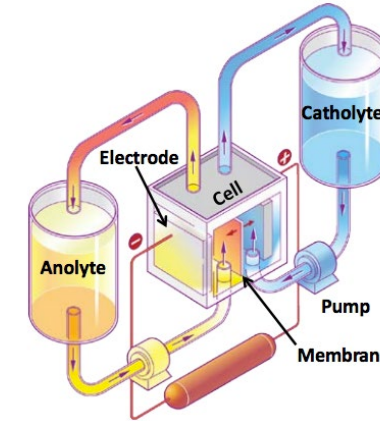
Energy storage technology utilizing redox states of various species for charge/discharge purposes

## Key Aspects

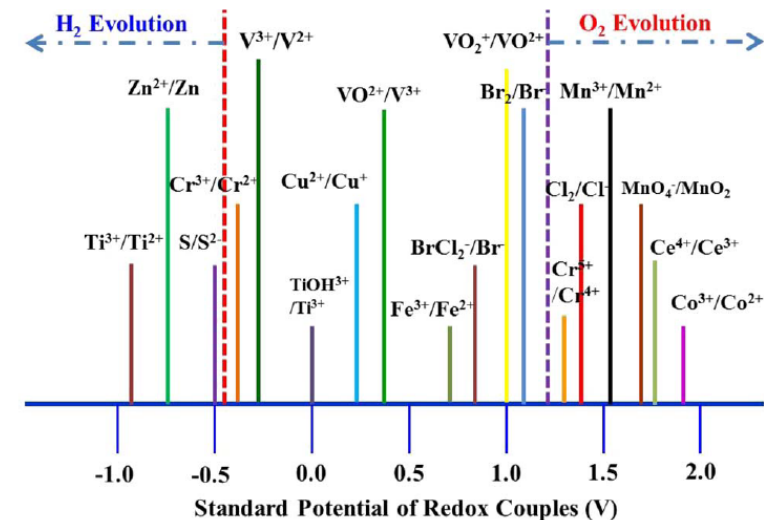
- Power (kW) and energy (kWh) separation
- Greater flexibility and safety
- Modular and scalable across a wide range of power and energy
- Long cycle life
- Low energy density  $\sim 30$  Wh/L

## Range of redox chemistries

- Fe-Cr, Zn-Br, V-V are most studied and large systems demonstrated
- Most large commercial flow batteries are based on V-V chemistry, and Zn-Br



Source: Travis Anderson, Sandia National Laboratories, 2013





# Redox Flow Batteries – Technical Challenges



## Low energy density

- Limited voltage window of aqueous electrolyte solutions ( $< 1.5$  V)
- Large form factor/footprint

## Limited electrolyte stability

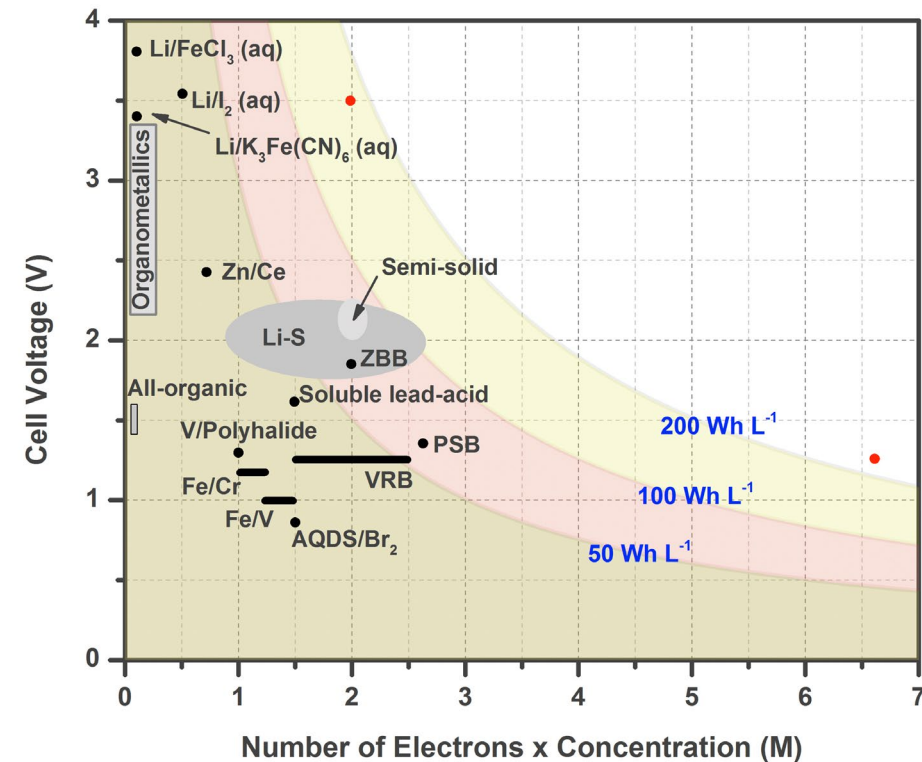
- Low solubility of redox species in aqueous electrolytes
- Capacity decay during cycling
- Narrow temperature range

