



9th IERE Webinar, April 2, 2025

Webinar on Rechargeable Battery Development and Evaluation for Energy Storage

Advancements & Deployment of Sumitomo's Flow Battery Technology

Toshikazu SHIBATA

SVP, Chief Engineer of Energy Storage System

Sumitomo Electric U.S.A., Inc.

1. “Sumitomo Electric” Company Profile

Company Name	Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.
Established	April 1897
Capital Stock	¥99,737 million
President	Osamu Inoue
Employees	293,266 consolidated
Subsidiaries & Affiliates	415 Domestic(Japan):104, Overseas:311
Consolidated Business Results	Net Sales ¥4,402,814 million Operating Income ¥226,618 million
Credit Ratings	A2 (Moody's), A (S&P)

(As of March 31, 2024)



Founder of the Sumitomo Family
Masatomo Sumitomo
(1585-1652)



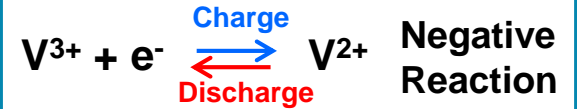
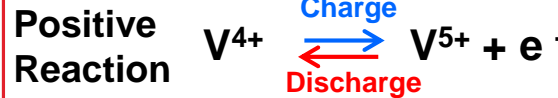
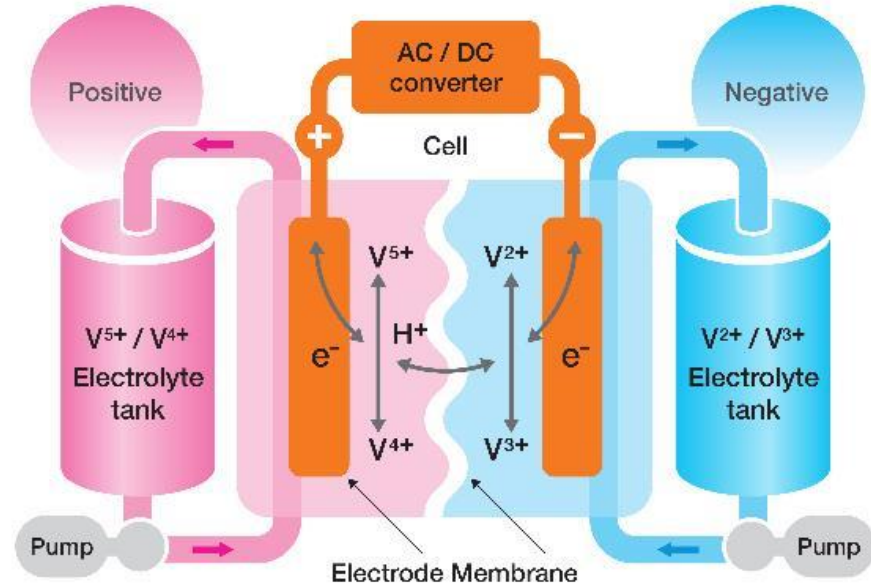
Around 1600
Perfected nanban-buki, a copper refining technique for separating silver from copper ore containing silver

Automotive (53%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wiring Harness ◆ Vibration-proof rubber ◆ Automotive hoses ◆ Car electrical equipment
Environment & Energy (23%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Electric wires & cables; Power transmission cables ◆ Flow Battery System ◆ Power line engineering
Industrial Materials (9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cutting tools ◆ Diamond tools ◆ Cemented carbide tools ◆ Special steel wires
Electronics (9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Electronic wire products ◆ Flexible printed circuits ◆ Semiconductors
Info-communications (6%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Optical fibers, and cables ◆ Optical devices ◆ Traffic control systems etc.

