

Non-Li technologies and solar integration

2021 Southern Africa Energy Storage Systems

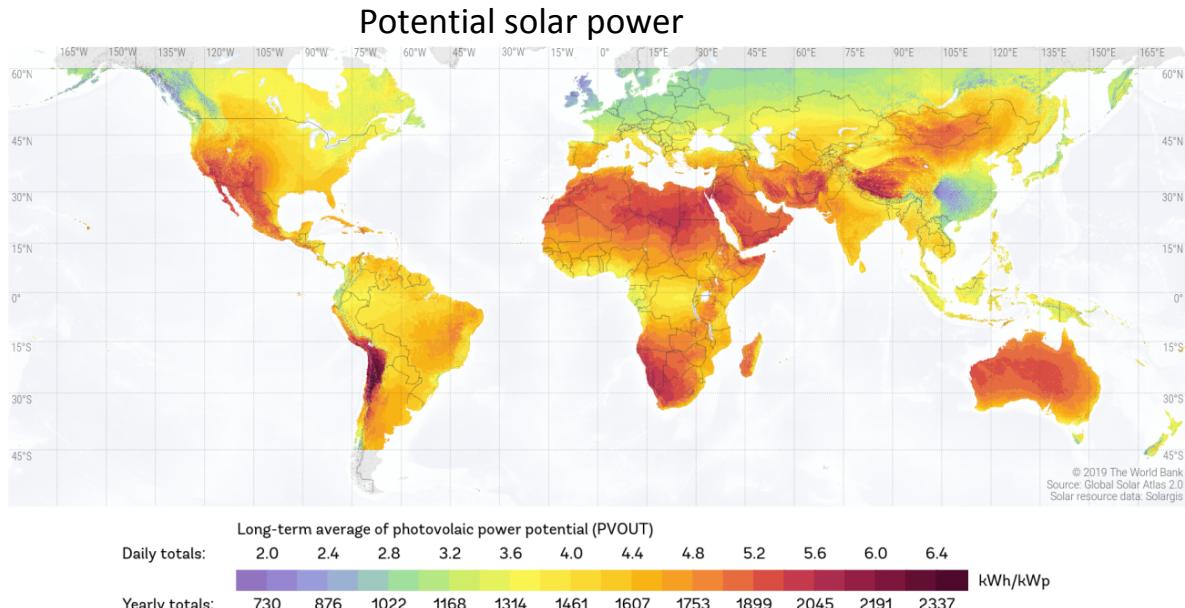
Valerio De Angelis

Energy Storage Tech & Systems

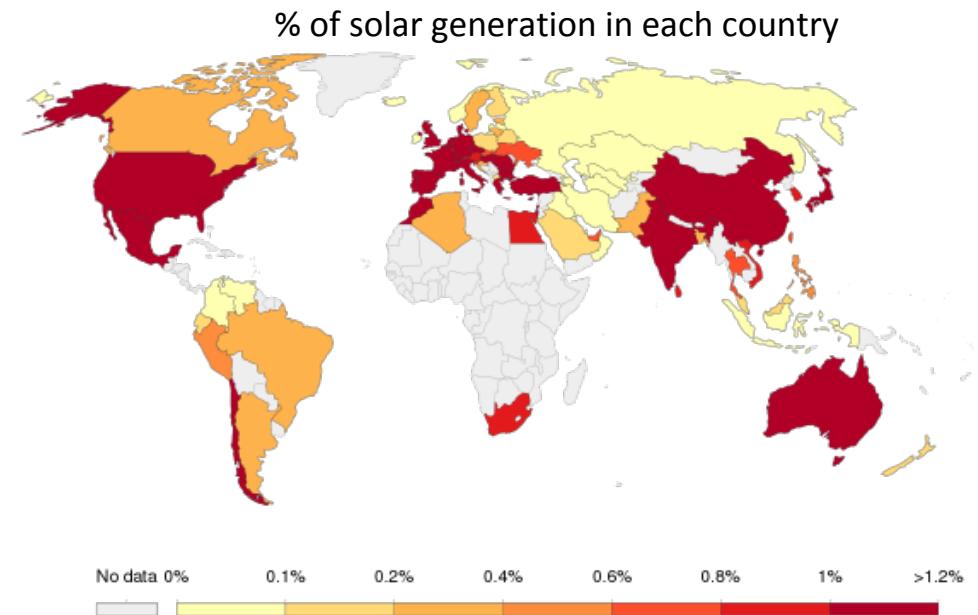
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Solar energy is available and inexpensive



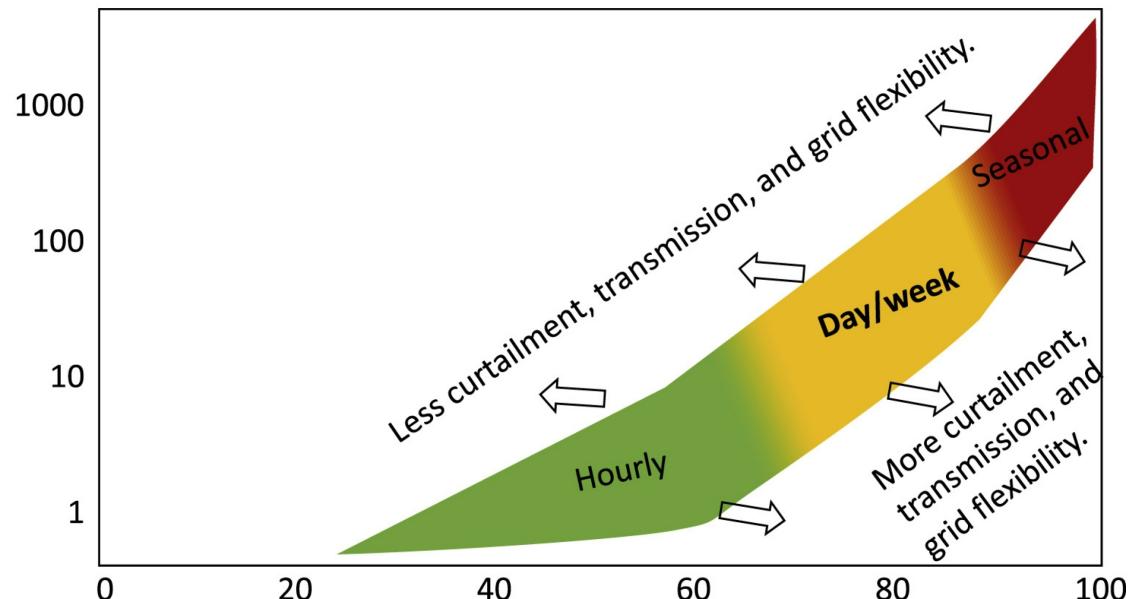
This map is published by the World Bank Group, funded by ESMAP, and prepared by Solargis. For more information and terms of use, please visit <http://globalsolaratlas.info>.



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

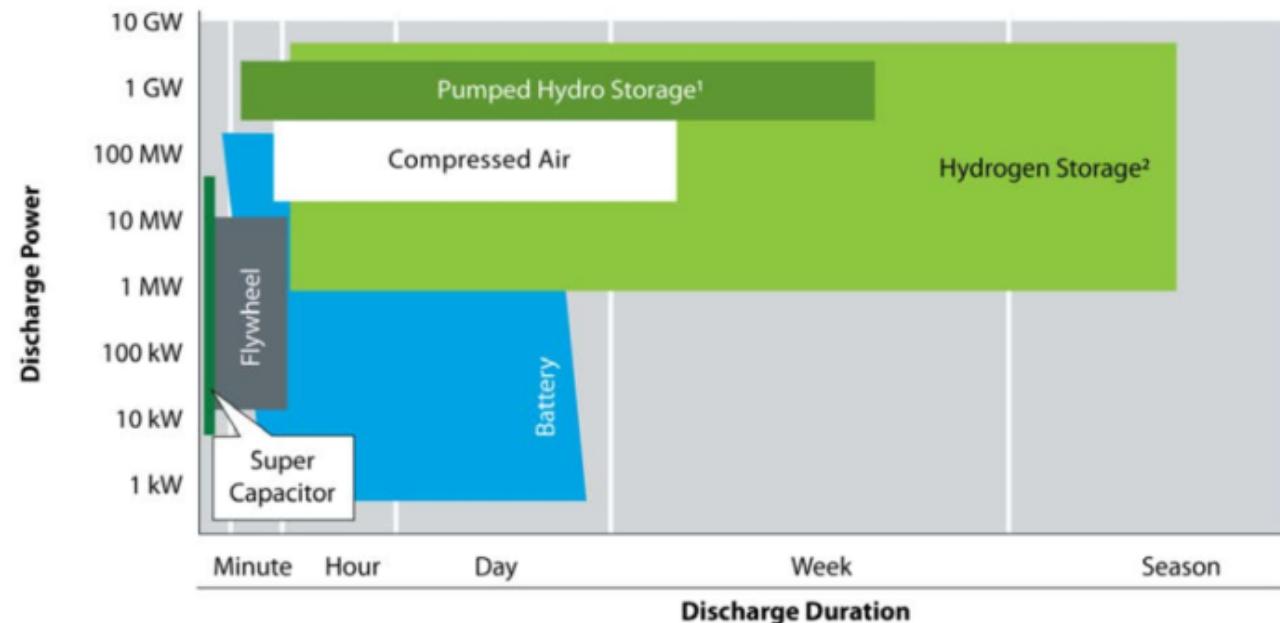


Maximum required storage duration
(hours at rated power)