## Corrosion of membranes and electrode materials by acidic electrolyte solutions

- Long-term reliability

## Opportunities to Reduce Materials Cost

- New redox chemistries, new electrolytes under development
- Lower cost of membranes
- Increased current density and lower cost stack design



Wei Wang, et. al., Adv. Funct. Mater., , **23**, 970, 2013

# RFB Stack Sizes Continue to Grow – Large Plants being built



Rapid progress in the development of large utility class redox flow battery systems

Rapid development of new electrolytes to replace Vanadium species

Further potential to reduce the size of the stacks and to increase energy density

Containerized Systems



UniEnergyTechnologies, 1MW/4MWh

Flow battery power plants



Sumitomo Electric, 15MW/60MWh



32 KW Stack  
Rongke  
Power/UET  
120 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>  
Meter size  
stack



Stack room

# Sodium Batteries (NaS and NaNiCl<sub>2</sub>)



Abundant low cost materials (Na, S, ...)

Offer potential for safe, versatile, cost-effective energy storage

Molten sodium batteries - Two primary chemistries

- NaS, mature technology, deployed in grid applications
- NaNiCl<sub>2</sub>, mature, more stable than NaS
- Neither NaS nor NaNiCl<sub>2</sub> are at high production volumes and the economies of scale needed

Early Stage Technologies

- Sodium Ion Batteries (NaIBs)
- Solid State Sodium Batteries (SSSBs)
- Sodium Air Batteries (Na-O<sub>2</sub>)

# NaS batteries

Batteries consisting of molten sodium anode and  $\beta''$ - $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  solid electrolyte (BASE)

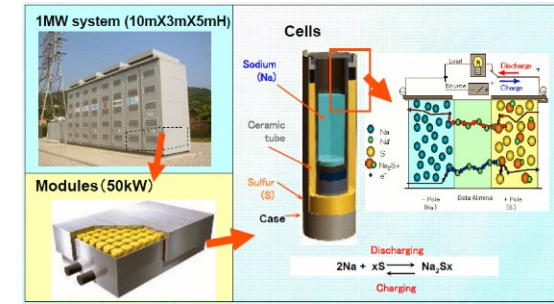
- High specific energy density (120~240 Wh/kg)
- Good specific power (150-230 W/kg)
- Long duration batteries, with 4-6 hr discharge
- Operated at relatively high temperature (300~350°C)

Originally developed at Ford Motors, later commercialized by NGK Insulators in Japan

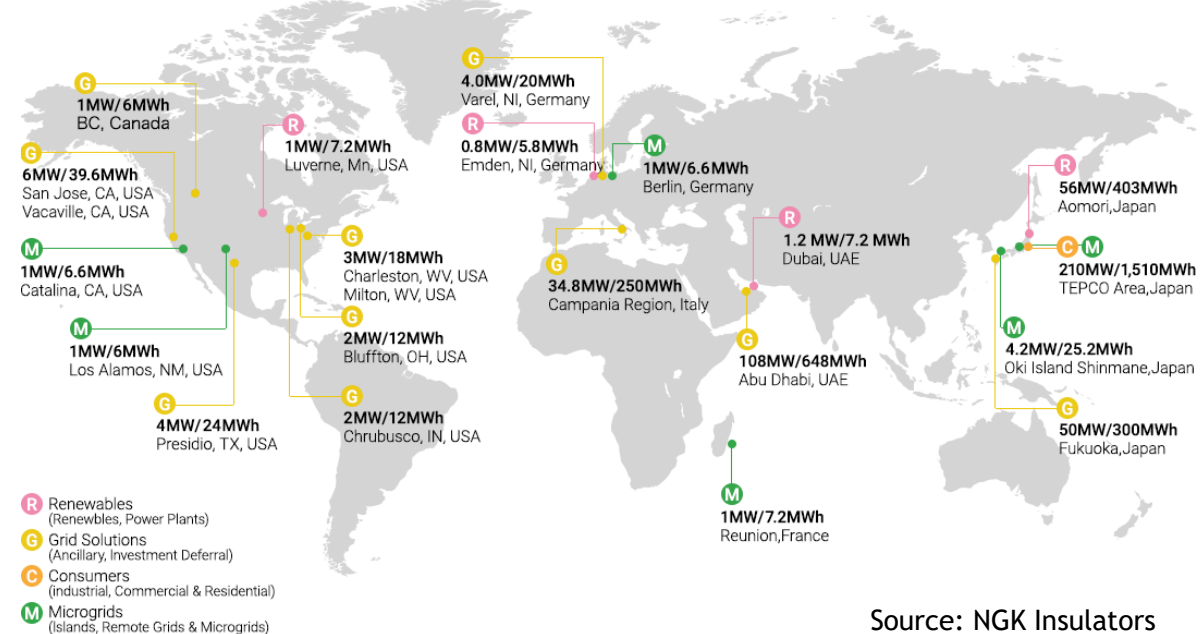
NGK has deployed ~ 580 MW/4 GWh of storage, primarily in Japan