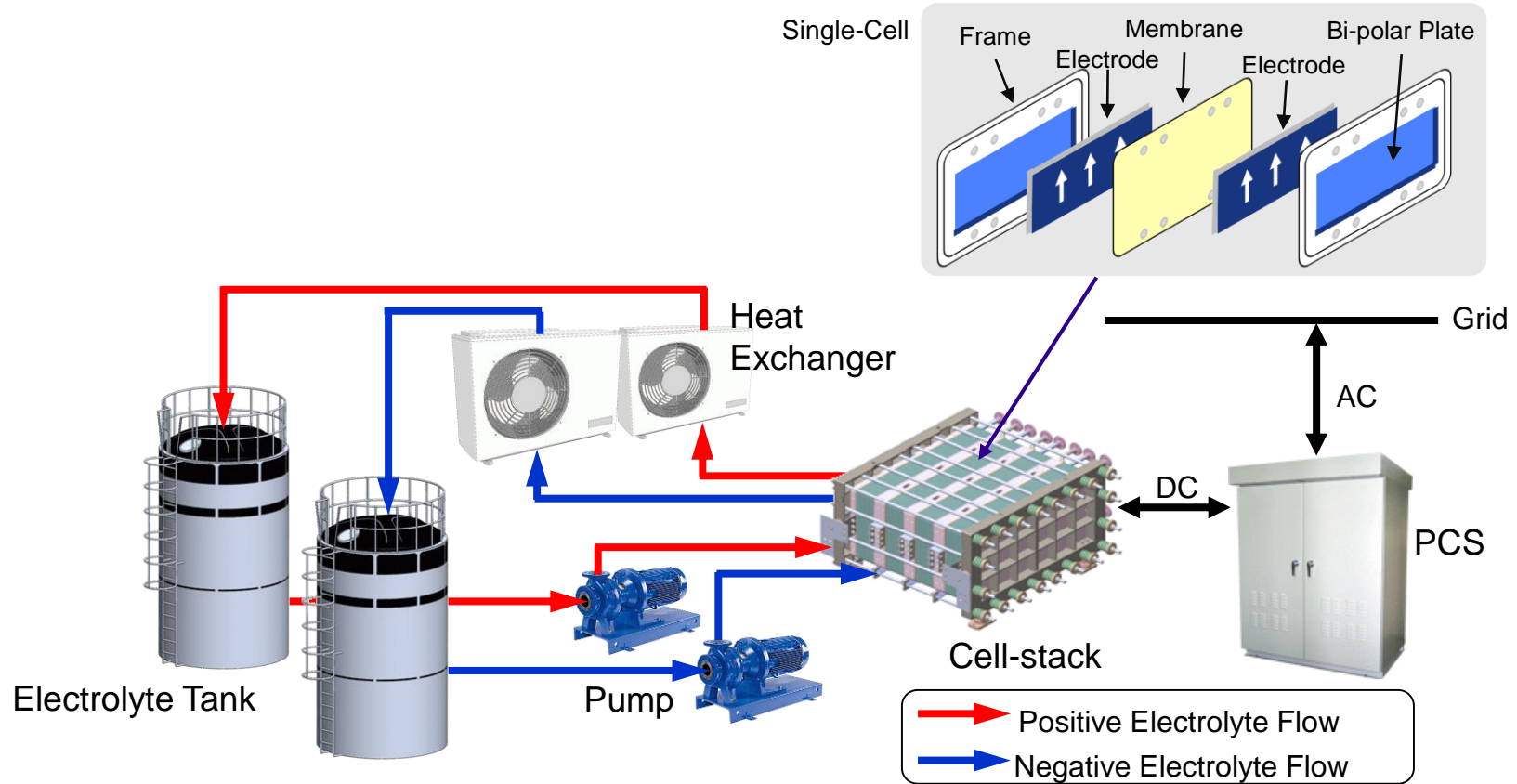
2. Principle of Flow Battery

Redox: Reduction/Oxidation
Flow: Flowing active material

- ✓ The reactions are associated with only the changes in valences of the vanadium ions.
- ✓ Electrolyte can be used semi-permanently, because the valence changes do not deteriorate the electrolyte.



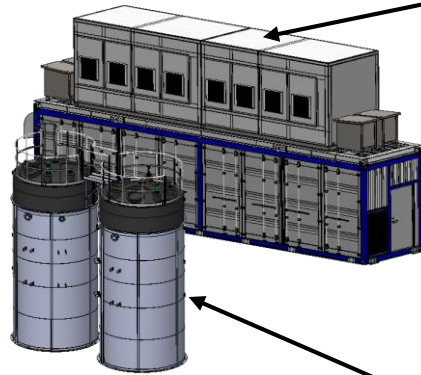
3. Module Configuration of Sumitomo's Flow Battery



4. Two Types of Module Configuration

System @2016

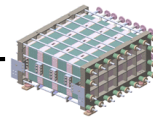
- ✓ Plant Type
- ✓ 1MWh (250kW x 4h)
- ✓ 40ft Container + Heat Exchanger Unit + Tanks



Heat Exchanger



Cell stack



Pump

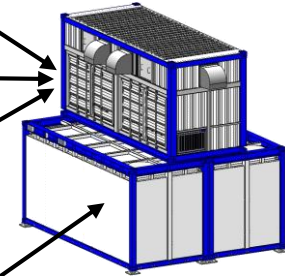


Tank



Now

- ✓ Container Type
- ✓ 1MWh (250kW x 4h)
- ✓ 20ft Container x 3



DC38kW x 8

DC150kW x 2

- ✓ Compact !
- ✓ Low Transportation Cost !
- ✓ Low Construction Cost !

5. Key Features

Long Lifetime

- ✓ >20-year design life
- ✓ Unlimited charging/discharging cycle
- ✓ Significantly low degradation of capacity
- ✓ Reusable electrolyte after decommissioning

Eco Friendly

- ✓ Reusable Electrolyte
- ✓ Recyclable Electrolyte
- ✓ More than 99% weight of the materials used in the system are recyclable

Fire Safety

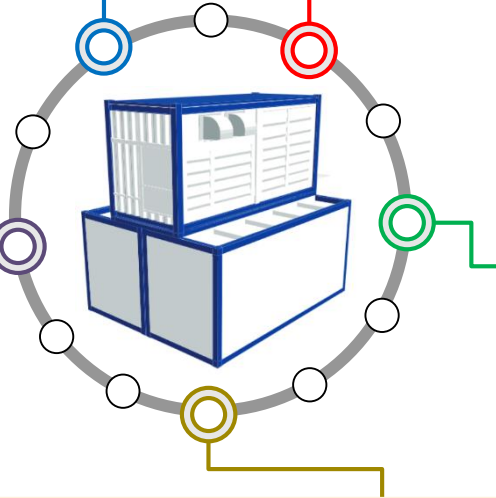
- ✓ No thermal runaway
- ✓ Non-flammable electrolyte

