

Can large-scale energy storage power stations be profitable





Overview

Energy storage power stations can generate substantial profits, which can be delineated into diverse facets: 1) Initial capital investment recovery is critical; 2) Revenue streams derive from grid services, capacity markets, and ancillary services; 3) Operating expenses must be meticulously managed; 4) Regulatory incentives and long-term contracts play a pivotal role in enhancing profitability. How can energy storage be profitable?

Where a profitable application of energy storage requires saving of costs or deferral of investments, direct mechanisms, such as subsidies and rebates, will be effective. For applications dependent on price arbitrage, the existence and access to variable market prices are essential.

How would a storage facility exploit differences in power prices?

In application (8), the owner of a storage facility would seize the opportunity to exploit differences in power prices by selling electricity when prices are high and buying energy when prices are low.

Is energy storage a profitable business model?

Although academic analysis finds that business models for energy storage are largely unprofitable, annual deployment of storage capacity is globally on the rise (IEA, 2020). One reason may be generous subsidy support and non-financial drivers like a first-mover advantage (Wood Mackenzie, 2019).

Can energy storage provide multiple services?

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) took a first step and published a framework of eleven rules prescribing when energy storage is allowed to provide multiple services. The framework delineates which combinations are permitted and how business models should be prioritized (American Public Power Association, 2018).

How do business models of energy storage work?



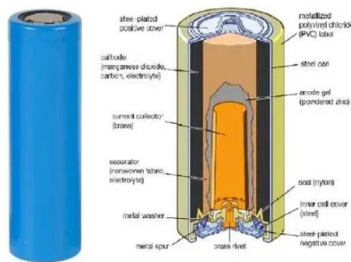
Building upon both strands of work, we propose to characterize business models of energy storage as the combination of an application of storage with the revenue stream earned from the operation and the market role of the investor.

Which technologies convert electrical energy to storable energy?

These technologies convert electrical energy to various forms of storable energy. For mechanical storage, we focus on flywheels, pumped hydro, and compressed air energy storage (CAES). Thermal storage refers to molten salt technology. Chemical storage technologies include supercapacitors, batteries, and hydrogen.



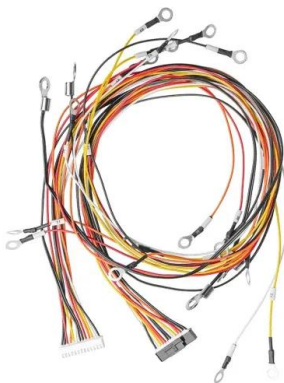
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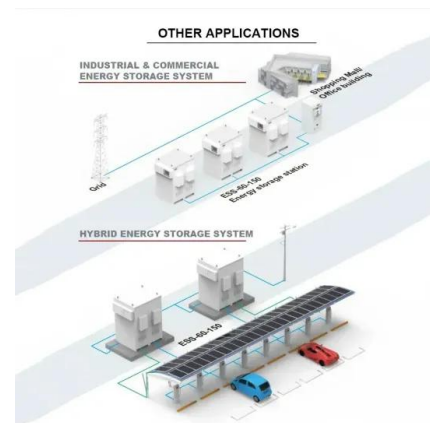
Analysis of energy storage power station investment and benefit

Abstract: In order to promote the deployment of large-scale energy storage power stations in the power grid, the paper analyzes the economics of energy storage power stations from three ...

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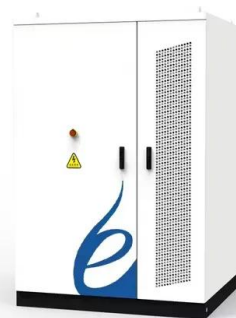
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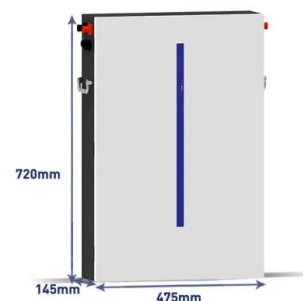
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