



Non-Li technologies and solar integration

2021 Southern Africa Energy Storage Systems

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Energy Storage Tech & Systems

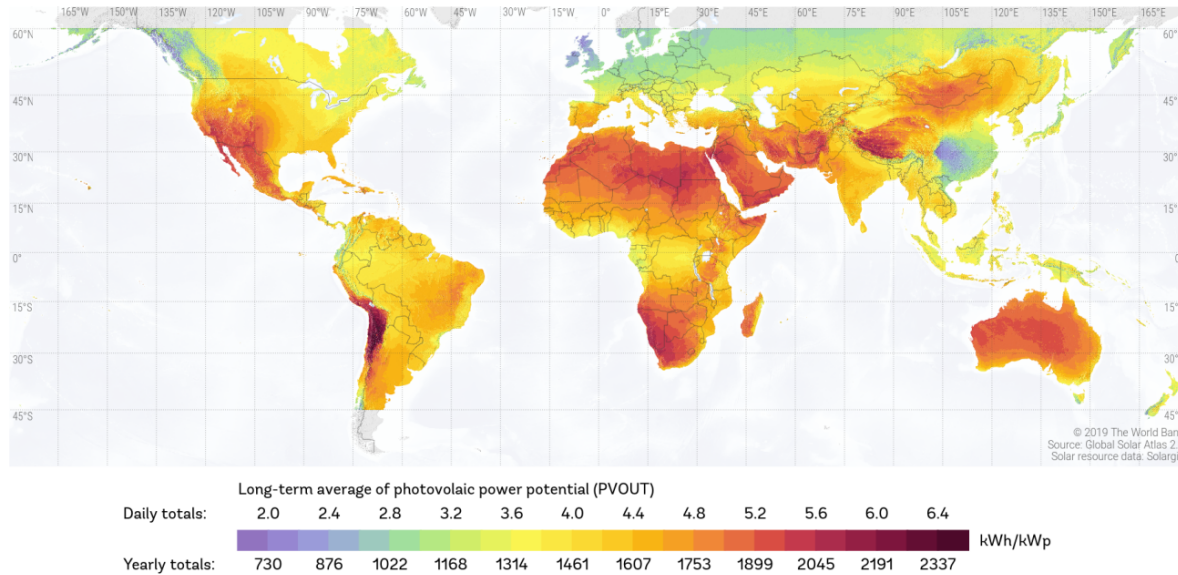
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Solar energy is available and inexpensive

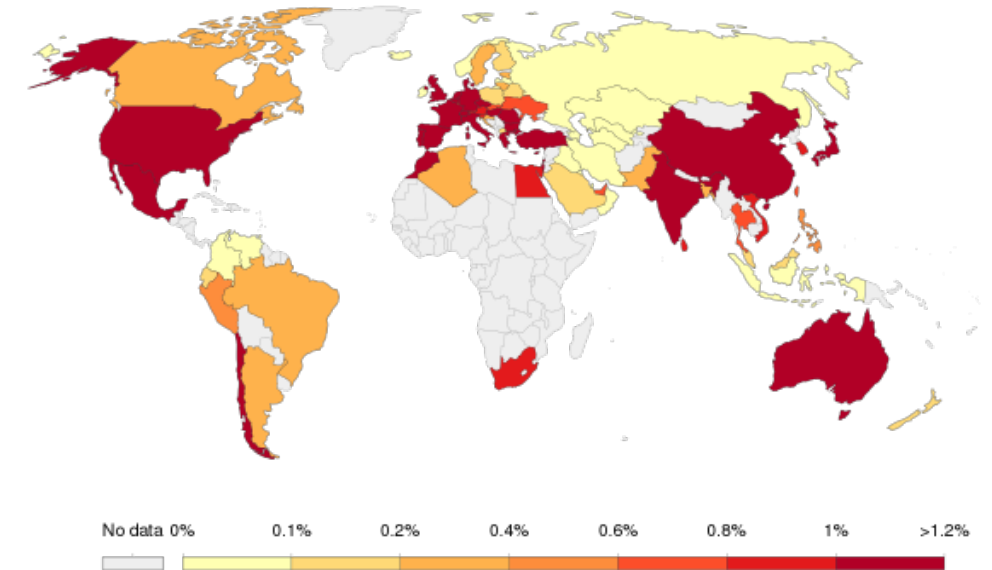


Potential solar power



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% of solar generation in each country

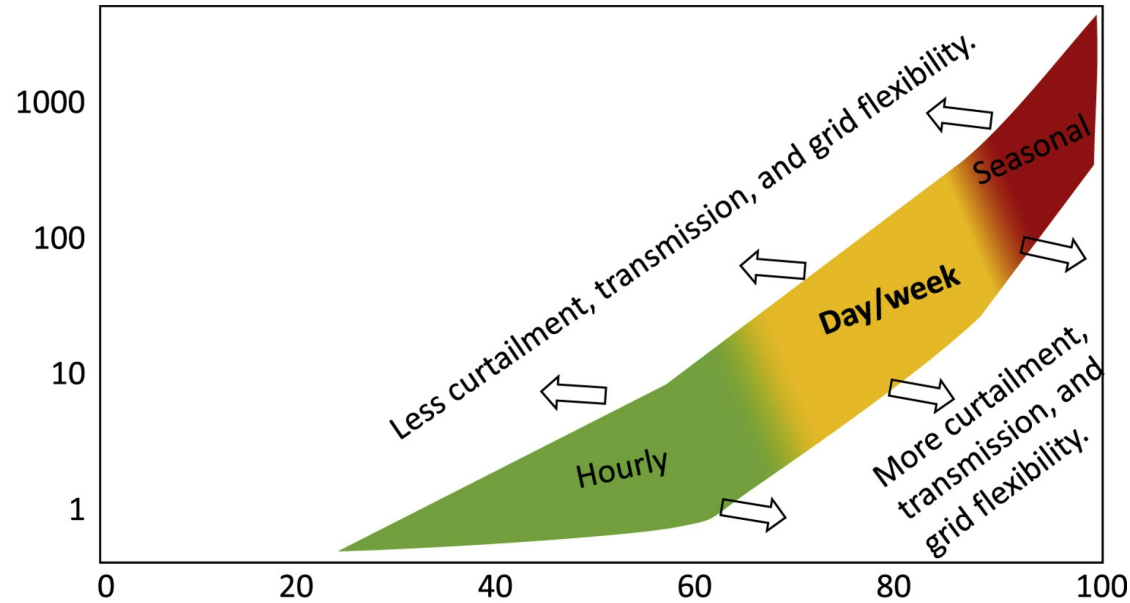


Source: Our World in Data based on BP Statistical Review of World Energy (2020)
Note: Primary energy is calculated using the 'substitution method' which takes account of the inefficiencies energy production from fossil fuels.

Long duration storage is needed to firm solar and other sources of renewable generation

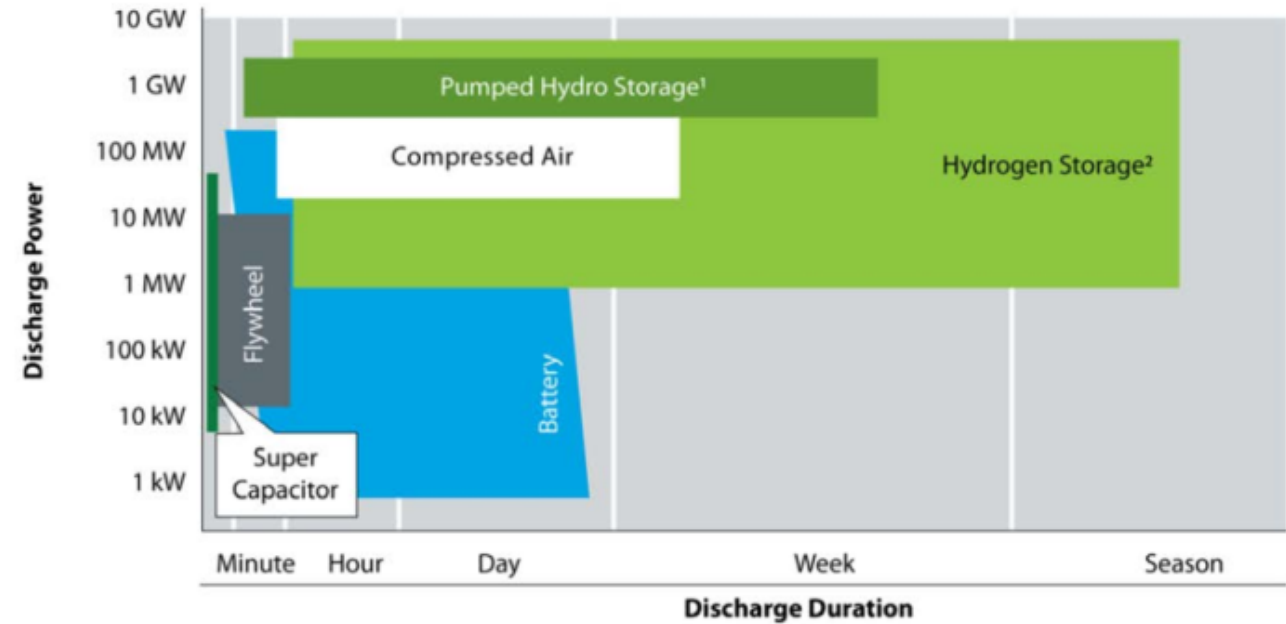


Maximum required storage duration
(hours at rated power)