Easy Operation / Operability

- ✓ Available State of Charge (SoC): 0 – 100%
- ✓ No unbalanced capacity across the cell stacks
- ✓ Accurate & real-time SoC monitoring

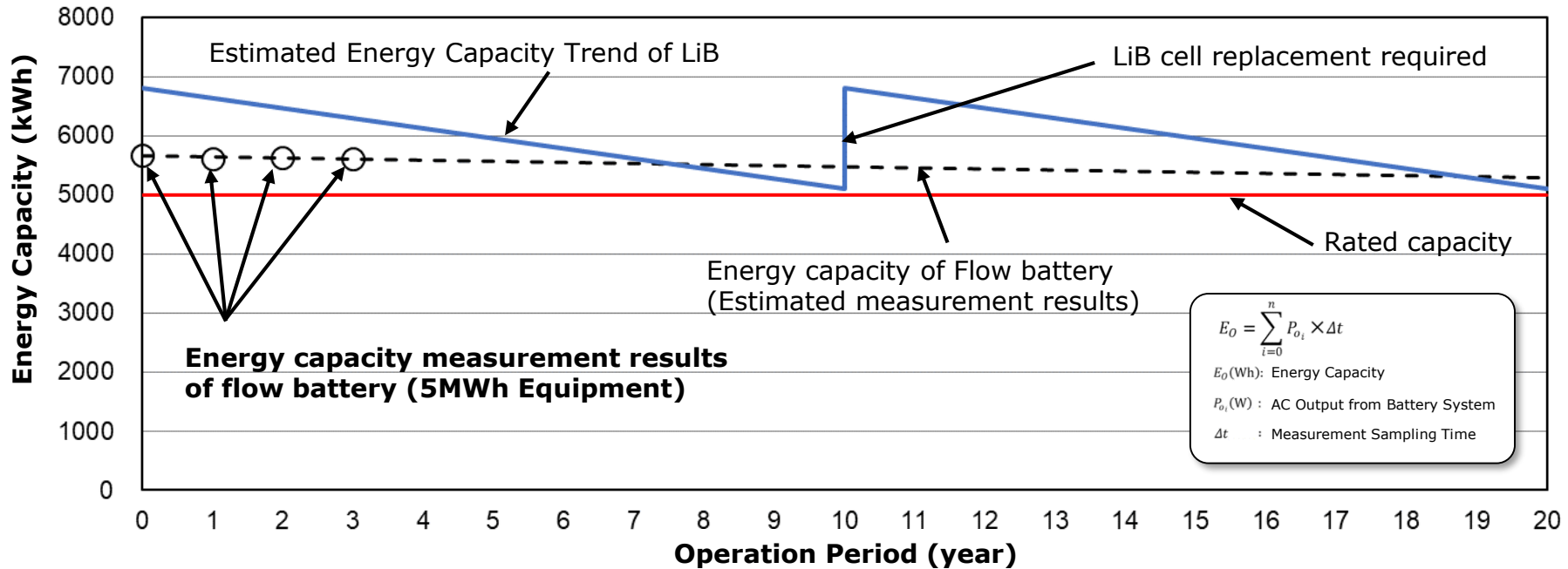
Low Life-Cycle Cost

- ✓ Low CAPEX per kWh: Lower unit cost (\$/kWh) for longer duration systems
- ✓ Low OPEX: No need for replacement of cell stacks or electrolyte
- ✓ Significant salvage value: Reusable electrolyte of long duration systems



5.1. (Key Features) Long Lifetime

- ✓ Battery reaction (Charging/Discharging) is only change of vanadium ion valence in electrolyte.
- ✓ No chemical reaction in electrode ➡ Charge/discharge cycles are not a degradation factor



5.2. (Key Features) Non-Flammable

Very high resistance to fire incident
Fewer restrictions on installation location

Non-Combustible Material

- ✓ Electrolyte : Vanadium Sulfate Aqueous
➡ Non-Flammable
- ✓ Material for Piping, Cell-stack
➡ Flame retardant

No Thermal Runaway

- ✓ Operation Temp. : 30~45 deg.C
- ✓ Large Heat Capacity
- ✓ UL 1973, UL9540A Certificated



