



A glimpse into the present status of Energy Storage Systems (ESS) through real-world instances

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Abstract: Energy storage systems (ESS) hold a pivotal position in today's quest for sustainable and efficient energy utilization. These systems are reshaping the energy sector by addressing critical challenges in power generation and distribution. As the world advances toward renewable energy sources and grapples with grid stability concerns, the significance of energy storage systems becomes increasingly apparent [1-5]. The Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale, established by NASA in 1974 and subsequently embraced by the Research Framework Programme (2014–2020), serves as a standardized measure for assessing the developmental stage of a technology. This scale encompasses nine levels, commencing with the most rudimentary technological state and progressing through stages involving practical real-world demonstrations and assessments. Table 1 provides a comprehensive delineation of these levels.

Keywords: Energy Storage Technologies- Assessment, present state, future trends and challenges

Introduction:

Throughout history, the development of ESS has been a cornerstone of humanity's journey to efficiently harness and manage energy resources. From rudimentary storage methods to the contemporary, high-tech solutions of today, the evolution of ESS has significantly influenced human ability to power industries, illuminate homes, and drive progress. This historical overview delves into the progression of ESS, highlighting pivotal milestones and technological advancements that have paved the way for modern energy storage solutions [6-8]. The origins of ESS can be traced back millennia to the moment humans first mastered the art of fire. The ability to control fire represented an early form of energy storage, allowing early civilizations to accumulate and release energy as needed for heating and cooking. As societies progressed, innovations such as water wheels and windmills emerged, harnessing kinetic energy for mechanical work and grain milling.

Table 1: Assessment of technology readiness level

Stage	TRL	Description
Deployment	9	System is deployed and operational in a real environment
	8	System is completely validated and certified in a real environment
	7	Prototype is validated in a real environment
	6	Technology is demonstrated in a relevant environment

Research	5	Technology is validated in a relevant environment
Development	4	Technology is validated in a lab
	3	Concept is tested
	2	Concept/technology is formulated
	1	Basic idea/concept

Table 2: The present state of energy storage technologies [9,10,11,12]

Storage System	Current Scenario	TRL
Lead-acid batteries	Mature technology, commercially available	9
Lithium-ion batteries	Commercial technology	9
Nickel-cadmium batteries	Mature technology	9
Sodium-Sulfur	Large-scale demonstration	8
Vanadium redox batteries	Mature technology	9
Polysulfide bromide batteries	-	4-5
Zinc bromine batteries	Demonstration	6
Electric double-layer capacitors	Early commercial technology	8-9
Hybrid energy storage system	-	7
Synthetic natural gas	Prototype testing to large scale demonstration	4-8
Pumped hydro energy storage system	Mature technology, commercially available	9
Compressed air energy storage system	-	7-8
Low-speed flywheel energy storage system	-	9
High-speed flywheel energy storage system	Prototype testing to small scale demonstration	5-7
Supercapacitors	-	6

Superconducting magnetic energy storage system	-	5-6
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However, it is important to note that not all of the aforementioned energy storage technologies have advanced to the same level of readiness. Table 2 [9, 10, 11, 12] offers an overview of the present status of energy storage technologies, based on an evaluation of their commercial maturity and developmental phases. TRL assessments for each storage technology are presented herein, drawing upon insights garnered from surveys conducted within the literature. Notably, technologies such as lead-acid batteries, Li-ion batteries, Ni-Cd batteries, VRB flow batteries, PHES, and FES have already reached a mature stage, as illustrated in Table 2, even though substantial ongoing research efforts continue to refine these concepts. Conversely, EDLC and I-CAES find themselves in early developmental stages. Additionally, hydrogen fuel cells, phase change material-based thermal storage systems, and thermochemical materials are anticipated to play an increasingly prominent role in the energy storage landscape in the near future.

FUTURE TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

In an era characterized by significant transformations in the global energy landscape, ESS have become pivotal components, driven by evolving energy needs, technological advancements, and environmental concerns. These systems play a vital role in fostering grid stability, integrating renewable energy sources, and ensuring a dependable energy supply. Looking forward, the future of energy storage is marked by a combination of promising trends and substantial challenges. This chapter delves into the noteworthy trends shaping the energy storage arena and the enduring obstacles that demand attention for harnessing the full potential of these technologies. From grid modernization initiatives to breakthroughs in battery technology and sustainability endeavors, the energy storage sector stands poised to redefine the way we generate, store, and distribute energy. With this introduction, one can continue to outline and provide details about the forthcoming trends and challenges in ESS.