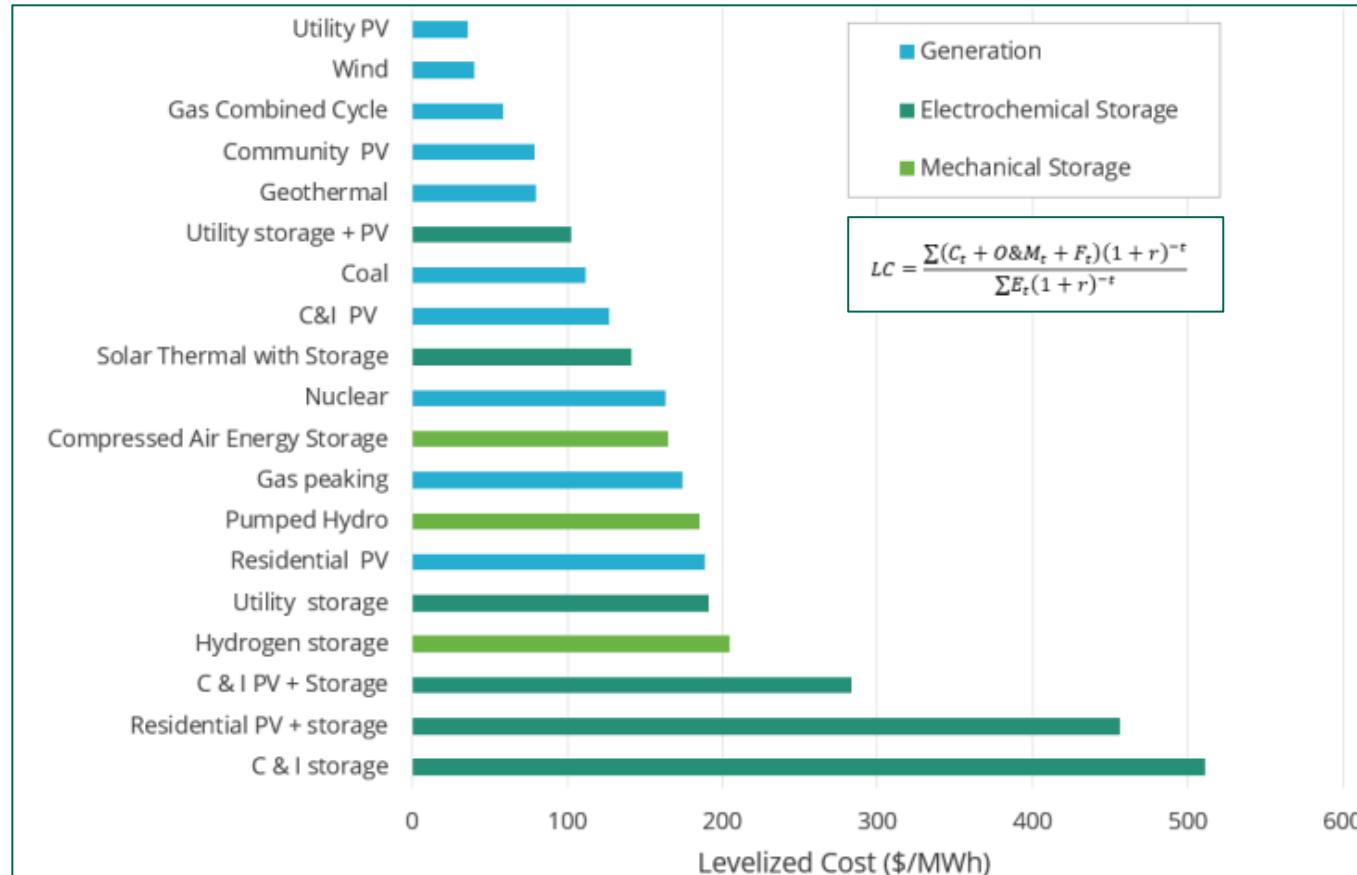


Annual electricity from wind and solar on a regional grid (%)