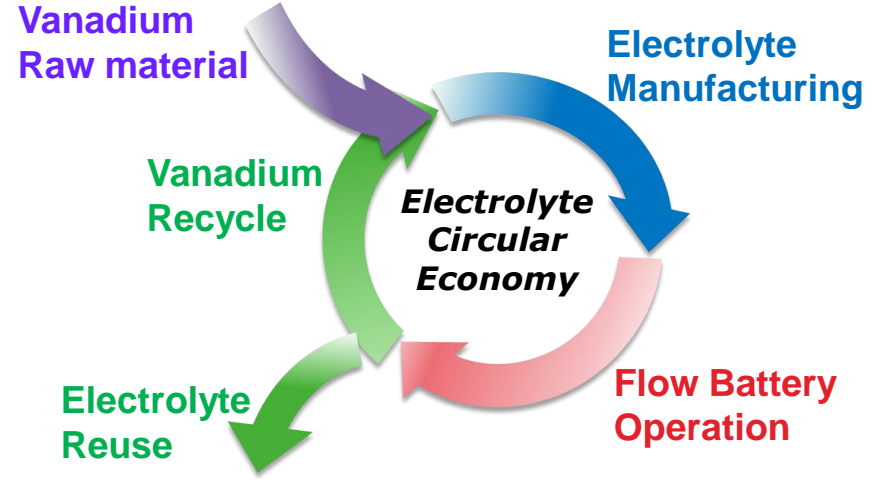
Example of indoor installation



Example of underground installation

5.3. (Key Features) Electrolyte Circular Economy

- ✓ Battery reaction (Charging/Discharging) is only change of vanadium ion valence in electrolyte.
- ✓ The electrolyte does not decrease in quantity or degrade over 20 years of use.
- ✓ The electrolyte can be reusable, recyclable.



Example of Electrolyte Reuse

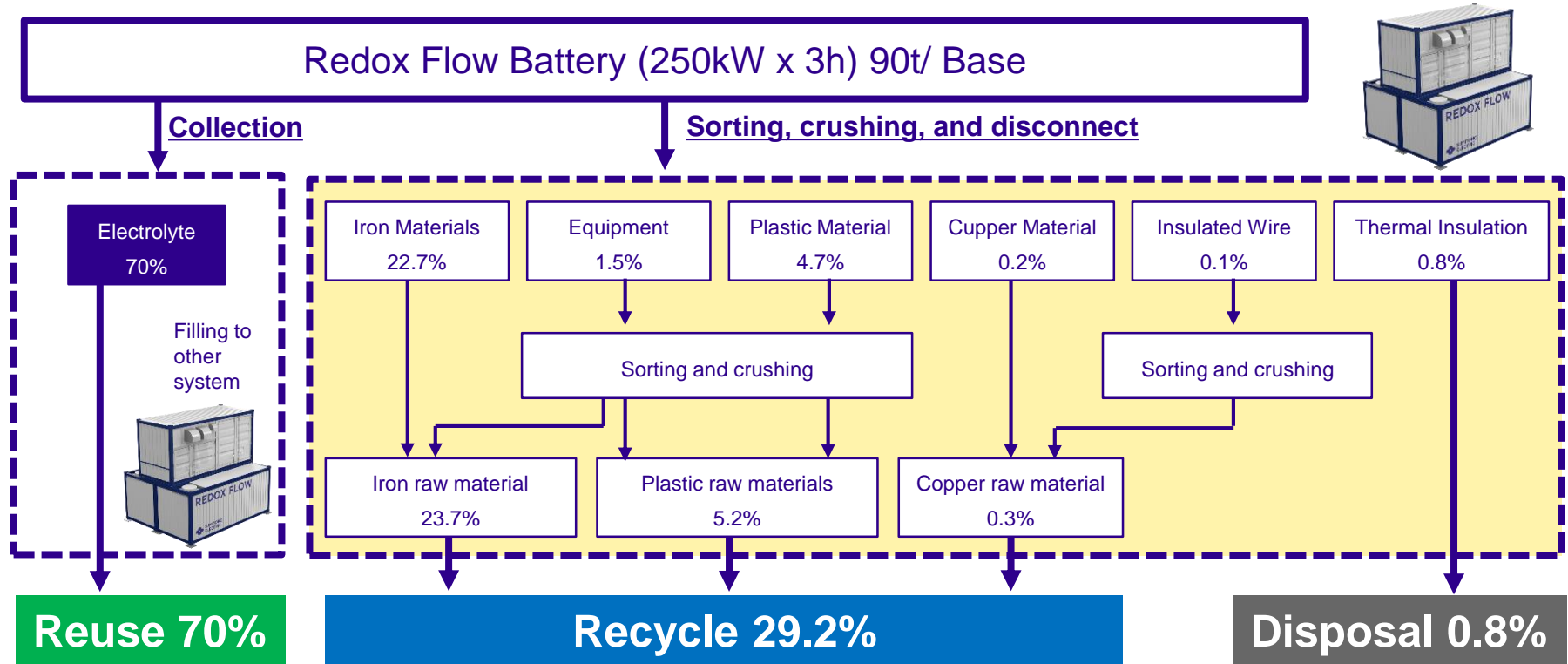


Electrolyte Reuse
after 10-year operation



5.4. (Key Features) High Recyclable/Reusable Rate

- Reuse/recycle rate : > 99.2%weight (less than 1% waste) ※
- Minimizing industrial waste generation rate when dismantling after long-term operation