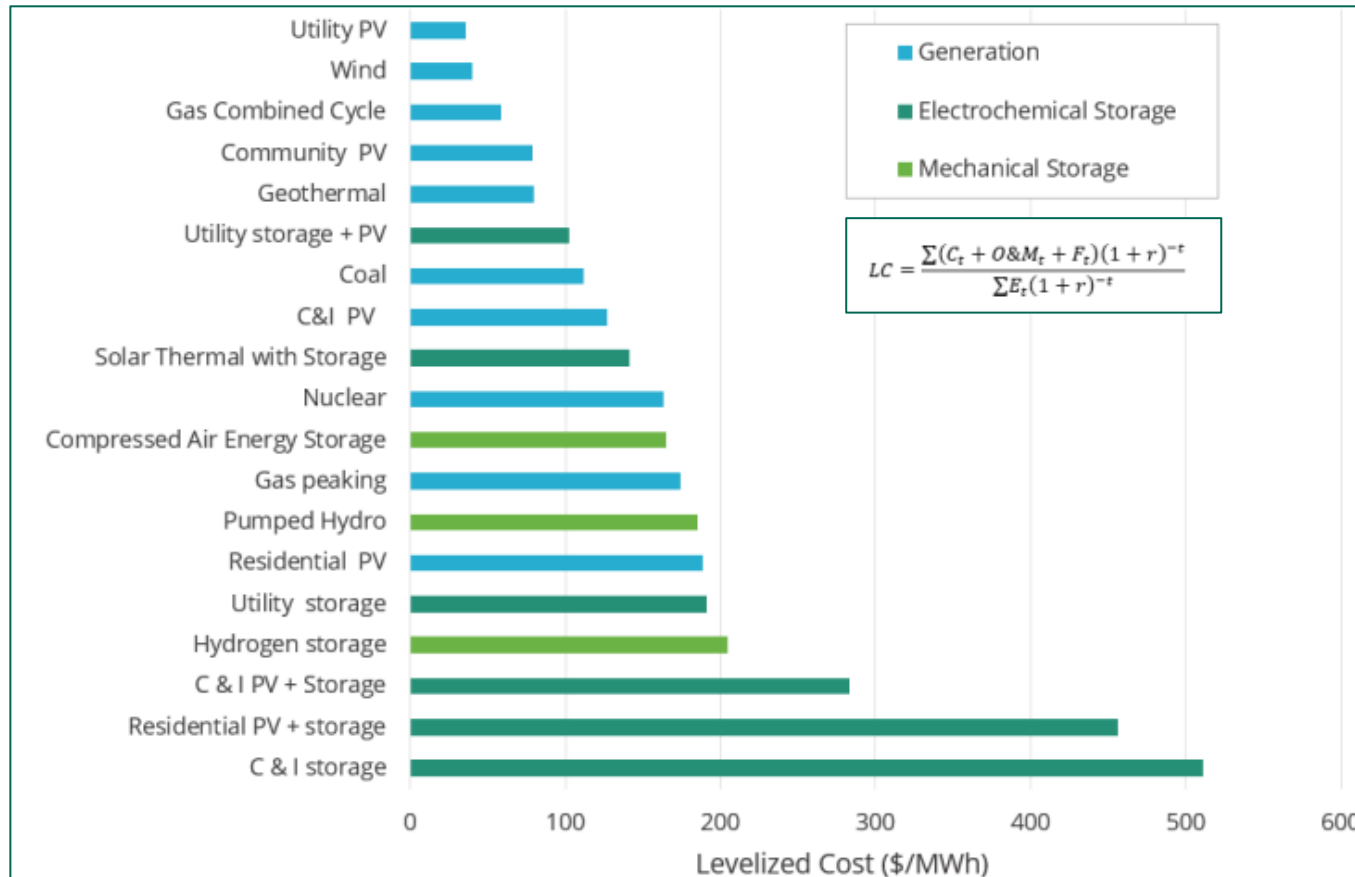


Annual electricity from wind and solar on a regional grid (%)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joule.2019.11.009>



Energy storage is competitive in some cases with conventional generation

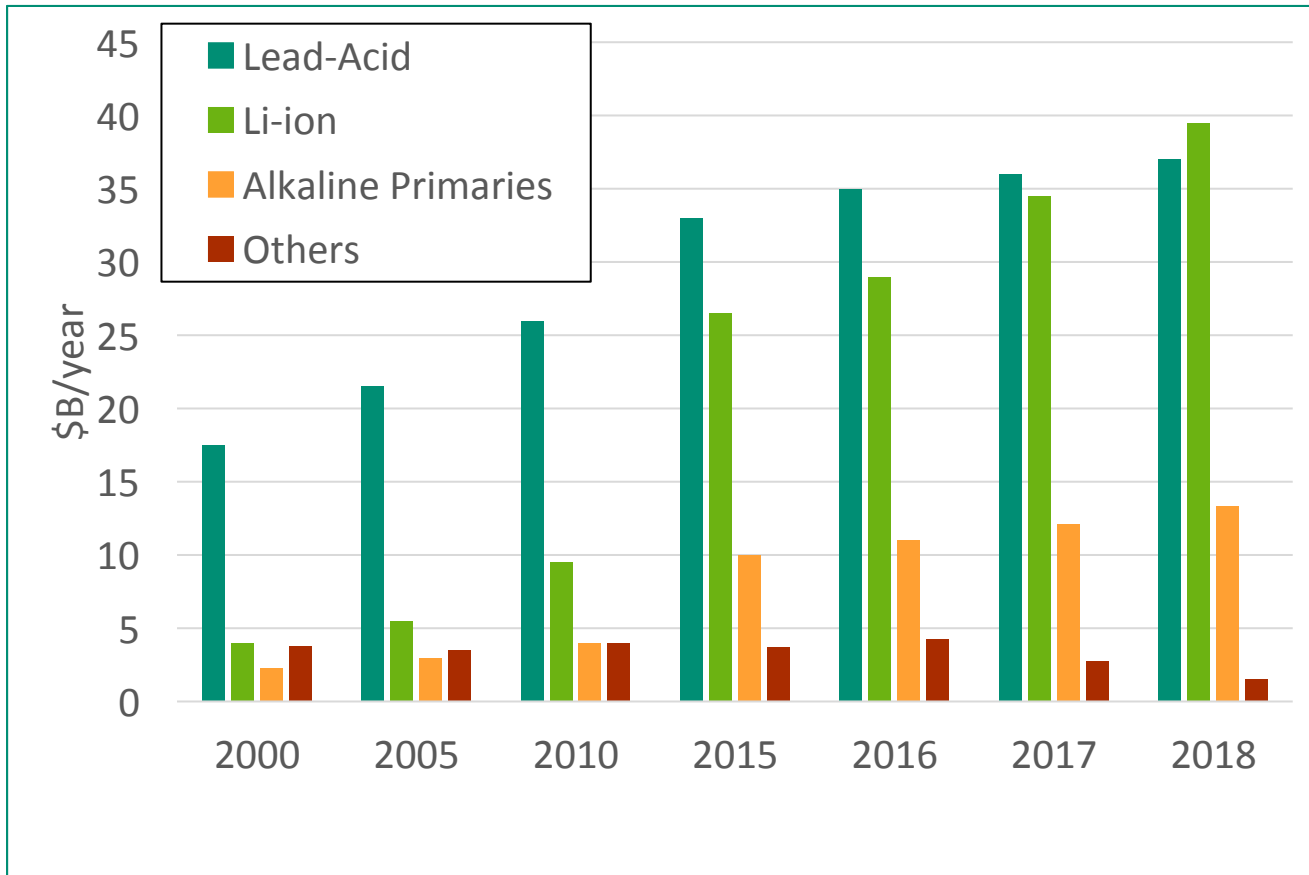


Source: Lazard

Advantages of solar generation

- Solar enables a distributed infrastructure
- A decentralized infrastructure can be easier to operate and maintain