## Challenges

- Battery is assembled fully charged, presents a major safety/handling issue
- System needs to be maintained at temperature
- High temperature operation, safety and containment challenges
- Relatively expensive



50 MW system at a solar farm  
Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan (NGK)



Source: NGK Insulators



# NaNiCl<sub>2</sub> Batteries



## NaNiCl<sub>2</sub> battery

- $2\text{Na} + \text{NiCl}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NaCl} + \text{Ni}$
- $E = 2.58\text{V}$  at  $300^\circ\text{C}$

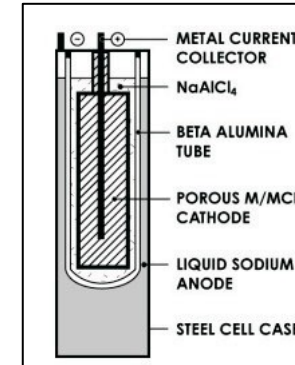
## Large cells and stable chemistry

- Lower temperature than NaS
- Cells loaded in discharge mode
- Improved safety compared to NaS. Addition of catholyte  $\text{NaAlCl}_4$  leads to a closed circuit on failure

## High efficiency, low discharge

## Long warm up time (16 hr)

Supply chain concerns. Only one major manufacturer (FIAMM). Limited deployments



FIAMM 222-kWh System Duke Energy Rankin Substation



620 V 1.4 MWh (400 kW)

# Sodium Ion Batteries on the Horizon



While not yet commercially mature, several types of NaIBs are in development or early production

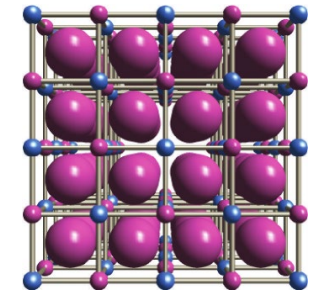
## Prussian blue analogs (PBAs)

- Utilize ferric ferrocyanide salts as electroactive materials (mostly cathodes)
- Natron Energy is developing NaIBs with PBAs aimed at 8kW units for data server backup power.

Li-Ion “Analog” – possibly manufacturable on Li-ion production lines?

## “Salt-water batteries”

- Carbon-titanium phosphate composite Anode, sodium perchlorate aqueous electrolyte, manganese oxide cathode.



Y. Moritomo, *Adv. Cond. Matt. Phys.* (2013) 539620.



# Rechargeable Alkaline Batteries

## Range of alkaline battery chemistries

- NiMH, Ni-Fe, Ni-Cd, Zn-Ni, Zn-MnO<sub>2</sub>

## Zn-MnO<sub>2</sub> shows most promise for grid storage

### Cost

- Traditional primary batteries, low cost (\$18-20/kWh primaries)
- Low-cost materials and manufacturing
- Established supply chain

### Safety

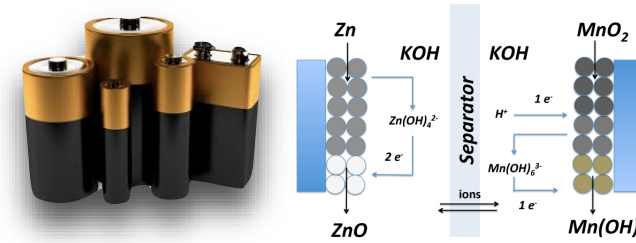
- Aqueous chemistry
- Non-flammable
- EPA certified for landfill disposal