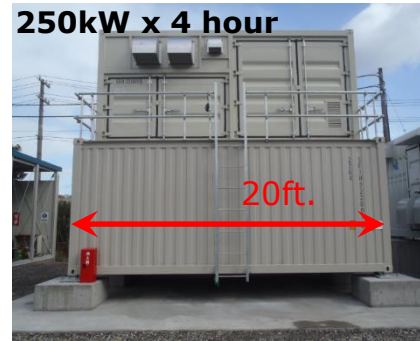
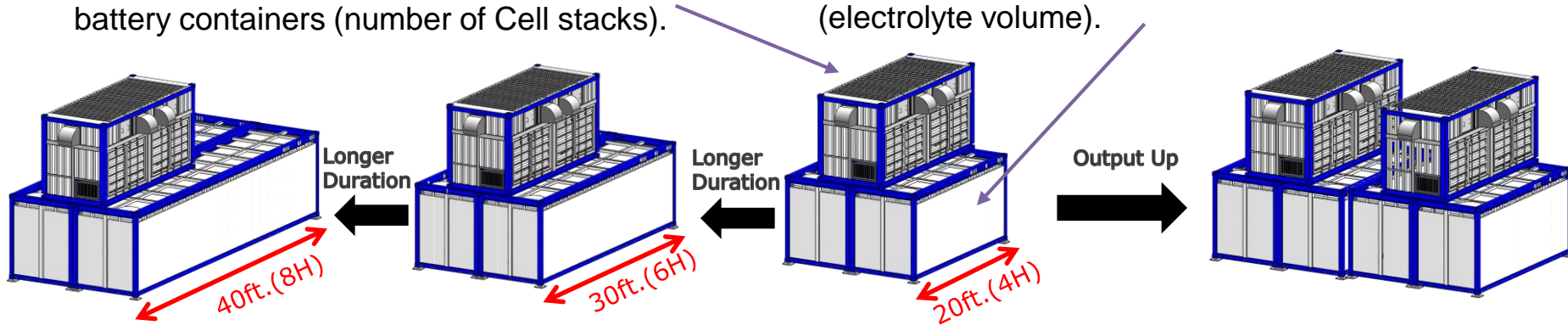
5.5. (Key Features) Suitable for LDES (Long Duration Energy Storage)

Battery Container: 250kW

- ✓ Cell stacks, pumps, sensors etc. are layout.
- ✓ Power (kW) is designed by the number of battery containers (number of Cell stacks).

Tank Containers: expandable duration

- ✓ Electrolyte is stored in the tanks inside the containers.
- ✓ Energy (kWh) is designed by the size of tank containers (electrolyte volume).



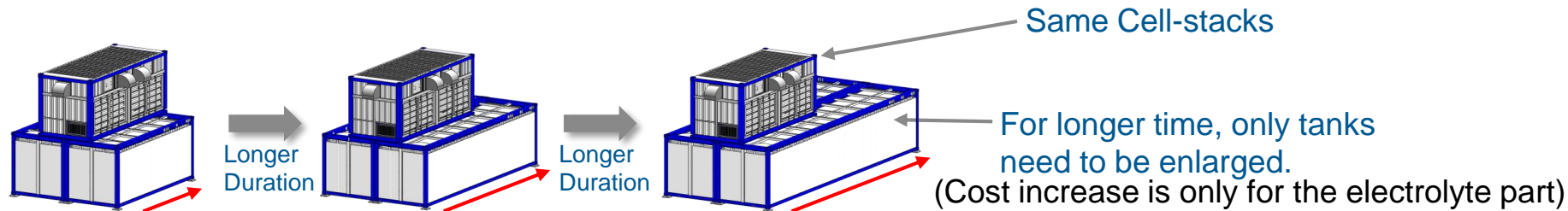
Capable of providing a 10-hour duration system to meet LDES!



5.6. (Key Features) Low Life Cycle-Cost (LCC) for LDES

CAPEX Advantage for LDES

The longer duration the lower kWh unit cost.



Low OPEX

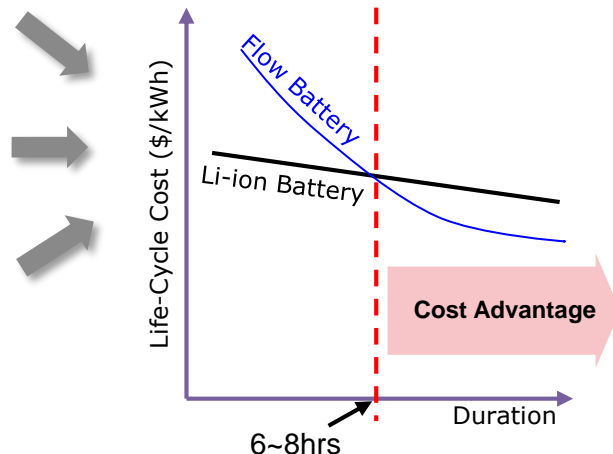
Long Life Time

➡ No replacement cost for cell-stacks and electrolyte.

Low Removal Cost

Electrolyte can be reusable, recyclable

➡ No disposal cost for electrolyte.



6. Easy Operation

Continuous rated power output at SoC 0~100%

- ✓ Rated power charging/discharging available in full SOC range (0~10%)
- ✓ Continuous discharging at the rated power for the rated duration time.

Less operational restriction

- ✓ Cycle number of charging/discharging does not become a factor of life.
- ✓ No restriction on the charging/discharging pattern.
- ✓ The cell stack has been tested for over 50,000 starts/stops cycle.
- ✓ No limit on the number of shutdowns.