Battery technologies take time to develop

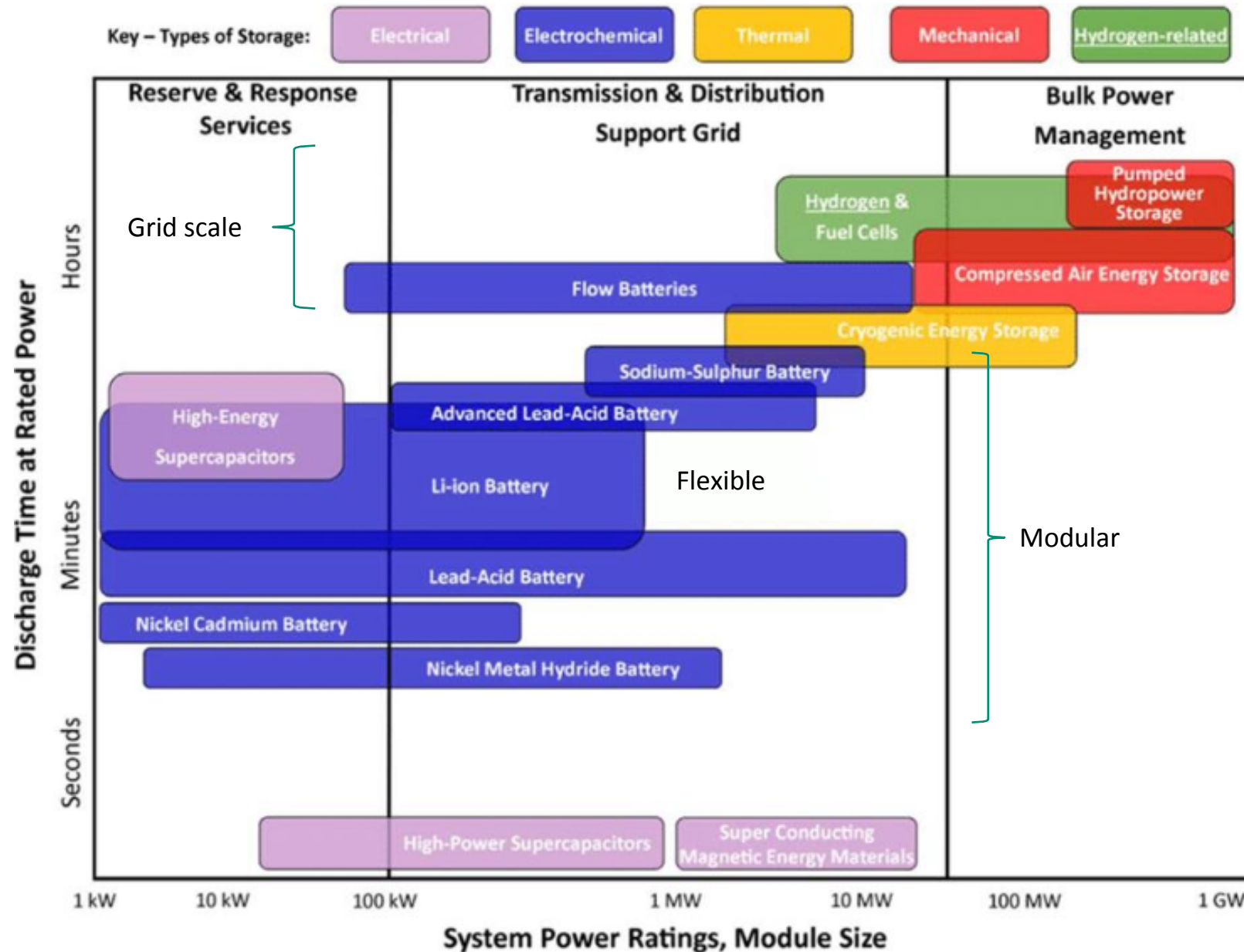


Source: Avicenne Energy

Battery manufacturing

- Growing Li-ion market (EV, Portable)
- Stable and mature Lead-Acid market
- Established primary Alkaline market
- Other battery technologies are not well developed
- Supply chains take decades to develop

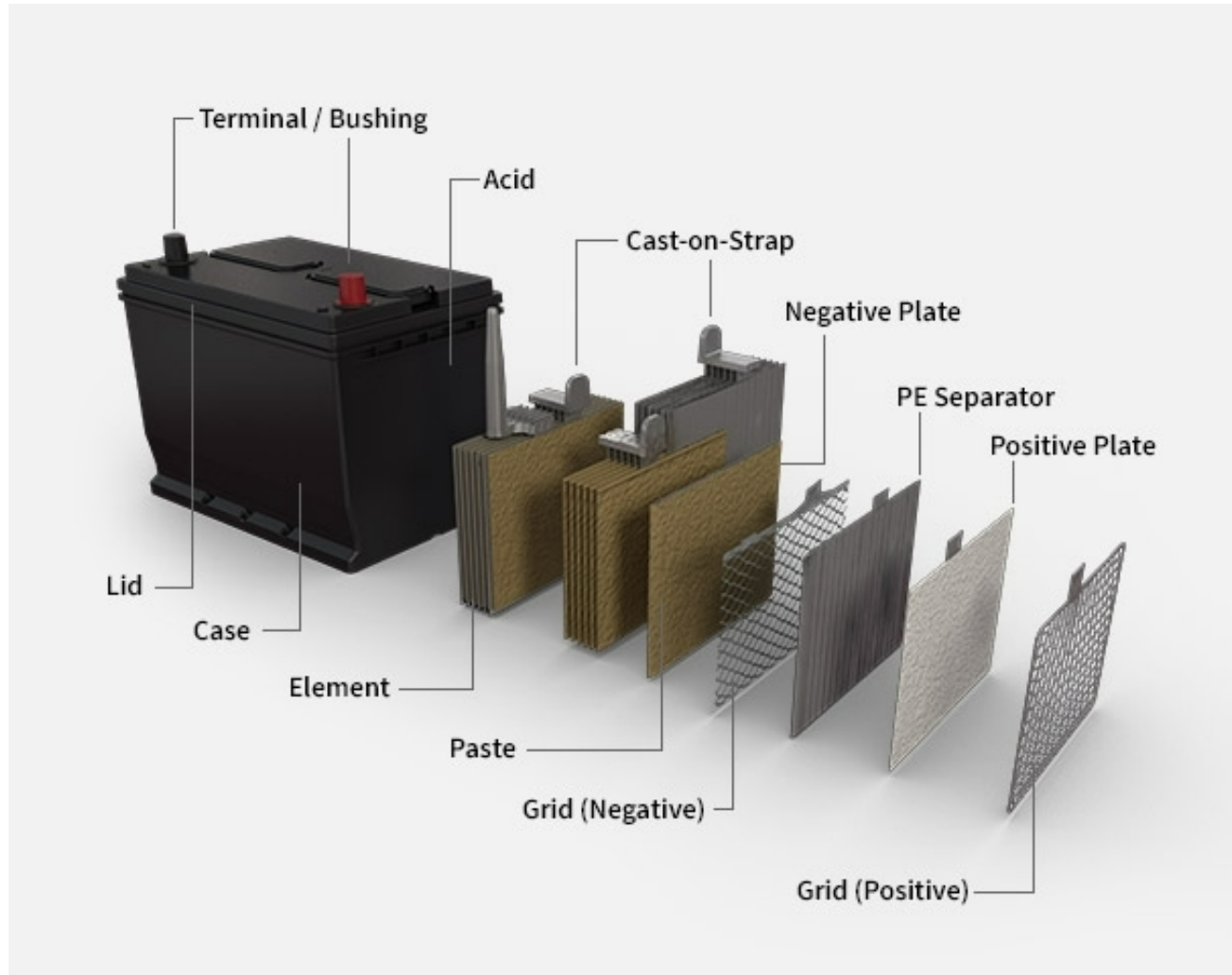
Several options for energy storage are available