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



Energy storage is competitive in some cases with conventional generation

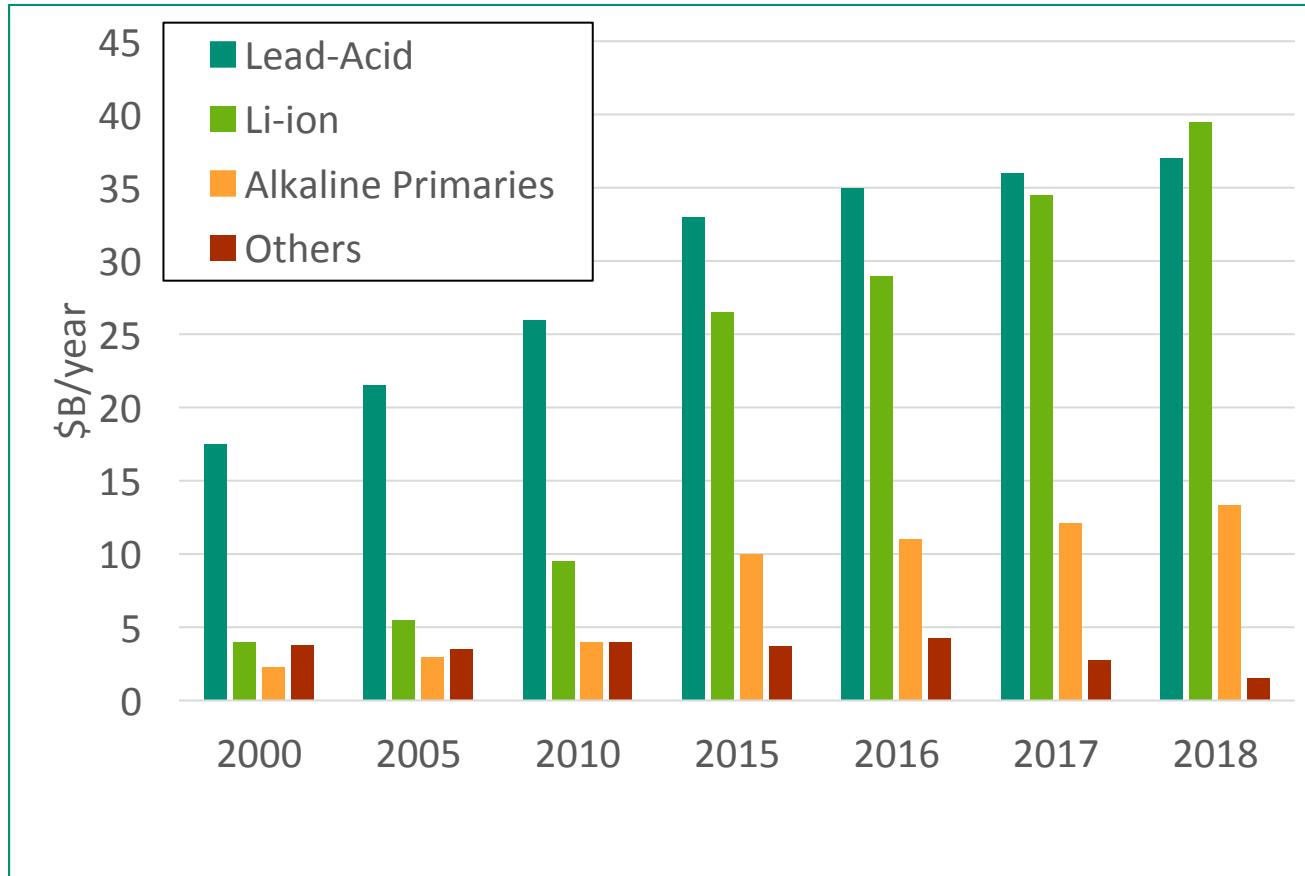


Advantages of solar generation

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

Source: Lazard

Battery technologies take time to develop

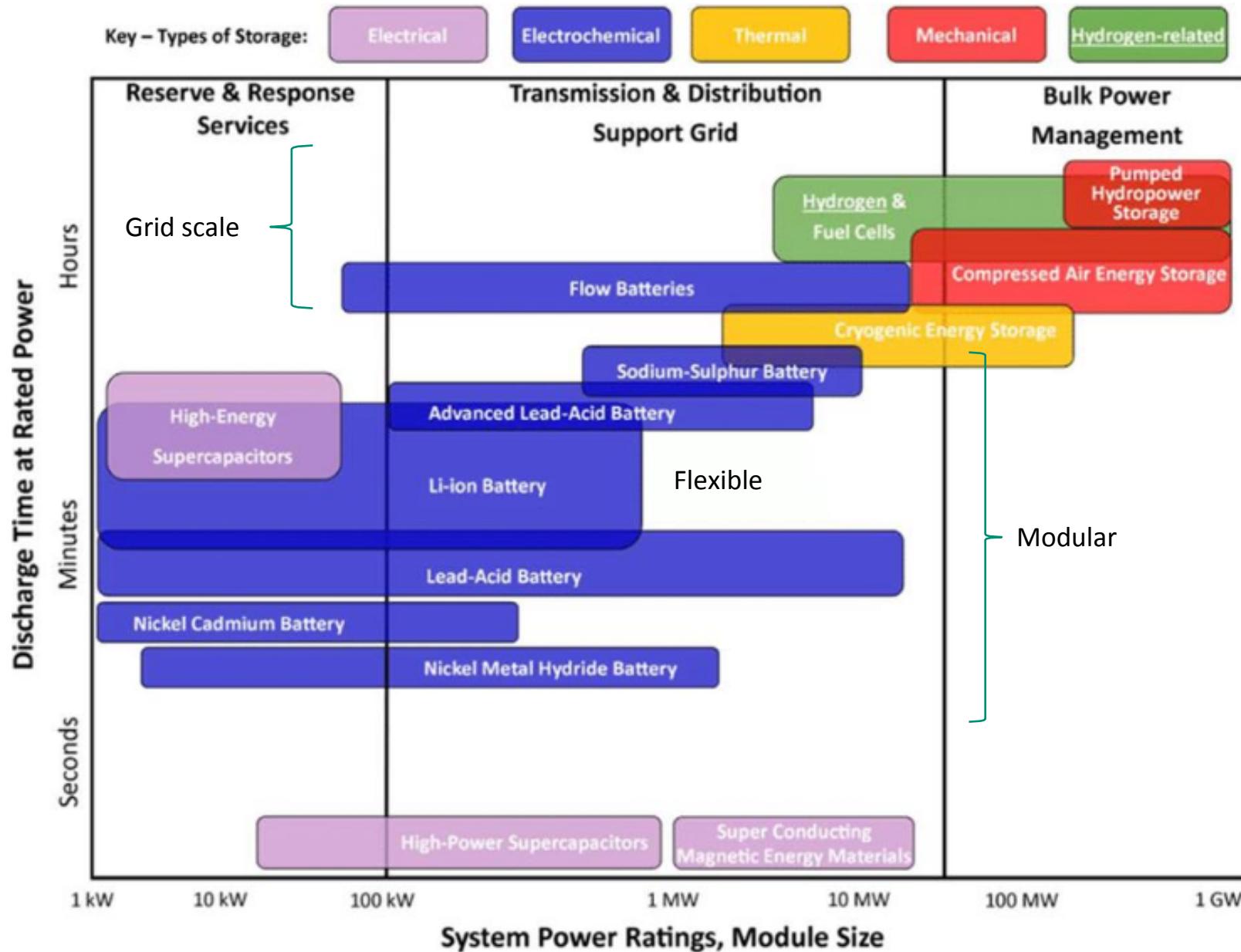


Source: Avicenne Energy

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

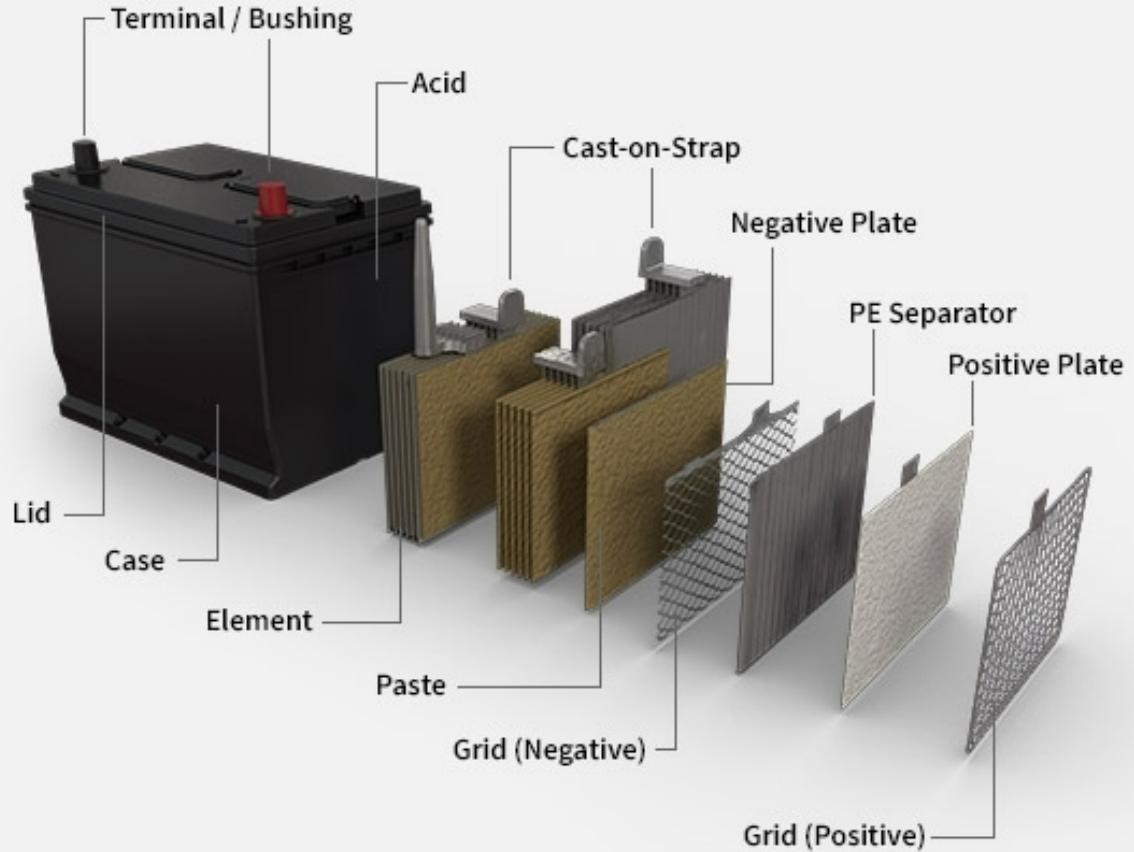
Several options for energy storage are available