State of charge monitoring

- ✓ Direct monitoring SoC is available by measuring the electromotive force of a monitor cell.
- ✓ Electrolyte of the same SoC flows into several cells, then SoC of the cells is always equal.

No pump power required when stopped, no self-discharge

- ✓ When the pump stops, the pump power, which is the main auxiliary power, is zero.
- ✓ No self-discharge in stop condition since no electrolyte in cellstacks.
- ✓ No voltage in stop condition since no electrolyte in cell-stacks. (Low risk of electric shock)



7. Installation World Wide

John Cockerille
1.7MWh (Bergium)
Smart Factory



Nippon PS
750kWh (Japan)
Renewable Ratio Up



Kashiwazaki IR Energy
8MWh (8h) (Japan)
Wholesale Market



Hokkaido Electric Power Network
51MWh (Japan)
Grid Control for further WF Introduction

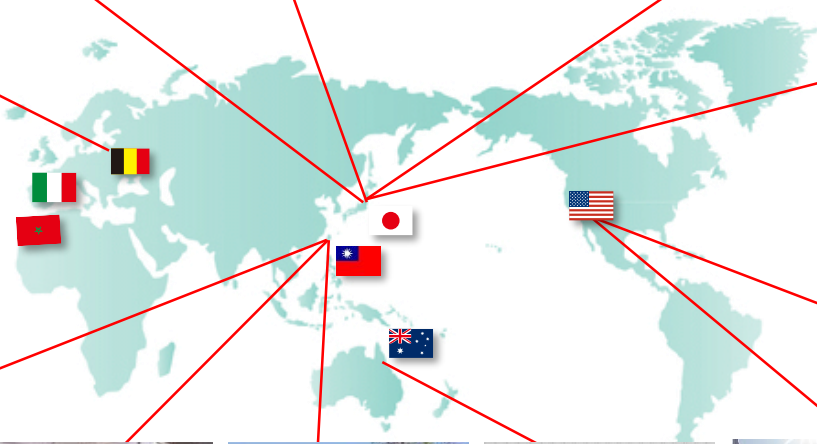


Hokkaido Electric Power Network
60MWh (Japan)
Grid Control (AFC, GF)



7

Countries



44

Project

180

MWh

50

MW

Dec. 2024



ITRI
3MWh (Taiwan)
Using Local Electrolyte



National Lab.
750kWh (Taiwan)
VPP



TICIP
750kWh (Taiwan)
Multi Use



Energy Queensland
750kWh (Australia)
Using Local Electrolyte



San Diego Gas & Electric
8MWh (USA)
Wholesale Market Microgrid



Utility (Under Construction)
4MWh (8h) (USA)
Wholesale Market, Microgrid

7.1. Grid-scale Use for Frequency Regulation (1)

Performance verification and development of control technology as a new adjustment power resource for output change of wind turbines and PVs.



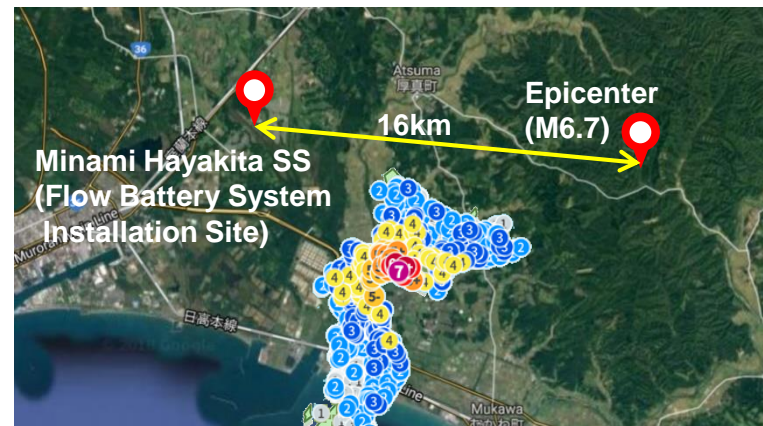
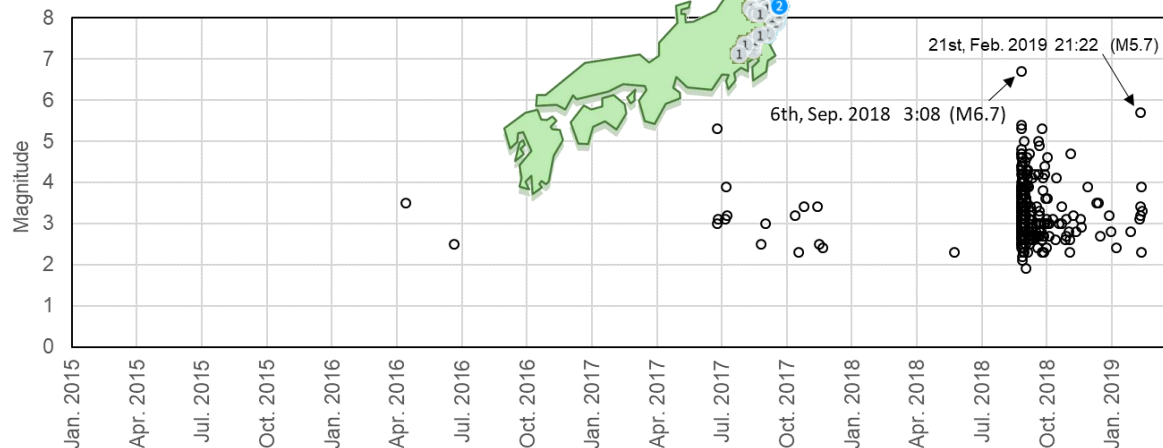
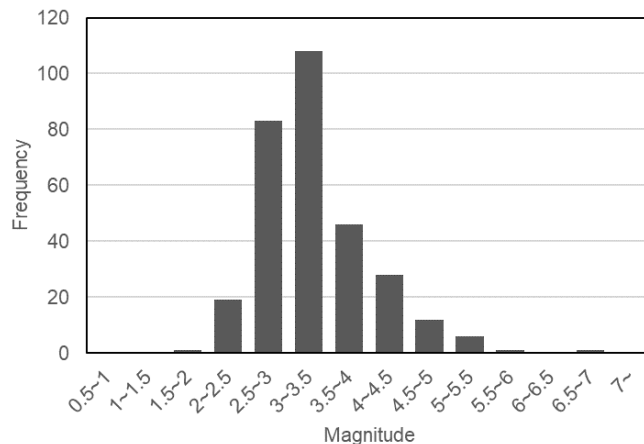
- ✓ **Capacity:** 60MWh (15MWx4h, Max 30MW)
- ✓ **Location:** Hokkaido Electric Power Network
Minami-Hayakita S/S (Hokkaido, Japan)
- ✓ **Use Case:** Grid Use
 - Suppress short-periodic fluctuations
 - Suppress WT & PV output fluctuations
 - Governor Free Equivalent Control
 - Load Frequency Control(LFC)
 - Suppress Long-periodic fluctuations
 - Over Generation Measures
 - Hybrid Operation of Long & Short period fluctuations
- ✓ **Demonstration Starts:** Dec.,2015
- ✓ **Commercial Operation Starts:**2019
- ✓ **Project Partner**