1. Increasing Integration of Renewable Energy:

Trend: The growing emphasis on reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to cleaner energy sources has led to a surge in renewable energy adoption, particularly solar and wind.

Challenge: Effectively managing the variable nature of renewables necessitates advanced ESS capable of storing excess energy during periods of surplus generation and discharging it as needed. Grid operators and utilities must adapt to these dynamic energy patterns.

2. Ongoing Battery Technology Advancements:

Trend: While lithium-ion batteries have been the go-to choice for energy storage, continuous research and development efforts are dedicated to enhancing their performance.

Challenge: The persistent challenge revolves around improving energy density, longevity, and safety while simultaneously reducing costs. Promising technologies like solid-state batteries, offering higher energy density and extended lifespans, are still in the experimental phase and face scalability issues.

3. Modernizing the Grid:

Trend: Smart grids and microgrids are being deployed to enhance the efficiency and resilience of power distribution.

Challenge: Integrating ESS into these modern grids necessitates advanced control systems and adherence to standards. Grid operators must navigate the complexities arising from decentralized energy generation, bidirectional power flows, and demand response.

4. Embracing HES:

Trend: The adoption of hybrid energy storage systems, which combine multiple storage technologies like batteries and supercapacitors, is gaining momentum.

Challenge: The key challenge lies in designing and optimizing HES configurations that deliver increased power and energy density, extended cycle life, and heightened efficiency, all of which require sophisticated control algorithms and seamless system integration.

5. Harnessing Second-Life Batteries:

Trend: With the proliferation of electric vehicles, there is an escalating supply of retired batteries that retain residual capacity.

Challenge: Establishing systems and standards for repurposing these batteries for stationary storage, while ensuring safety and reliability, is imperative for resource efficiency and cost reduction.

6. Addressing Energy Storage for Electric Mobility:

Trend: The growth in electric vehicle adoption underscores the need for a robust charging infrastructure and innovative ESS solutions for high-power charging stations.

Challenge: Meeting the high-power demands of rapid charging stations and effectively managing grid impact during peak charging times necessitate advanced ESS technologies and comprehensive grid planning.

7. Focusing on Material Recycling:

Trend: The sustainability of ESS technologies depends on efficient recycling and responsible resource management.

Challenge: Developing cost-effective and environmentally friendly recycling processes, particularly for lithium-ion batteries, is vital to reduce resource depletion and minimize waste.

8. Pursuing Long-Duration Energy Storage:

Trend: There is a growing emphasis on developing solutions for long-duration energy storage (e.g., storing energy for days or weeks).

Challenge: Scaling up advanced technologies like pumped thermal energy storage, adiabatic compressed air energy storage, and long-duration flow batteries demands substantial investments and research efforts.

9. Navigating Regulatory Frameworks:

Trend: Governments and regulatory bodies are adapting to accommodate the deployment and grid integration of ESS.

Challenge: Establishing clear standards, safety regulations, and incentive mechanisms that promote ESS adoption while safeguarding grid stability and reliability constitutes a complex undertaking.

10. Achieving Cost Efficiency and Scalability:

Trend: Attaining cost competitiveness with conventional power generation and distribution is pivotal for ESS adoption.

Challenge: Reducing manufacturing costs through economies of scale, standardized production methods, and material innovations is critical for enhancing the affordability and accessibility of ESS.

11. Minimizing Environmental Impact:

Trend: The quest to reduce the environmental footprint of ESS technologies is a mounting concern.

Challenge: Performing comprehensive life-cycle assessments and embracing sustainable practices throughout ESS component production, utilization, and disposal are essential steps in mitigating environmental consequences.

Summary:

Addressing these challenges while embracing emerging trends will be crucial for unlocking the full potential of ESS, ushering in a cleaner, more reliable, and resilient energy landscape. Collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders will play a pivotal role in surmounting these obstacles and accelerating the adoption of advanced ESS solutions.

The necessity for effective energy storage has never been more prominent. With the rise of renewable energy sources, an escalating need for electrification, and an ever-expanding appetite for sustainable solutions, ESS have emerged as critical cornerstones in the global energy shift. This review envisions a future where energy storage seamlessly integrates into our daily lives—where clean, sustainable energy is efficiently harnessed, moving towards a greener planet which will be powered by innovative energy storage solutions for a sustainable and promising future.

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