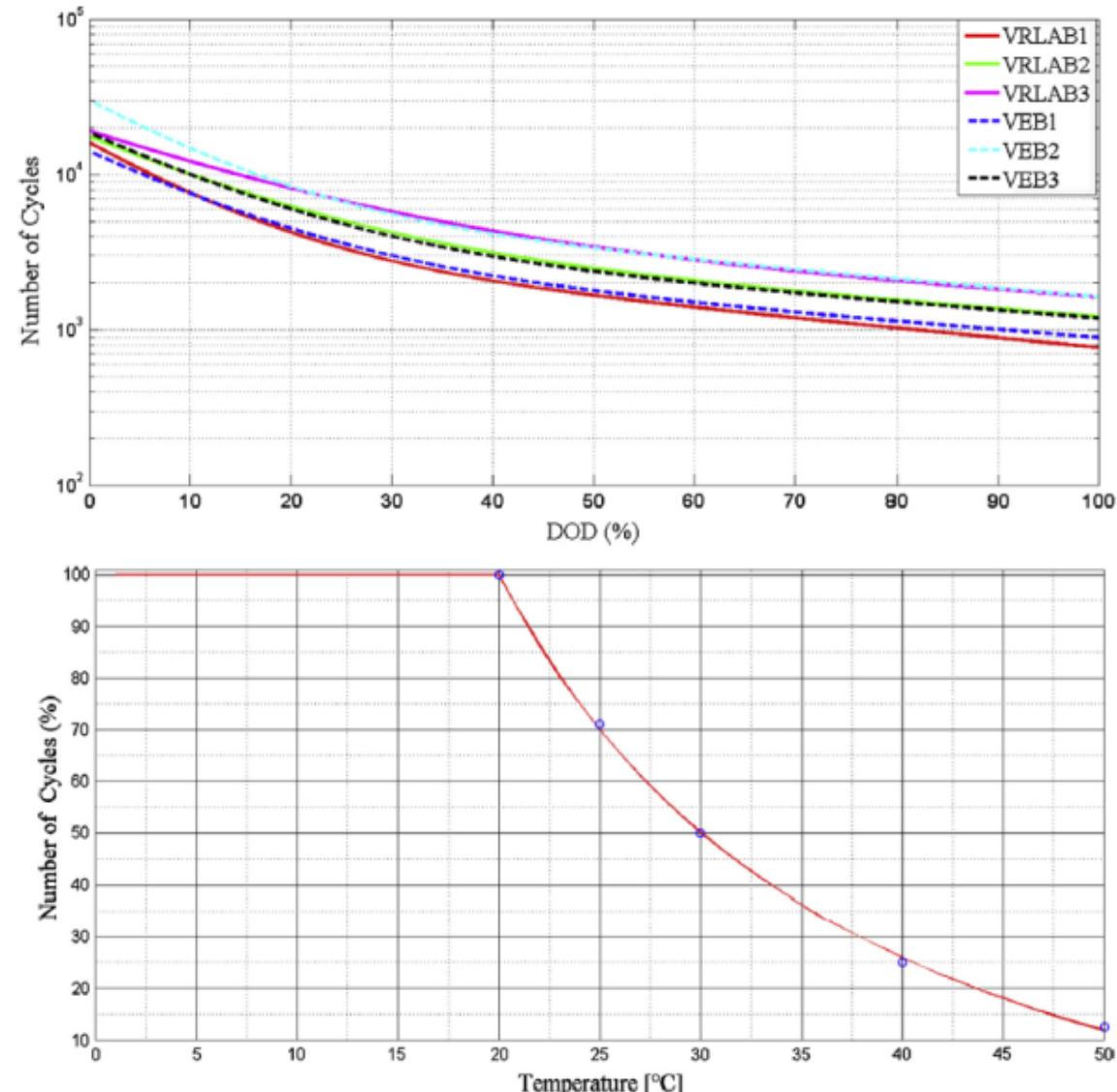
Lead Acid is used for UPS and for solar firming



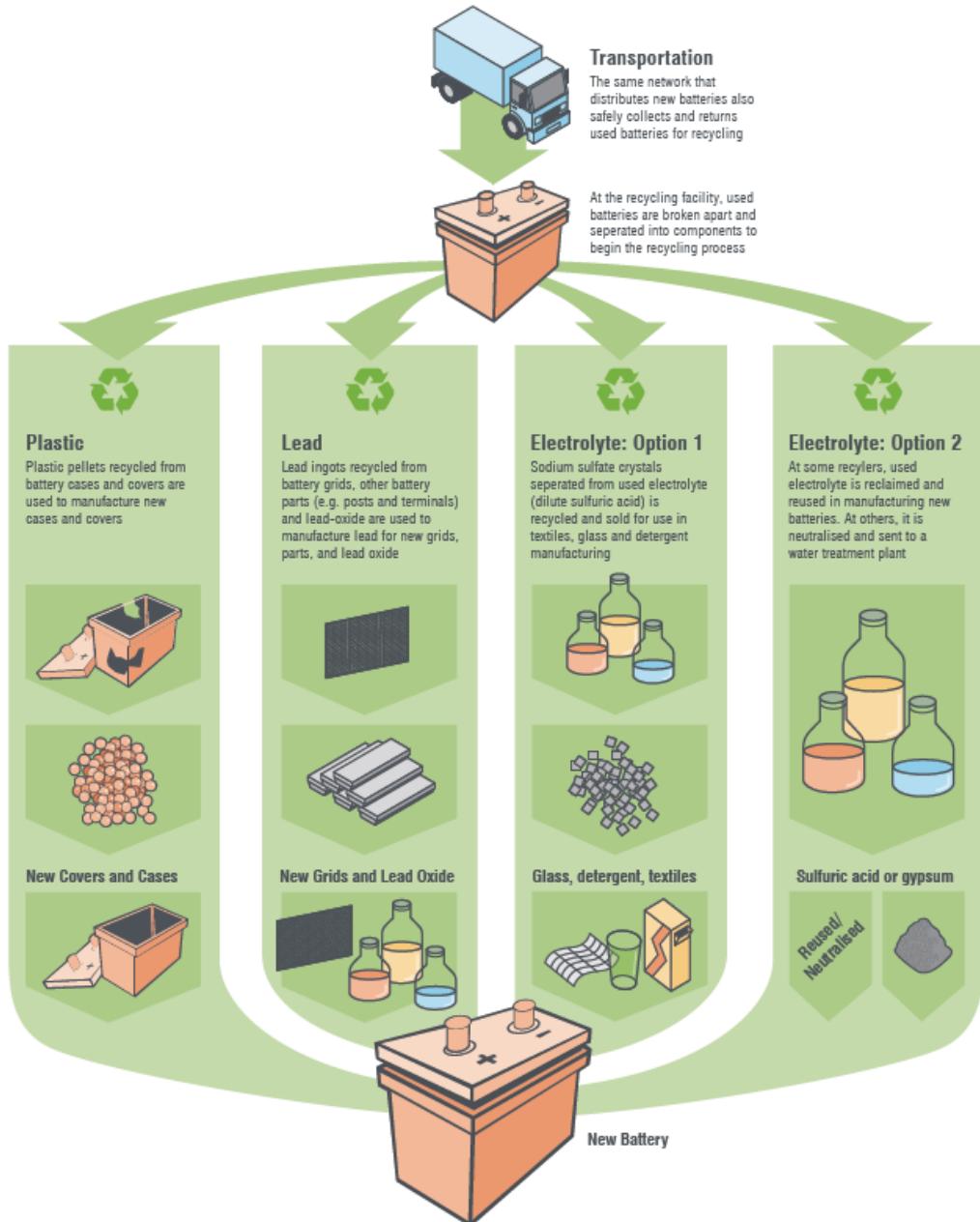
Simple & standardized construction



Performance degrades with temperature



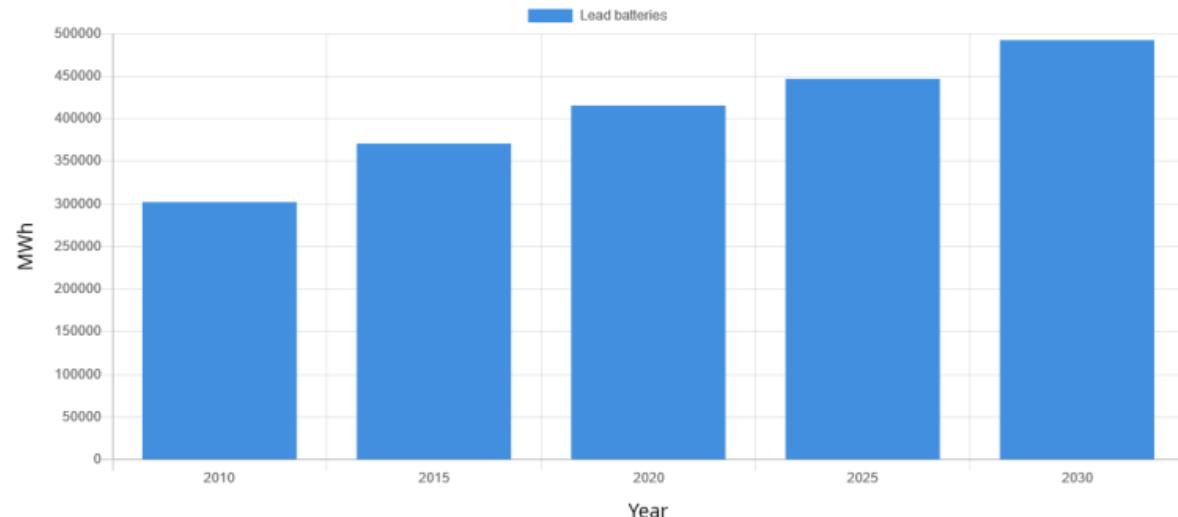
The lead-acid industry has an established recycling infrastructure