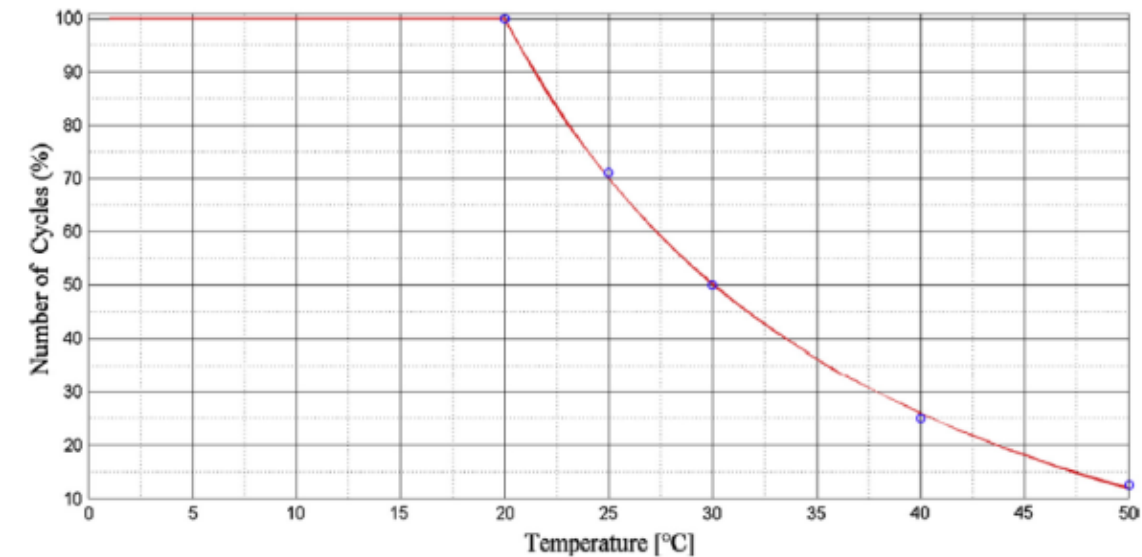
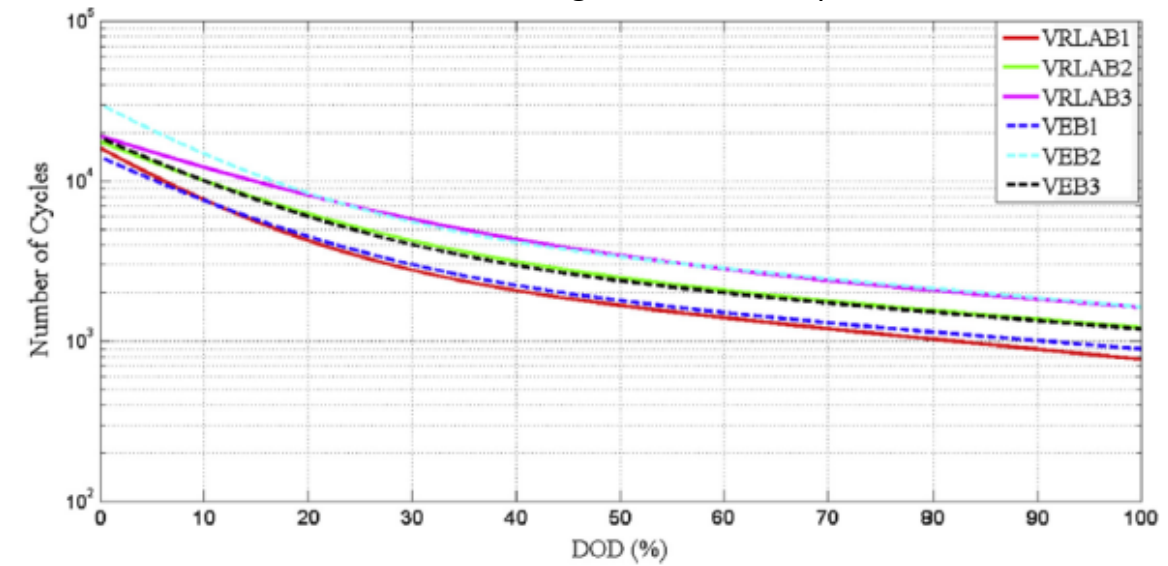
Lead Acid is used for UPS and for solar firming