7.1. Grid-scale Use for Frequency Regulation (2)

- ✓ The large earthquake of “M6.7” occurred in Hokkaido on 6th Sep. 2018.
- ✓ There is no damage or breakdown of the battery system.
- ✓ The battery system restarted operation on the next day of the earthquake.
- ✓ Seismic design : horizontal 1.0G, vertical 0.5G

Verified seismic design by actual earthquake!



7.2. Grid-scale Use for Wind Firm Integration

Use of storage batteries to expand the introduction of wind power in Hokkaido area.



- ✓ **Capacity:**
51MWh (17MWx3h)
- ✓ **Location:**
Hokkaido Electric Power Network
Minami-Hayakita S/S (Hokkaido, Japan)
- ✓ **Use Case: Grid Use**
 - "Wind Power Generation Offering Process with Grid-side Storage Batteries (Phase I)".
 - The flow battery energy storage system provides the regulating power required for the interconnection of new 162 MW wind power plants (15 sites).
- ✓ **Operation Starts:** Apr., 2022
- ✓ **Project Partner**

ほくでんネットワーク



7.3. For Multiuse on Distribution Grid (1)

*Multiple use operation of VRFB system on the distribution grid of CA utility to **prove** economic value & potential for the use on electric grids.*



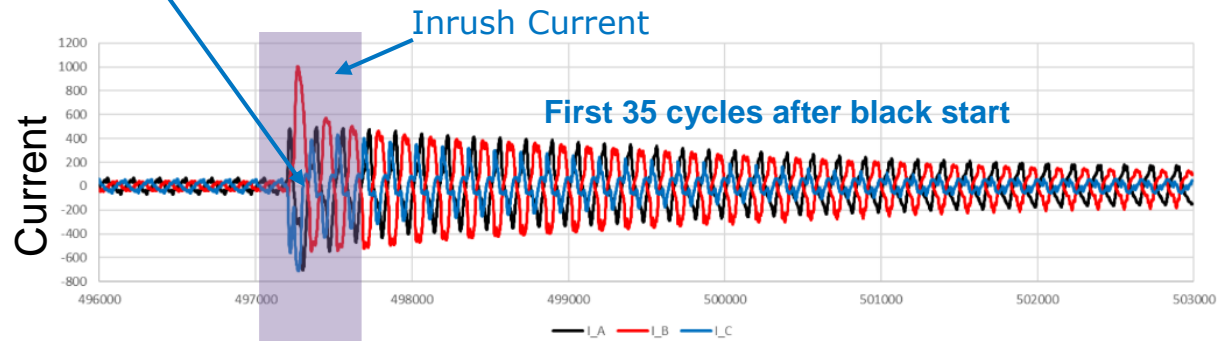
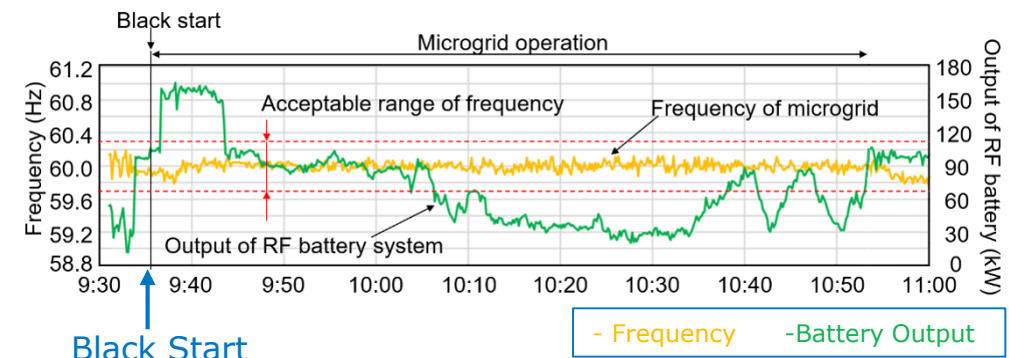
- ✓ **Capacity:** 8MWh (2MWx4h, Max 3MW)
- ✓ **Location:** SDG&E, Miguel S/S (CA, USA)
- ✓ **Use Cases:**
 - Distribution line applications such as peak-shaving, peak-cut
 - Operation in CAISO market
 - Microgrid
- ✓ **Operation Start:** March 2017
- ✓ **Commercial Operation Start:** Jan. 2022
- ✓ **Project Partners**