Recycling centers in the US and Mexico



Lead battery market 2010-2030

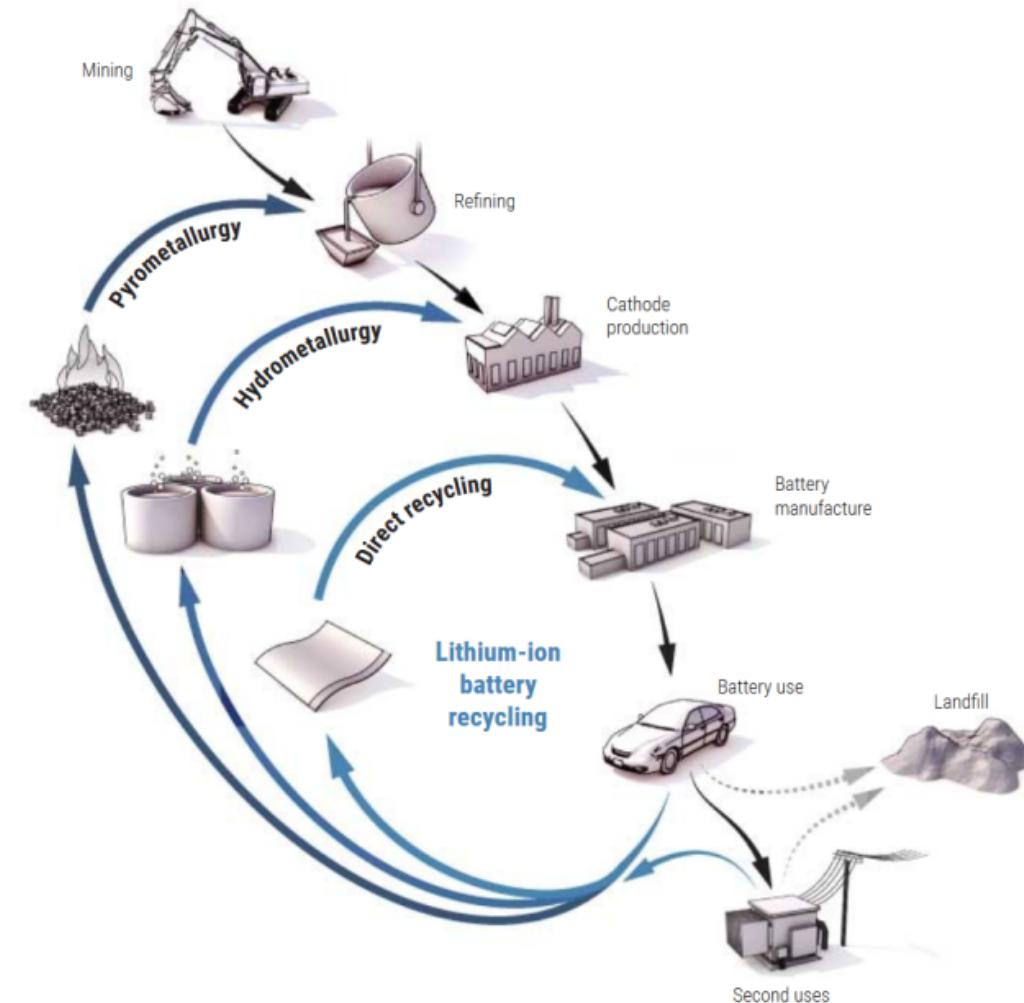
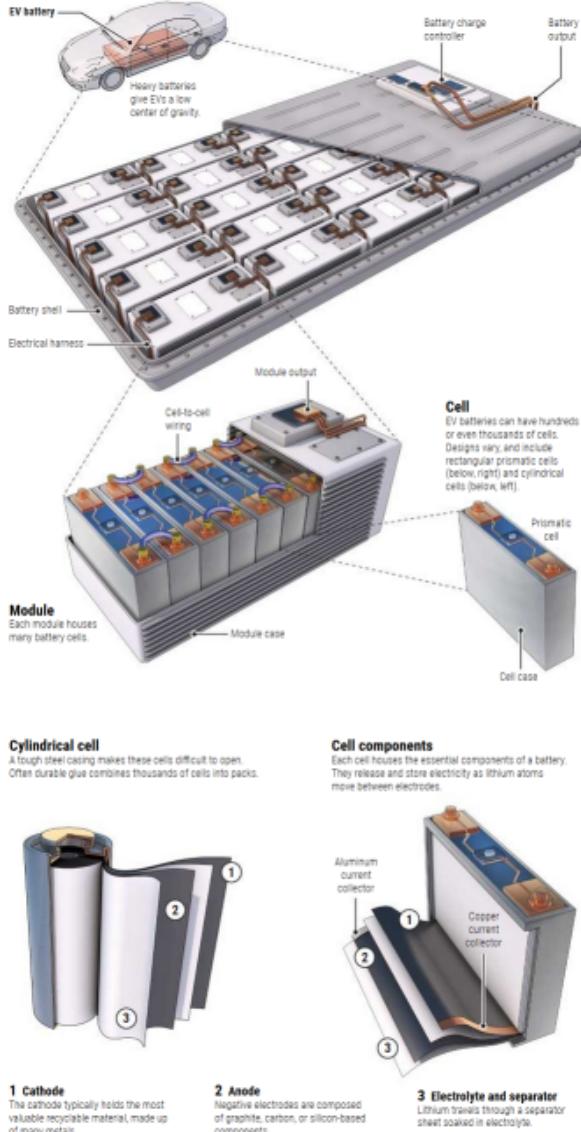


<https://batteryinnovation.org/resources/lead-battery-market-data/>

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



Recycling concerns are not unique to lead-acid batteries

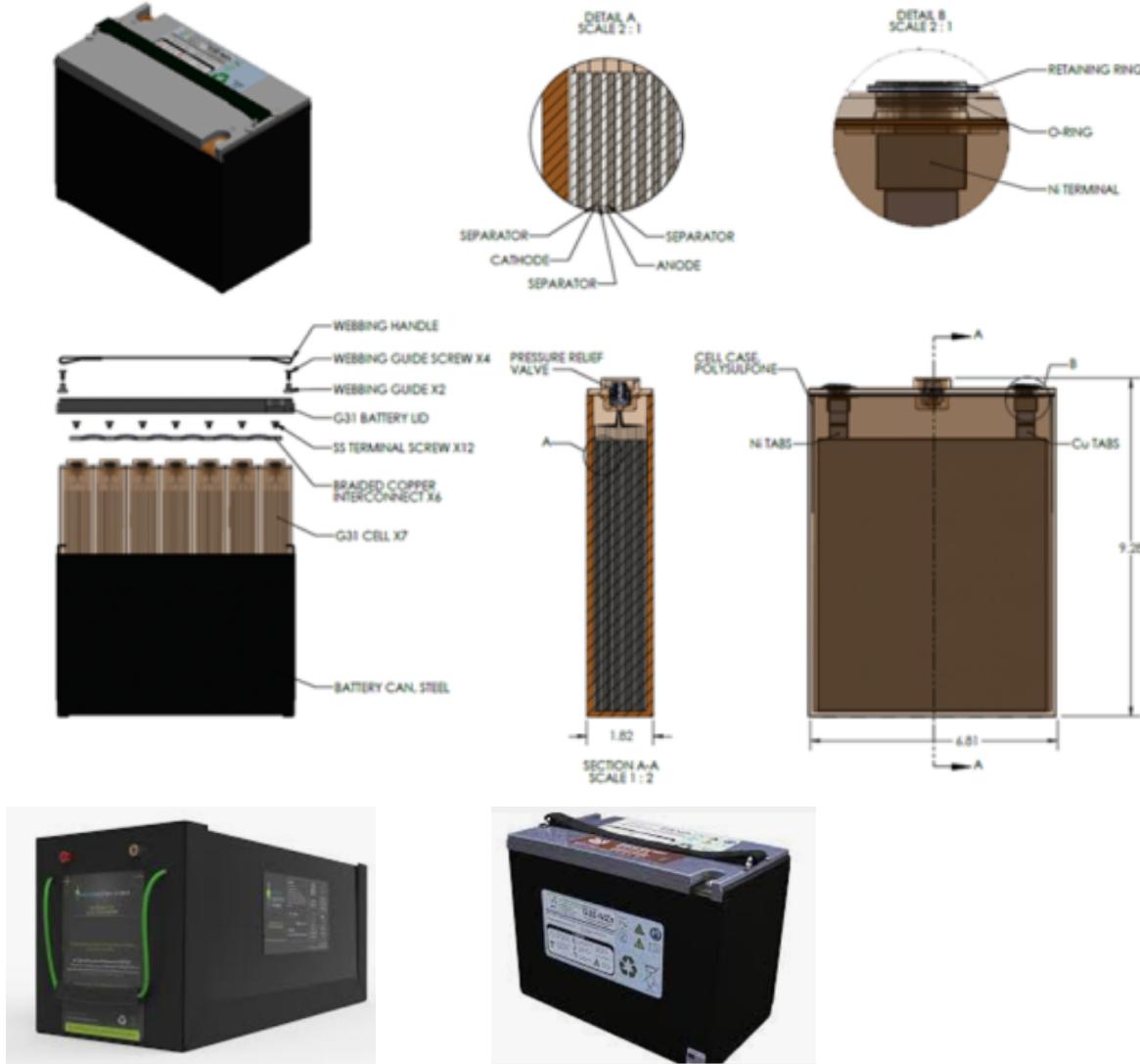


<https://www.science.org/content/article/millions-electric-cars-are-coming-what-happens-all-dead-batteries>
<https://www.anl.gov/manufacturing/recycling>

