



Iron-based liquid flow energy storage battery

What is an iron-based flow battery?

Iron-based flow batteries designed for large-scale energy storage have been around since the 1980s, and some are now commercially available. What makes this battery different is that it stores energy in a unique liquid chemical formula that combines charged iron with a neutral-pH phosphate-based liquid electrolyte, or energy carrier.

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 all-liquid flow batteries suitable for long-term energy storage?

Among the numerous all-liquid flow batteries, all-liquid iron-based flow batteries with iron complexes redox couples serving as active material are appropriate for long duration energy storage because of the low cost of the iron electrolyte and the flexible design of power and capacity.

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."

Are flow batteries a good energy storage device?

When the battery is hooked up to an external circuit, that energy can be used to provide power as needed. What's advantageous about flow batteries compared to other types of energy storage devices is that they are easily scalable. The larger the electrolyte supply tank, the more energy that can be stored within the battery.

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."

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