

A brief introduction to flywheel energy storage





Overview

What is a flywheel energy storage system (fess)?

The operation of the electricity network has grown more complex due to the increased adoption of renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar power. Using energy storage technology can improve the stability and quality of the power grid. One such technology is flywheel energy storage systems (FESSs).

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.

Can flywheels be used for power storage systems?

Flywheels are now a possible technology for power storage systems for fixed or mobile installations. FESS have numerous advantages, such as high power density, high energy density, no capacity degradation, ease of measurement of state of charge, don't require periodic maintenance and have short recharge times .

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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