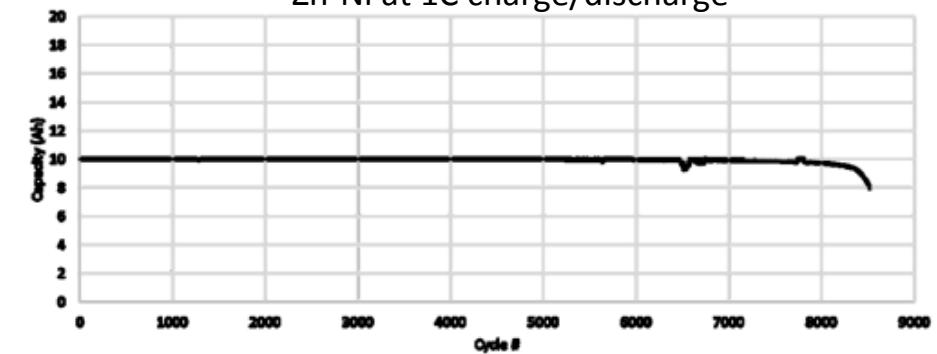
Zn-based batteries are an environmentally friendlier alternative to lead acid



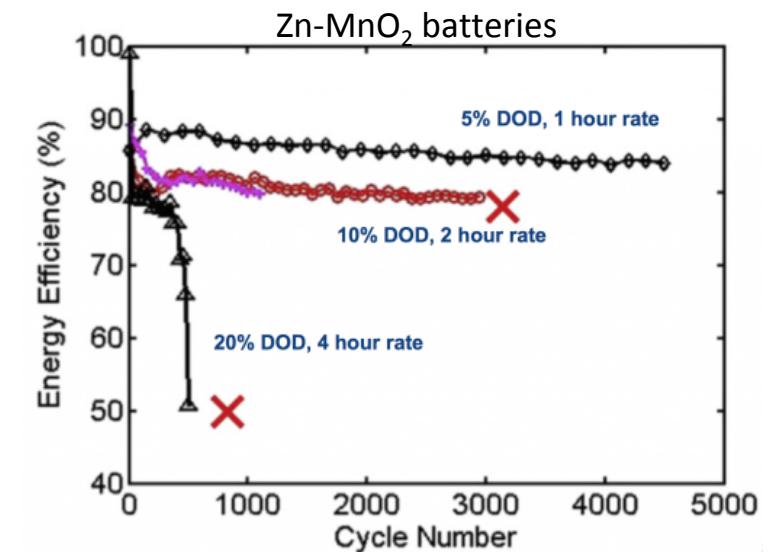
More complex construction



Zn-Ni at 1C charge/discharge

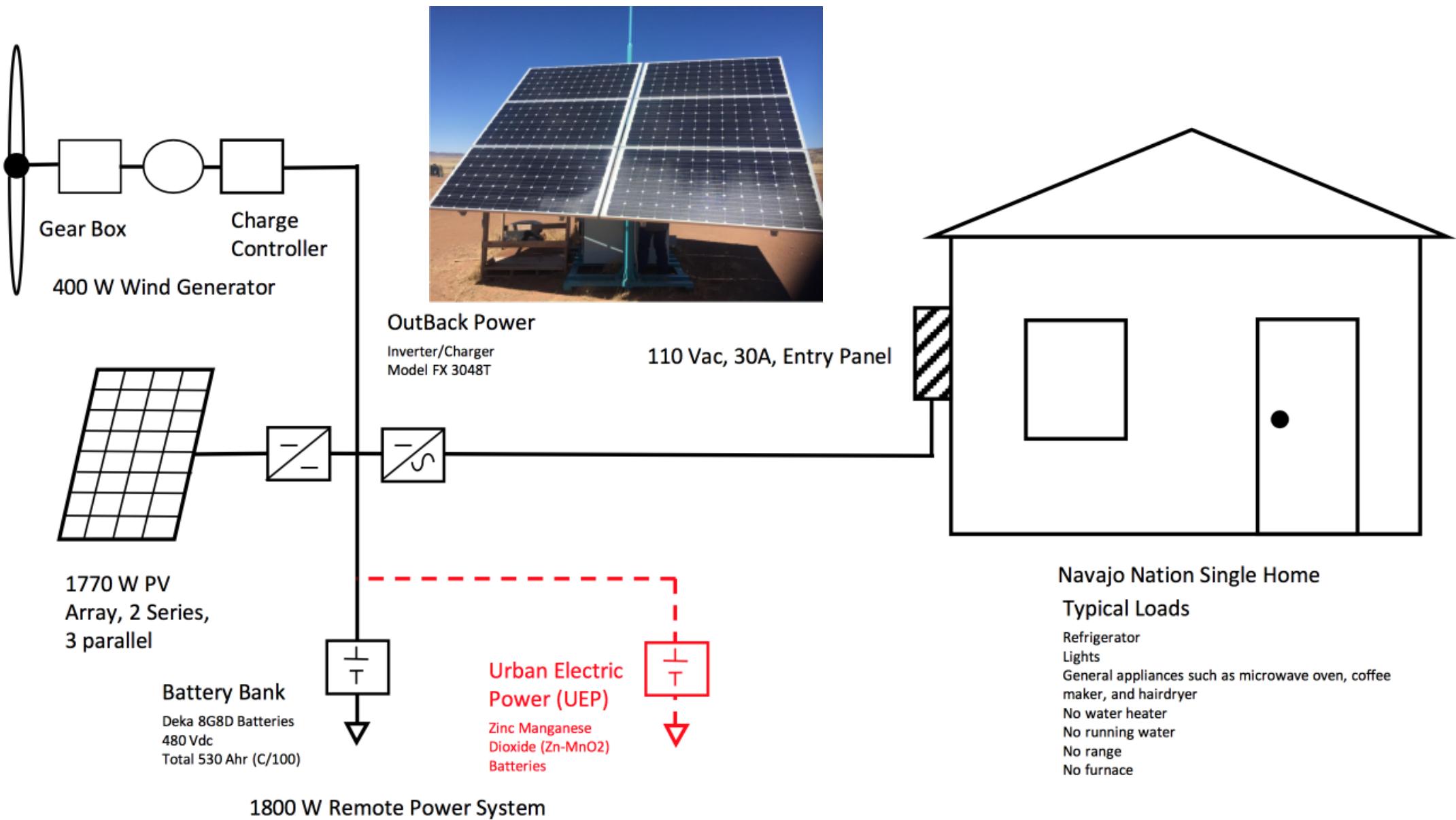


Source: Design and Performance of Large Format Nickel-Zinc Batteries E. Listerud and A. Weisenstein ZAF Energy Systems