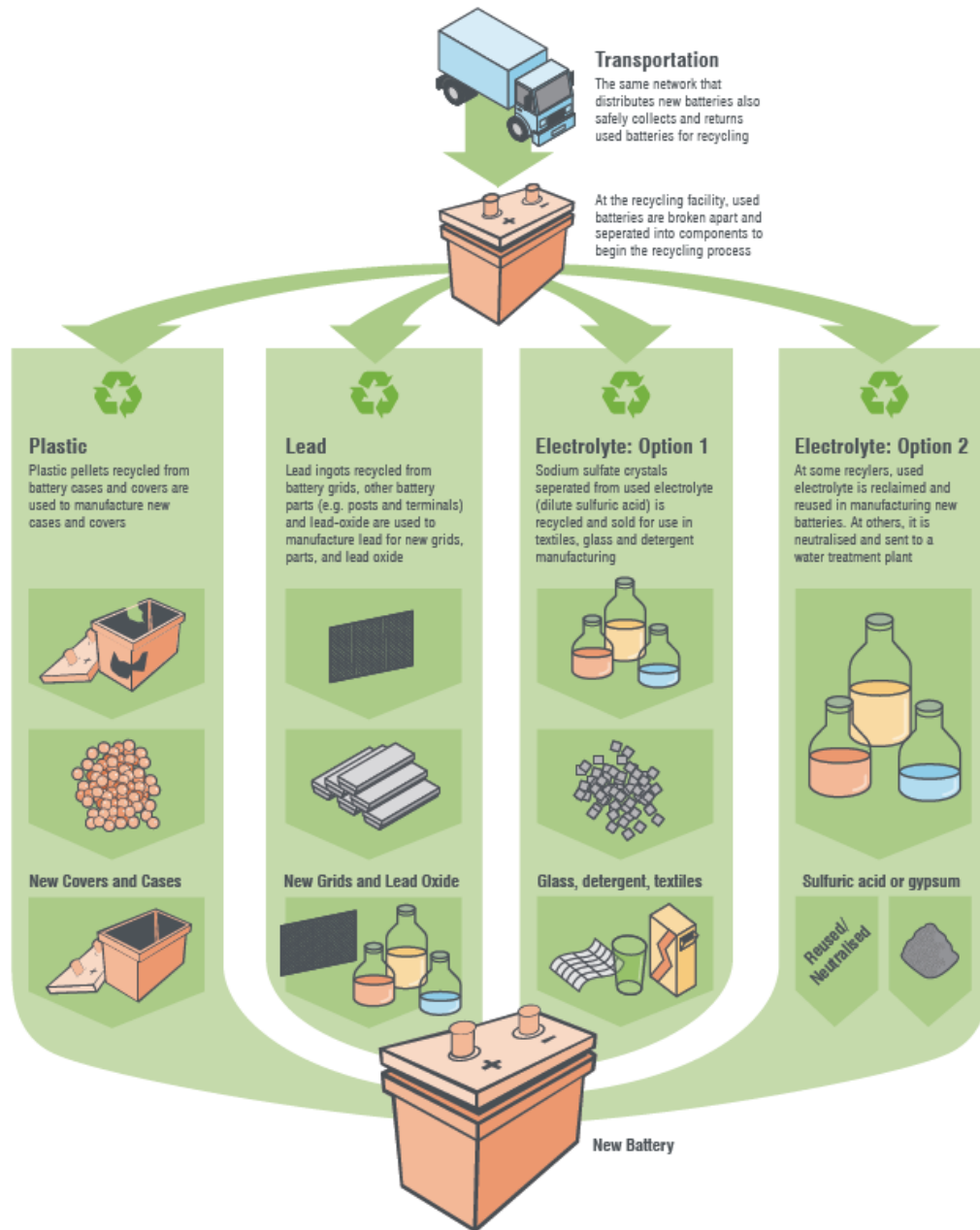
Simple & standardized construction



Performance degrades with temperature



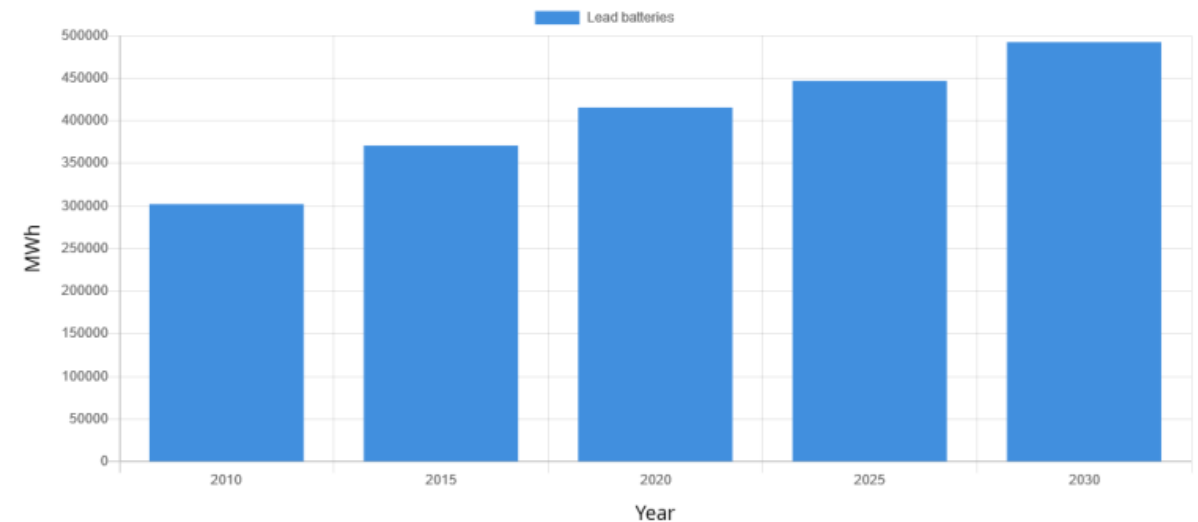
The lead-acid industry has an established recycling infrastructure



Recycling centers in the US and Mexico



Lead battery market 2010-2030

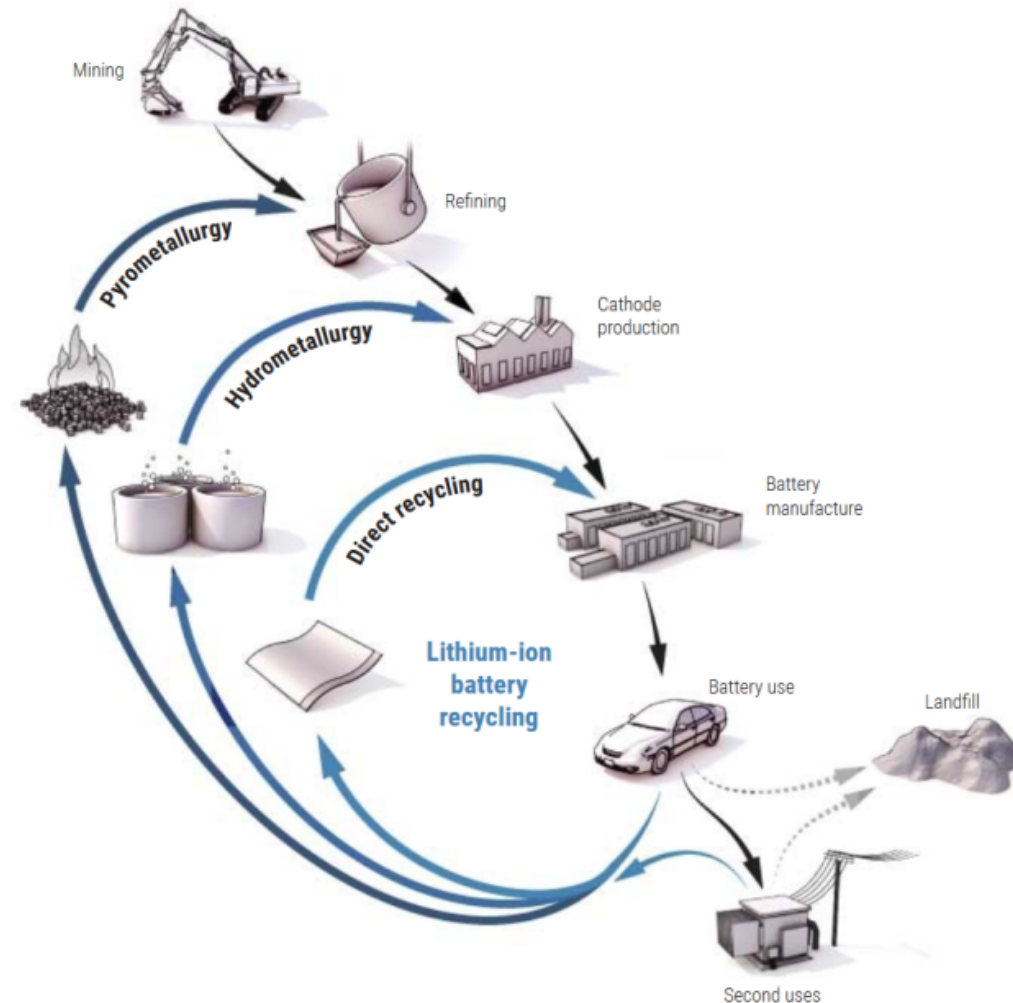
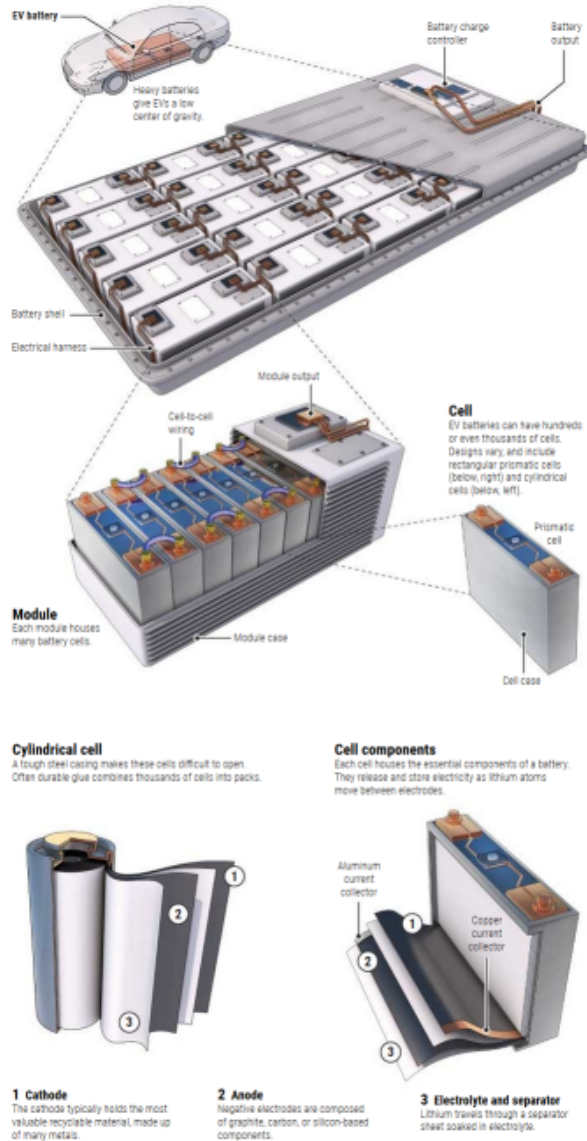


<https://batteryinnovation.org/resources/lead-battery-market-data/>

Recycle of lead-acid batteries is imperfect by recycling of Li-ion batteries is harder