### Reliability

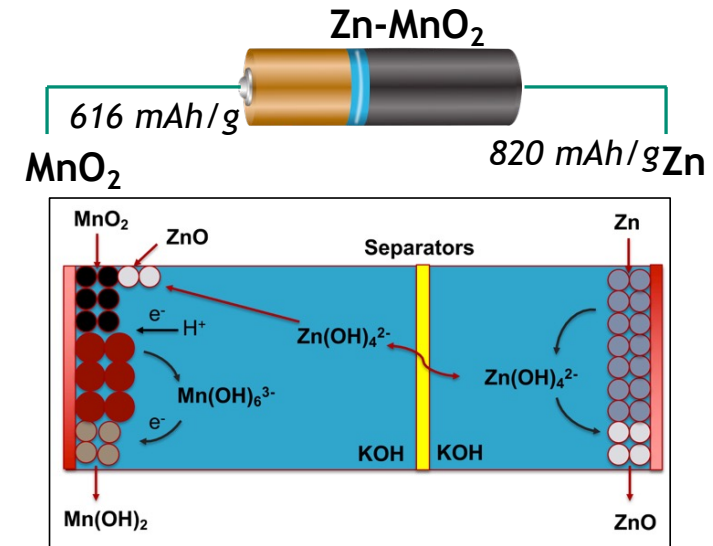
- Long shelf-life
- Limited thermal management required

## Reversibility and cycle life have been the primary technical challenges

## Recent breakthroughs, promising potential for <\$50/kWh



Single-use Alkaline Battery \$25/kWh



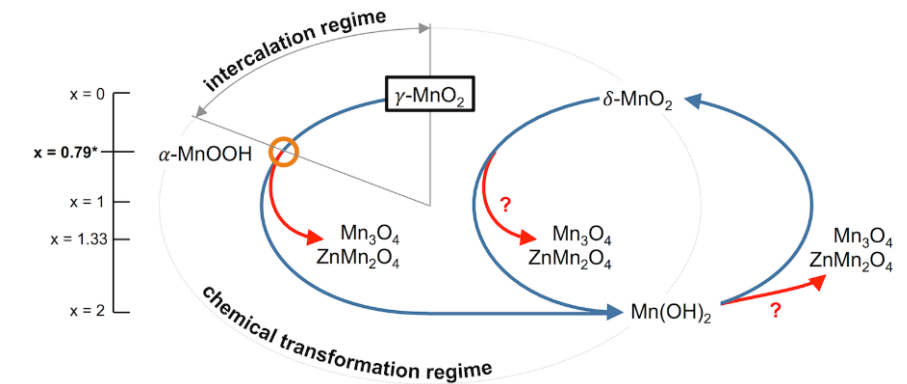
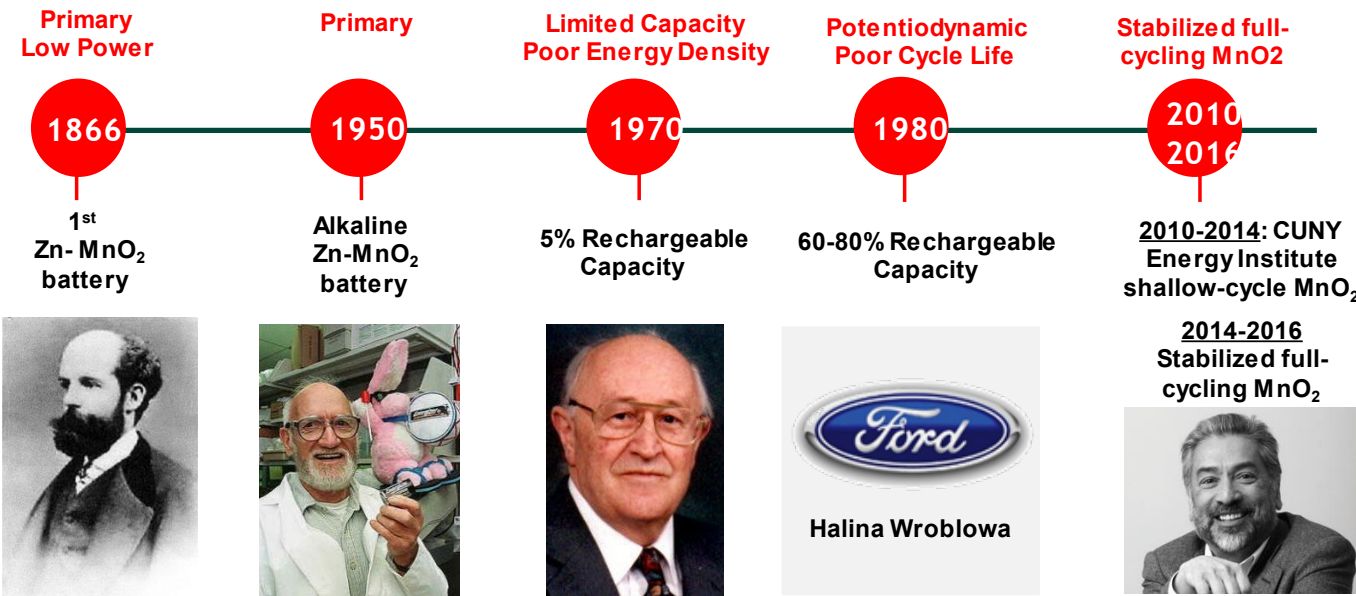
# History of Rechargeable Zn-MnO<sub>2</sub> Batteries