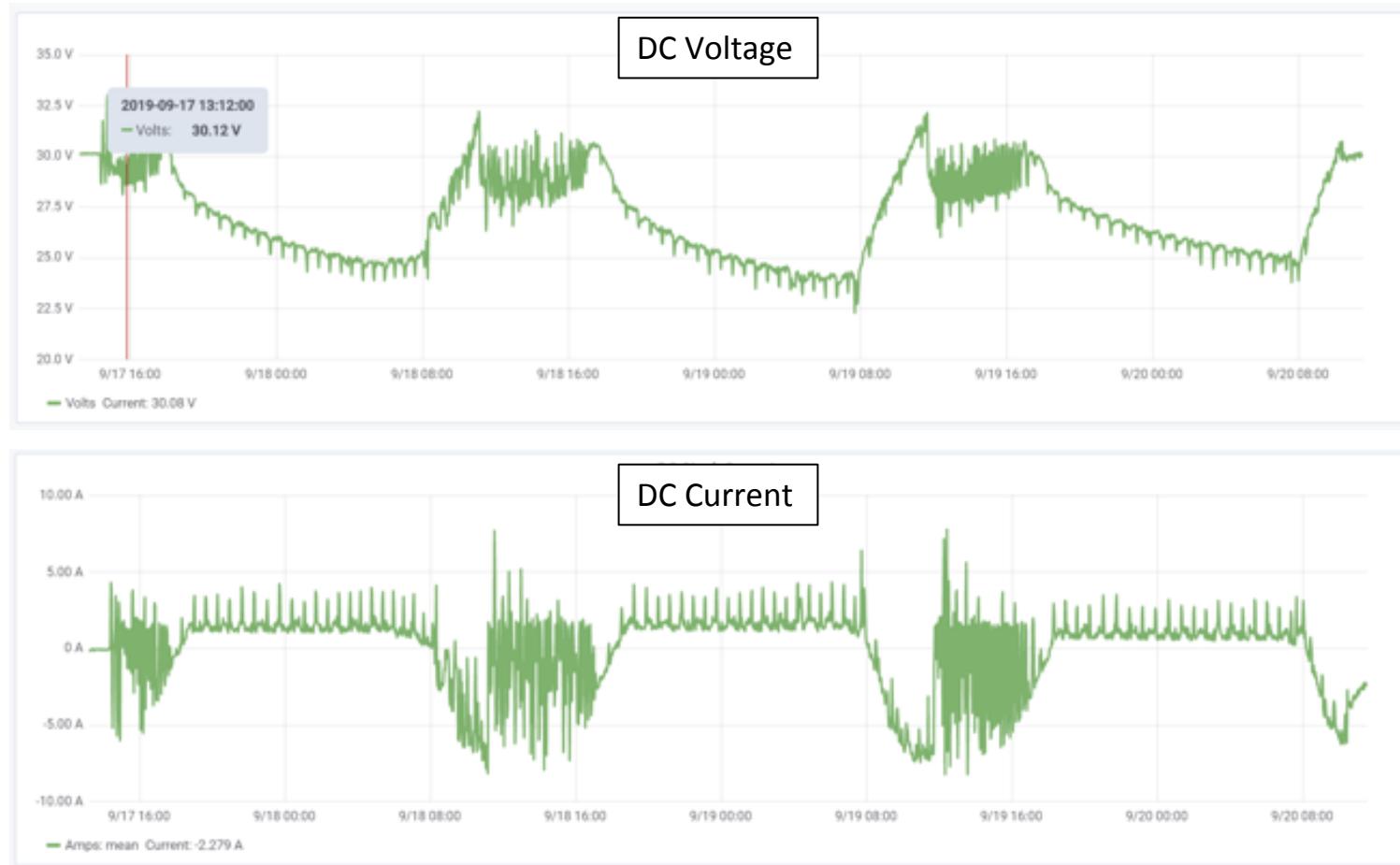


Source: <http://www.joshuagallaway.com/?p=265>

Zn-based batteries can replace lead-acid batteries

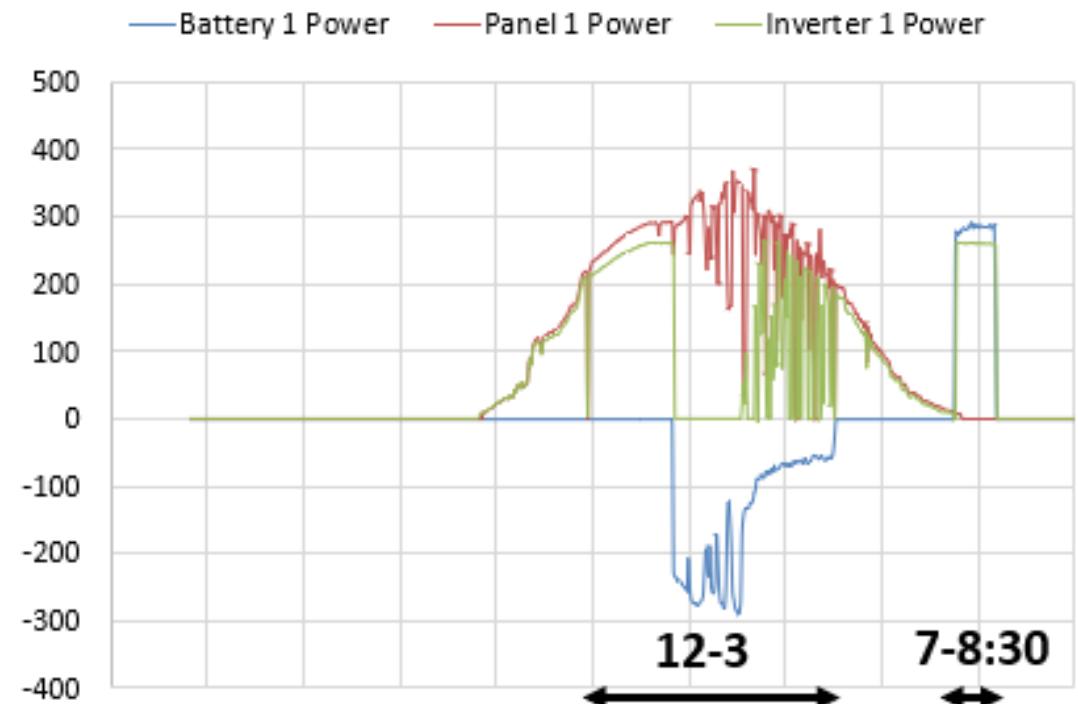


Data for the Zn-MnO₂ batteries used with converters designed for lead-acid batteries



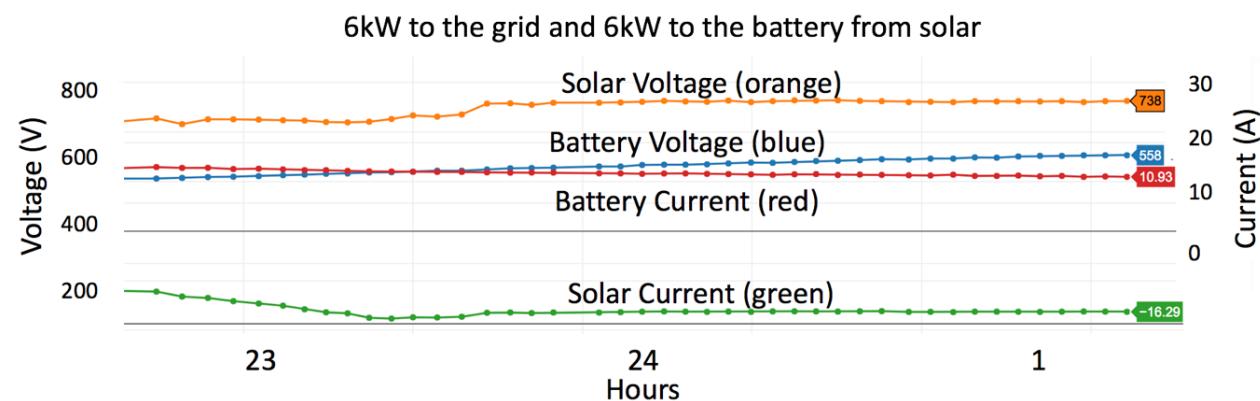
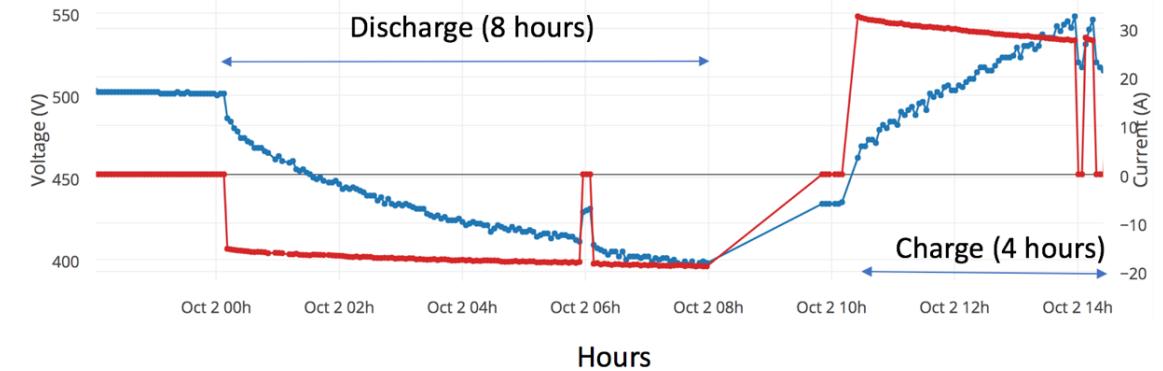
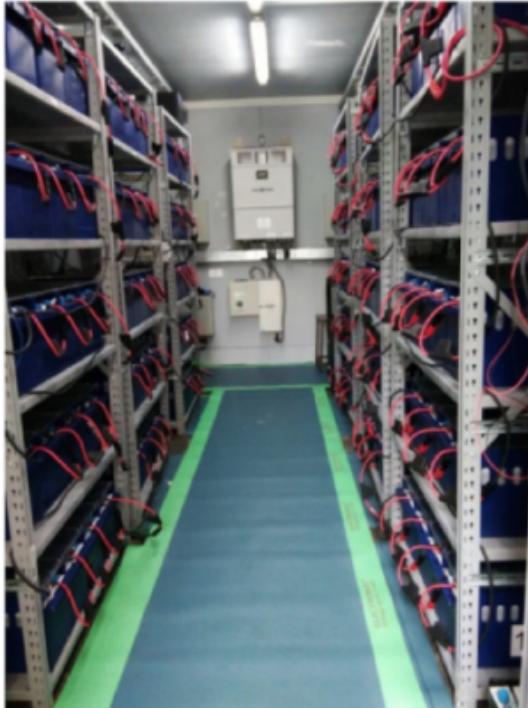
Top: Voltage; Bottom: Current: System test for 3 days. The system ran for 3 days paired with solar: charging when the sun was available and discharging during other times