Recycling concerns are not unique to lead-acid batteries

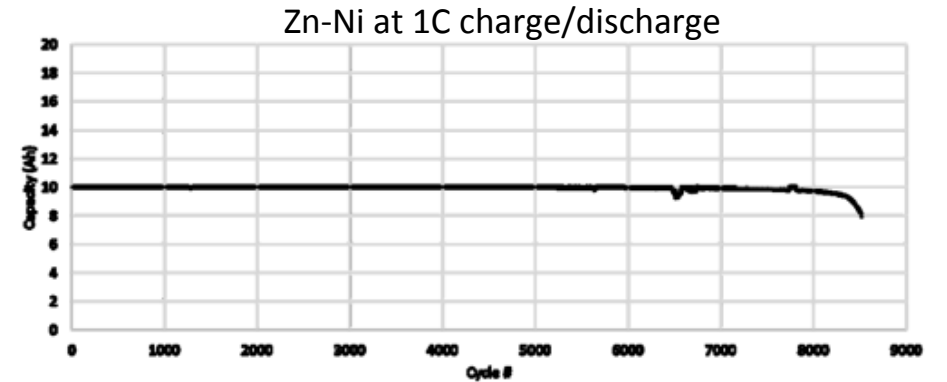
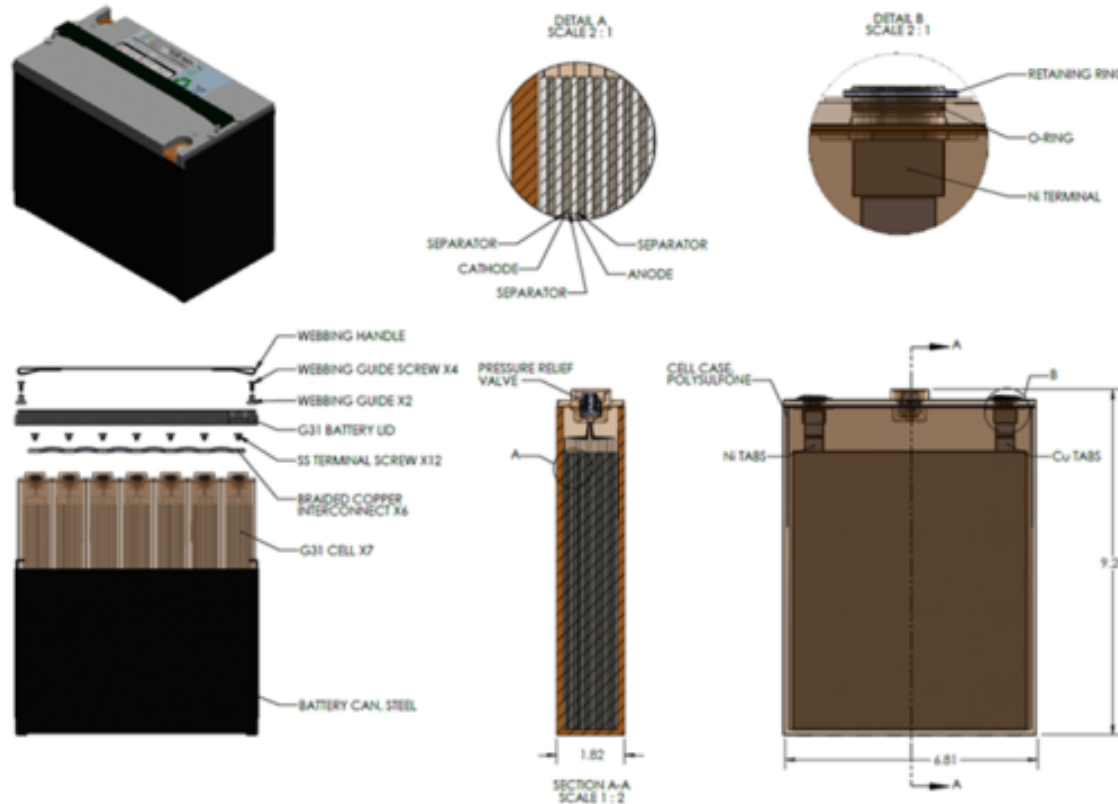


<https://www.science.org/content/article/millions-electric-cars-are-coming-what-happens-all-dead-batteries>
<https://www.anl.gov/manufacturing/recycling>

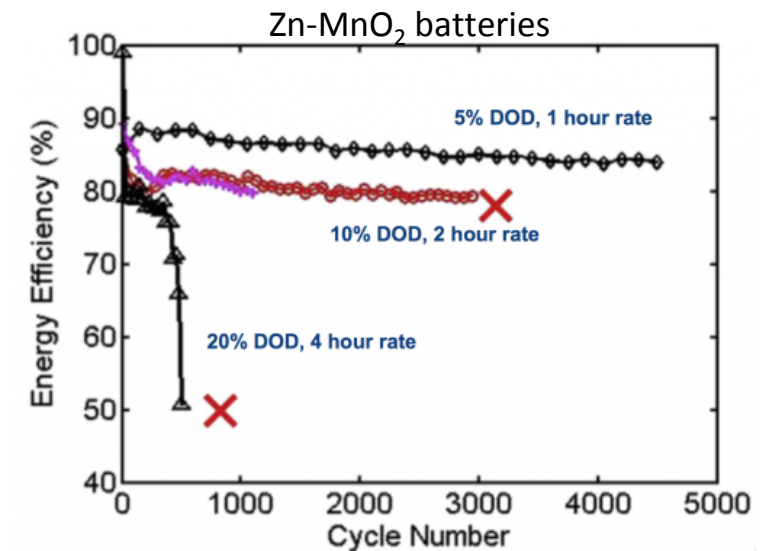
Zn-based batteries are an environmentally friendlier alternative to lead acid



More complex construction

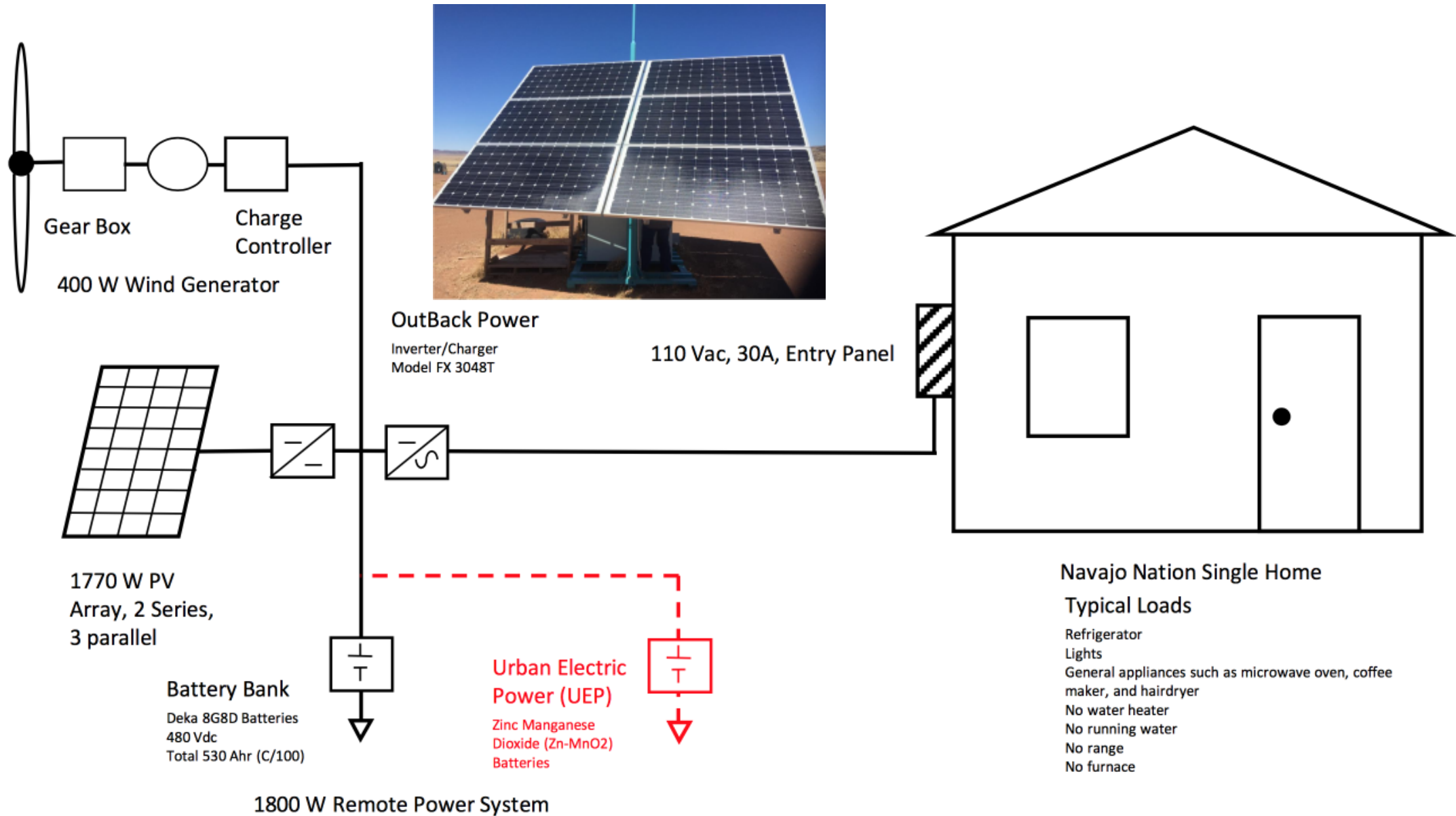


Source: Design and Performance of Large Format Nickel-Zinc Batteries E. Listerud and A. Weisenstein ZAF Energy Systems

