

Three types of flywheel energy storage





Overview

Are flywheel energy storage systems feasible?

Vaal University of Technology, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa. Abstract - This study gives a critical review of flywheel energy storage systems and their feasibility in various applications. Flywheel energy storage systems have gained increased popularity as a method of environmentally friendly energy storage.

Do power utilities need a flywheel storage system?

Power utilities need innovative ways to store renewable wind and solar energy, during low demand periods, so they can release it after sunset when demand is high. Several innovative power utilities already use flywheel storage systems to maintain power grid frequency. Renewable energy is knocking on flywheel energy's door.

How does a flywheel energy storage system work?

Flywheel Energy Storage Systems (FESS) rely on a mechanical working principle: An electric motor is used to spin a rotor of high inertia up to 20,000-50,000 rpm. Electrical energy is thus converted to kinetic energy for storage. For discharging, the motor acts as a generator, braking the rotor to produce electricity.

How can flywheels be more competitive to batteries?

The use of new materials and compact designs will increase the specific energy and energy density to make flywheels more competitive to batteries. Other opportunities are new applications in energy harvest, hybrid energy systems, and flywheel's secondary functionality apart from energy storage.



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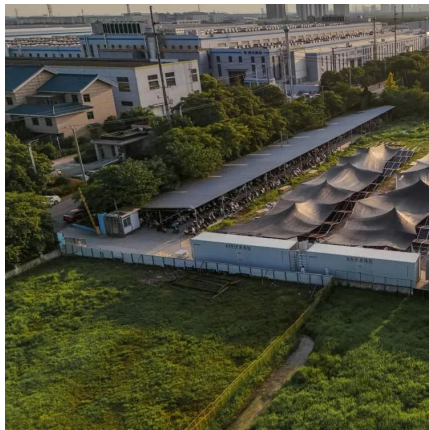
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