The project was awarded the 10th ISGAN* award of excellence.
*International Smart Grid Action Network

7.3. For Multiuse on Distribution Grid (2)

Microgrid using commercial distributed line



Target area: 2.2km
Number of customers: 66 consumers
Contracted load: Approx. 400kW
Others: With PV (100kW or higher)
Without generator

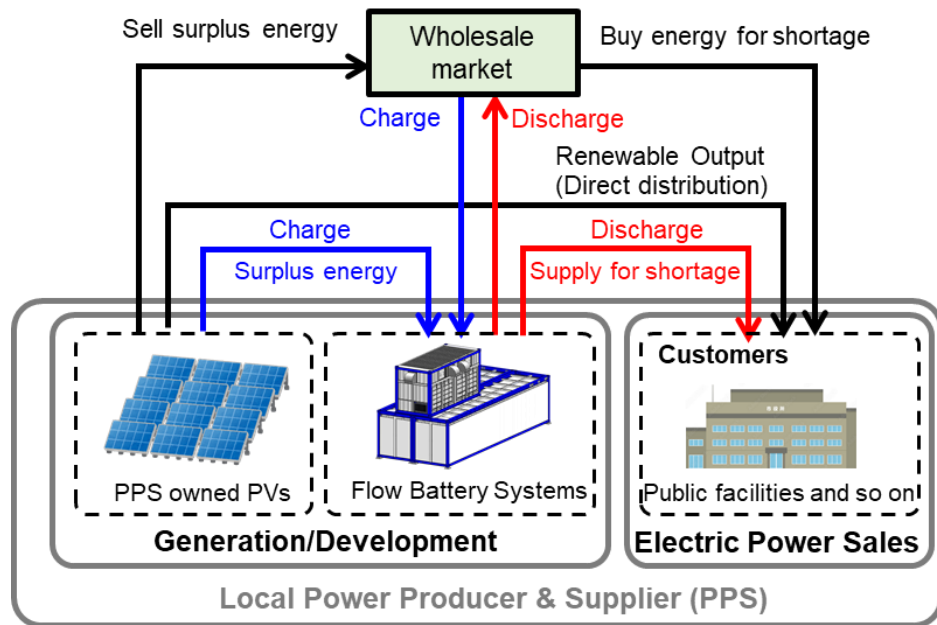
7.4. LDES Applications

“Long Duration Energy Storage System (LDES)” for PPS (Power Produce & Supplier). Charging electric power from both PV and Market, and discharging to both customers and Market for local electric power supply and demand adjustment.



Kashiwazaki City PPS Project

Capacity : 8MWh (1MW x 8h)
Location : Niigata, Japan
Operator : Kashiwazaki IR Energy
Application : Whole Sale market,
Effective use of PV output
Operation : 2024~



In addition, two LDES project, 1MWx8h (Japan) and 500kWx8h (USA), are under construction now.



7.5. Localizing Electrolyte Production

- ✓ *Commissioning of a 250kW x 3h VRFB system is completed in QLD, Australia with the customer now finalizing integration works for their dynamic connection.*
- ✓ *Sumitomo Electric will build a cooperative framework with local companies and accelerate the vanadium redox flow battery business in the Australian market.*



- ✓ **Capacity** : 750kWh (250kW x 3h)
- ✓ **Location** : Brisbane, Australia
- ✓ **Application** Demonstration
(Smoothing of solar power output, Demand response, etc.)
- ✓ **Start of operation**: 2024
- ✓ **Project Partner**



Thank you!

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for more information ...



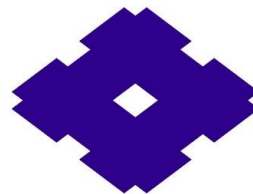
Introduction Movie  YouTube ^{JP}

<https://youtu.be/TSSqCazP1V0>



Sumitomo Flow Battery Web

<https://sumitomoelectric.com/products/flow-batteries>



SUMITOMO ELECTRIC

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