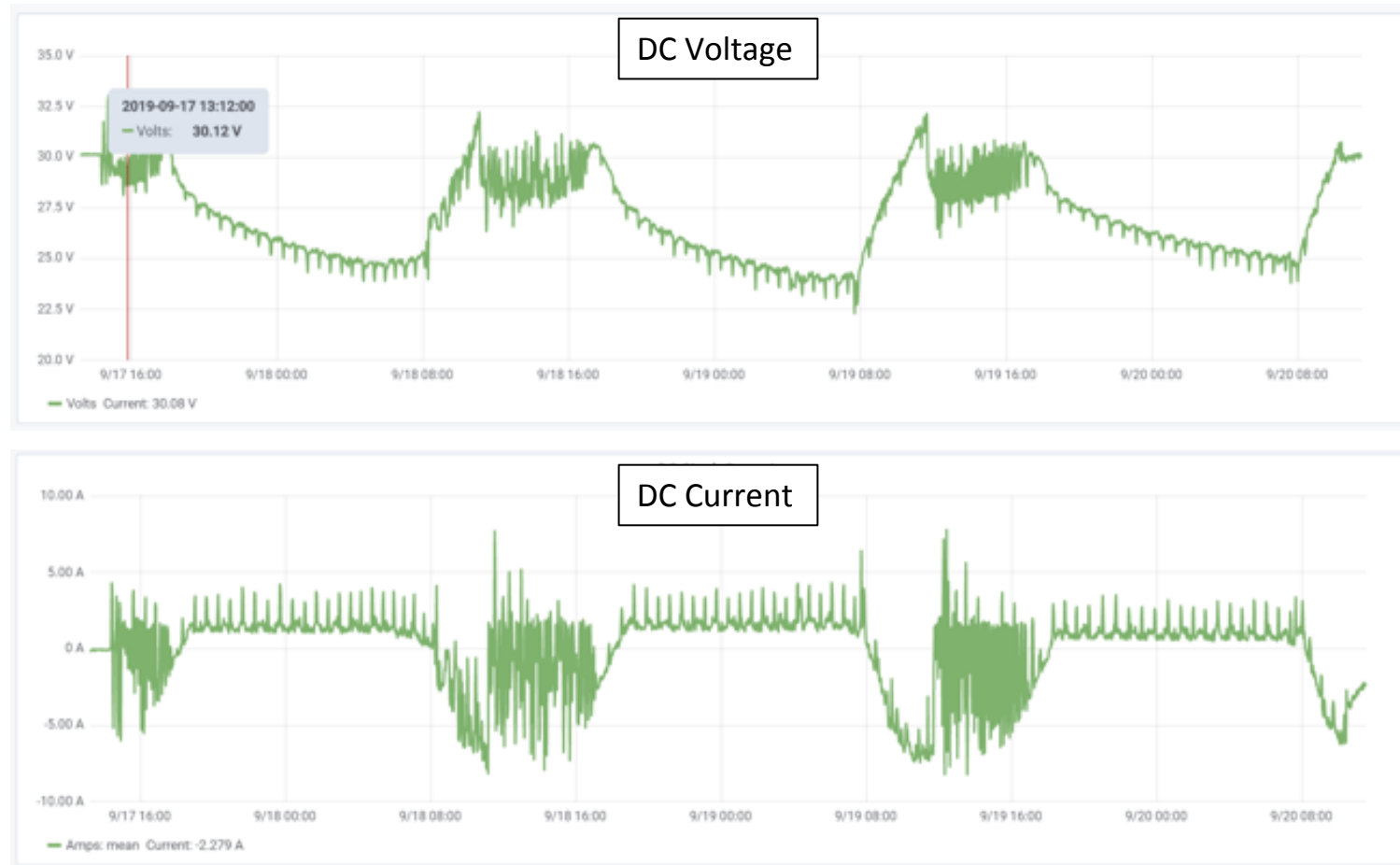


Source: <http://www.joshuagallaway.com/?p=265>

Zn-based batteries can replace lead-acid batteries

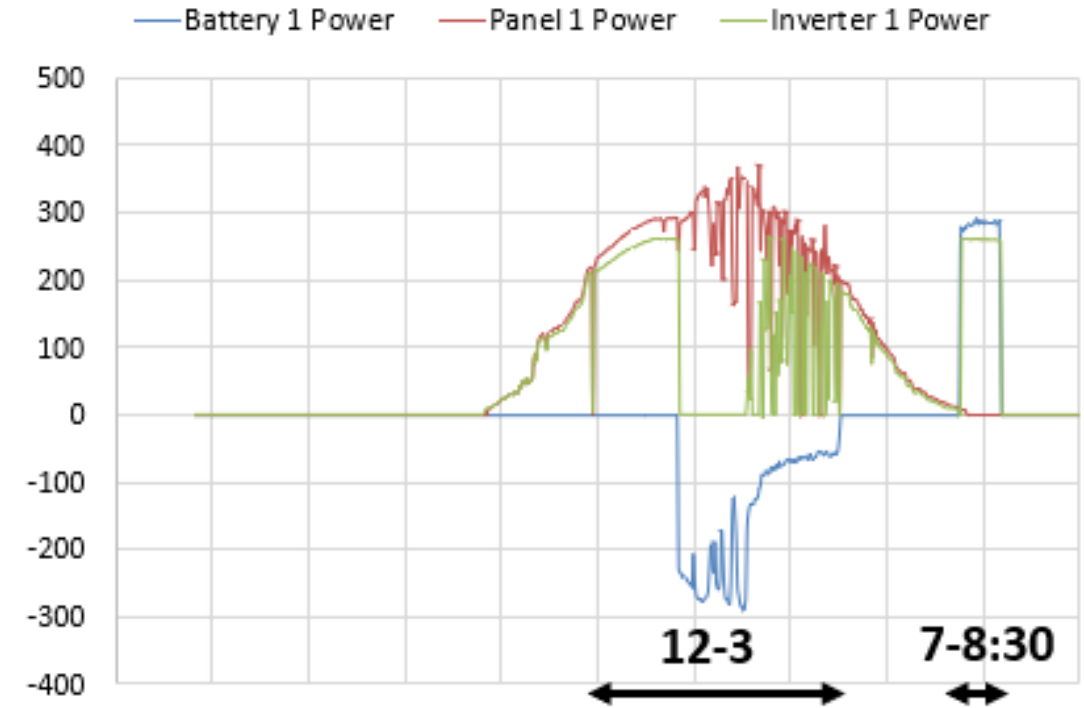


Data for the Zn-MnO₂ batteries used with converters designed for lead-acid batteries

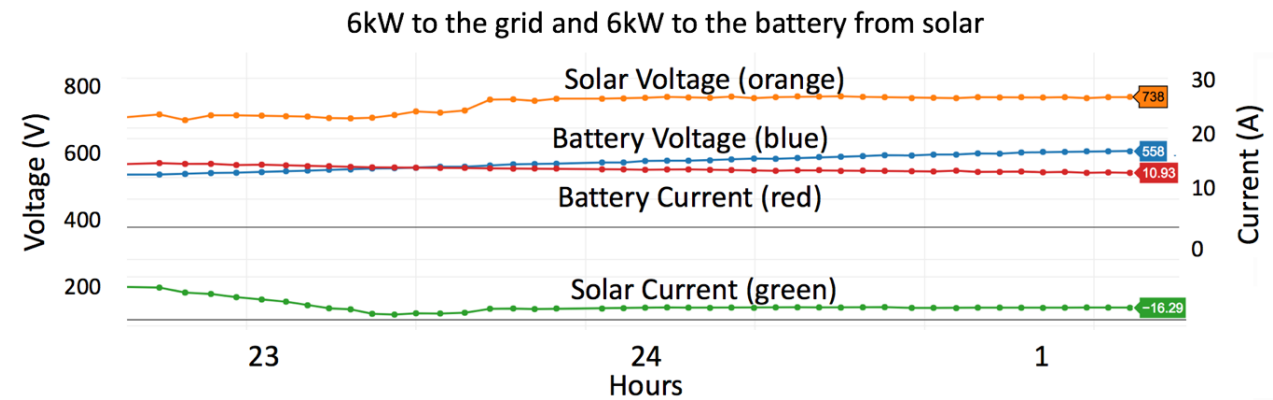
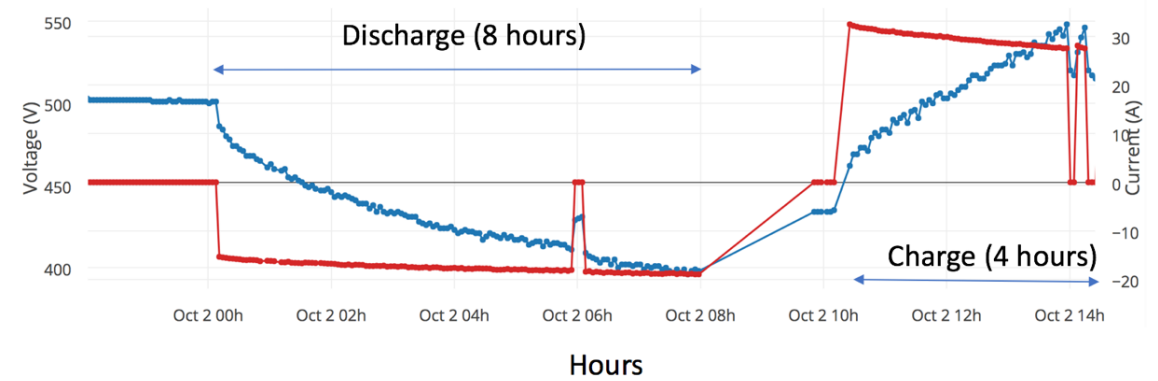


