

What is an iron flow battery?

In the 1970s, scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) developed the first iron flow batteries using an iron/chromium system for photovoltaic applications. Over the next decade, these unique systems, which combine charged iron with an aqueous liquid energy carrier, were improved upon for large-scale energy storage.

Can iron-based aqueous flow batteries be used for grid energy storage?

A new iron-based aqueous flow battery shows promise for grid energy storage applications. A commonplace chemical used in water treatment facilities has been repurposed for large-scale energy storage in a new battery design by researchers at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Are iron-based aqueous redox flow batteries the future of energy storage?

The rapid advancement of flow batteries offers a promising pathway to addressing global energy and environmental challenges. Among them, iron-based aqueous redox flow batteries (ARFBs) are a compelling choice for future energy storage systems due to their excellent safety, cost-effectiveness and scalability.

Are iron flow batteries a good choice?

"The new iron flow battery is a good candidate for longer duration batteries, with discharge over 10-20 hours," he said. "And we have improved on this old design because of a fundamental understanding of both the battery and the material design. By engaging in a deep dive into the materials, we discovered things we didn't know before."

How much does an iron-based flow battery cost?

Companies like ESS Tech, Inc. in the USA have made significant strides in developing and commercializing acidic all-iron ARFBs and the U.S. Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy estimates that this iron-based flow battery would achieve an energy storage cost as low as \$125 per kWh.

Are iron flow batteries soluble?

"With these conventional iron flow batteries, the liquid is on the cathode, and they use a fully dissolved catholyte. But on the anode side, they take advantage of iron plating," Li said. "We wanted to find a way to make the battery full flow, entirely soluble, and remove the iron plating so that we could improve upon the original design."

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