Zinc-based batteries can operate under solar panels



Data from
enphaseurbanstation.com

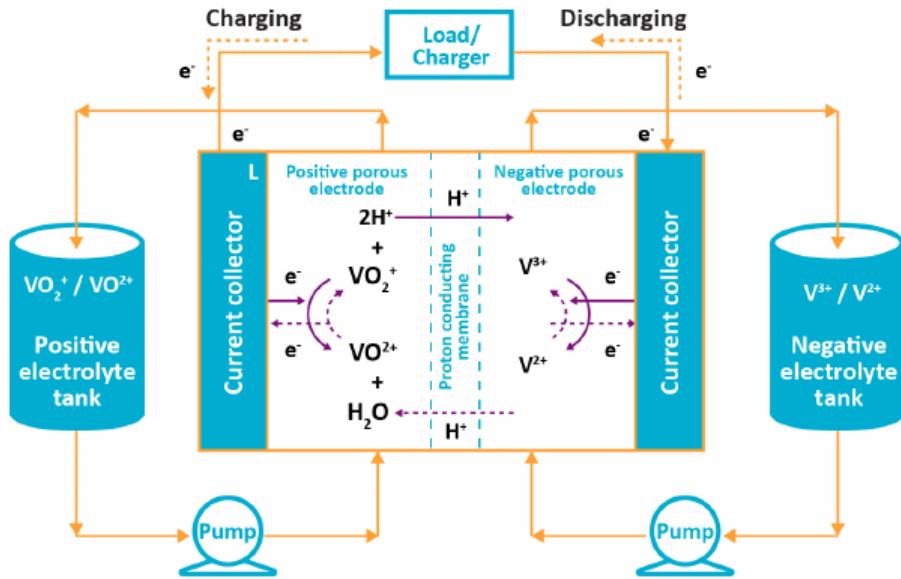
Container-based ZnMnO₂ system built in India using Li-ion BMS and power converter



Data from

www.solarstationsworld.com

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

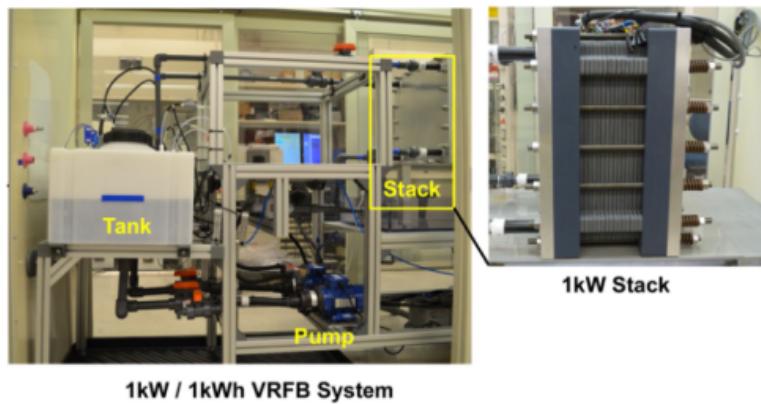


Figure 2. Photograph of vanadium RFB (VRFB) test bed developed at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for RFB evaluation. A zoomed in image of the electrochemical cell stack is provided at right.

Modular systems (<50kWh)

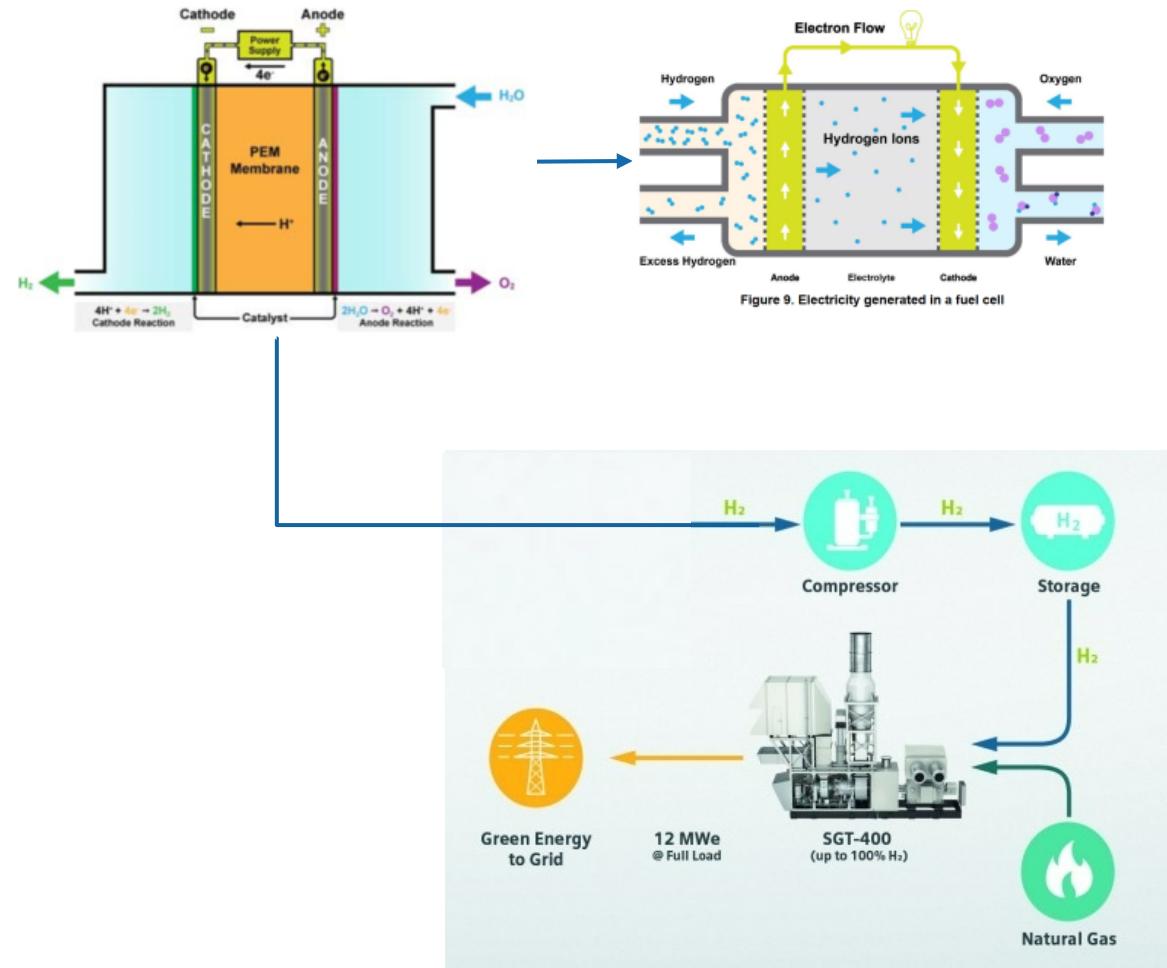


Utility scale systems



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



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 10. Fuel cell stationary power plant



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

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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