Top: Voltage; Bottom: Current: System test for 3 days. The system ran for 3 days paired with solar: charging when the sun was available and discharging during other times

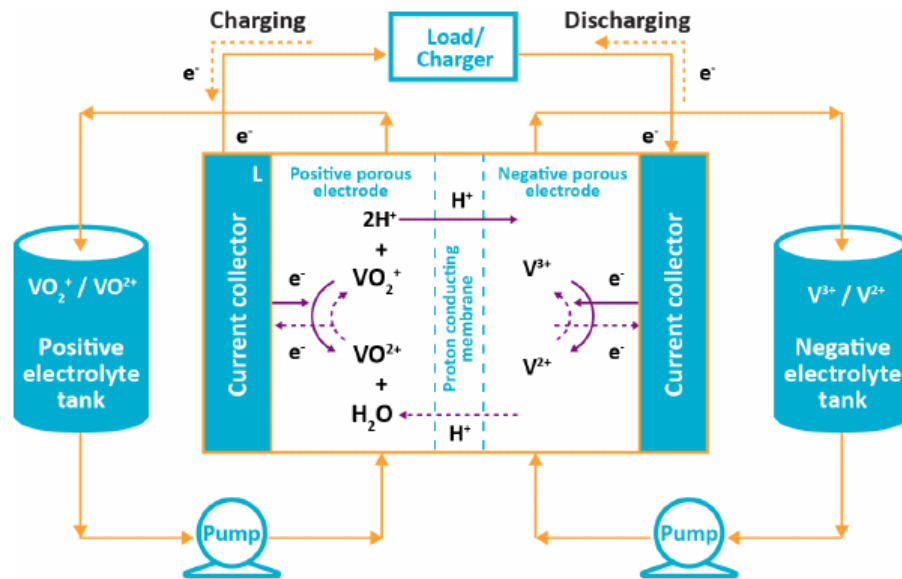
Zinc-based batteries can operate under solar panels



Container-based ZnMnO₂ system built in India using Li-ion BMS and power converter



Flow batteries allow decoupling of energy and power



Benefits:

- Decouple energy and power
- The electrolyte has a long life

Issues:

- Costs remain high
- Energy density is low
- Many mechanical parts

Modular systems (<50kWh)

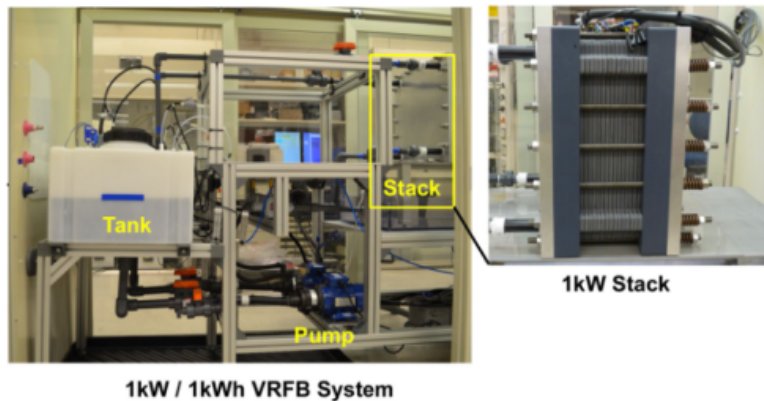


Figure 2. Photograph of vanadium RFB (VRFB) test bed developed at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for RFB evaluation. A zoomed in image of the electrochemical cell stack is provided at right.



Utility scale systems



Figure 3. Photograph of EnerVault Corp.'s 250kW/1MWh Fe-Cr RFB in Turlock, California. Electrolyte is held in the four tanks in the lower right [34].

Hydrogen has high energy density but no established supply chain

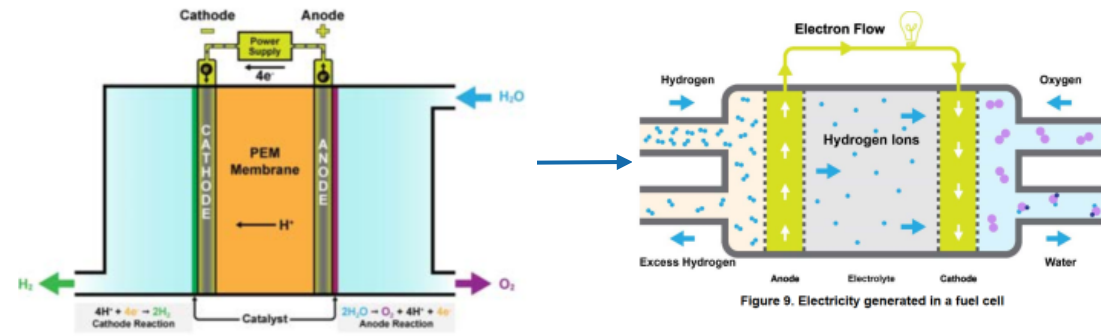


Figure 9. Electricity generated in a fuel cell

Benefits:

- High density of the fuel
- Potential for transport
- Reuse of existing infrastructure

Issues:

- Proton exchange membranes
- Expensive catalyst
- Low efficiency
- NOx production

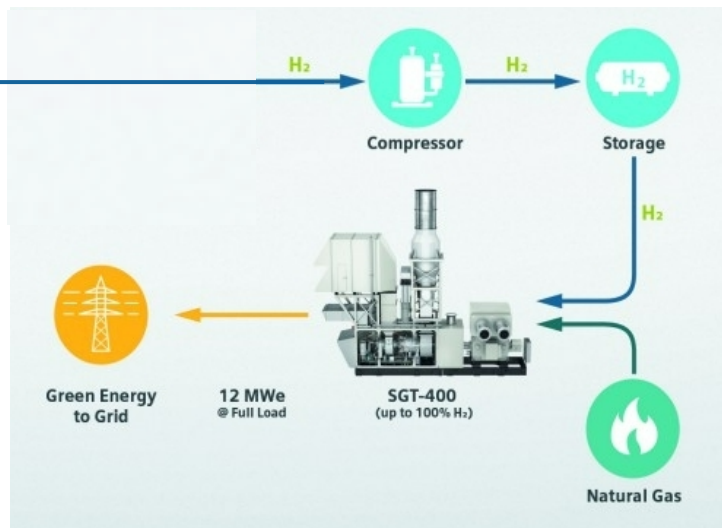


Figure 4. ITM Power 1 MW electrolyzer



Figure 5. Photo of hydrogen gas cylinders on a tube trailer [15]



Figure 10. Fuel cell stationary power plant

Source: Sandia Energy Storage Handbook

Specifications

- Solar technology is mature and inexpensive
- The existing grid infrastructure will evolve
- Developing countries can take advantage of new decentralized technologies
- The competition for Li cells will increase as the penetration of EV's goes up
- Lead-acid and new Zn-technologies can hit low price points and be easy to manage
- Other, non-modular options, like flow batteries and H₂ systems are coming to market

Acknowledgements



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- Hydrogen: Alexander J. Headley (Sandia National Laboratories), Susan Schoenung (Longitude 122 West, Inc.)