- Early commercial products based on cylindrical formats (Union Carbide, Rayovac, BTI, ...)
- Focused on consumer markets, rapid development of Li-ion batteries made small cell business not competitive
- Resurgence in the field for stationary storage



J. Daniel-Ivad and K. Kordesch, "Rechargeable Alkaline Manganese Technology: Past-Present-Future," ECS Annual Meeting, May 12-17, 2002



## Failure Mechanisms of Cathode

Instability of Mn(III) resulting in formation of irreversible Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>  
Zn poisoning forming irreversible ZnMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

S. Banerjee, Symposium on Grid Energy Storage, MRS Spring Meeting, 2015  
G. Yadav, CUNY Energy Institute, 2018



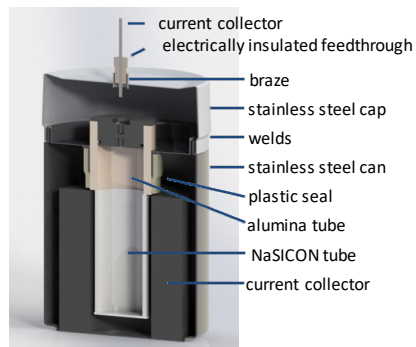
# Grid Storage needs Large Format Cells



Engineering costs are significant for small format cells. Large format cells are needed to reduce overall system costs.

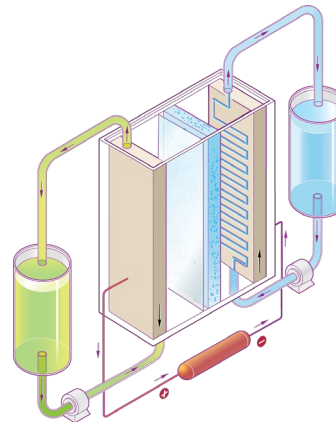
Large format cells also allow for tighter integration of power electronics, sensors, SOH monitoring at the cell level.

## High Conductivity Separators for Low Temperature Molten Sodium Batteries



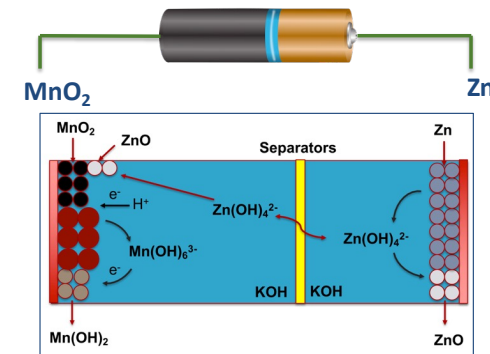
Robust ceramic separators exhibit low  $\text{Na}^+$  conductivity at lower, more cost effective temperatures (120-180 °C).

## Crossover in Redox Flow Batteries



Cross over of the electroactive species through the separator leads to severe capacity decay in flow battery systems.

## Zincate poisoning of $\text{MnO}_2$ in Zn/ $\text{MnO}_2$ Batteries



Zincate diffusion and subsequent poisoning of  $\text{MnO}_2$  impairs reversibility and significantly decreases lifetimes.

# Acknowledgements



The Energy Storage program at Sandia is supported by  
DOE Office of Electricity Energy Storage Program  
Dr. Imre Gyuk, Program Manager

