

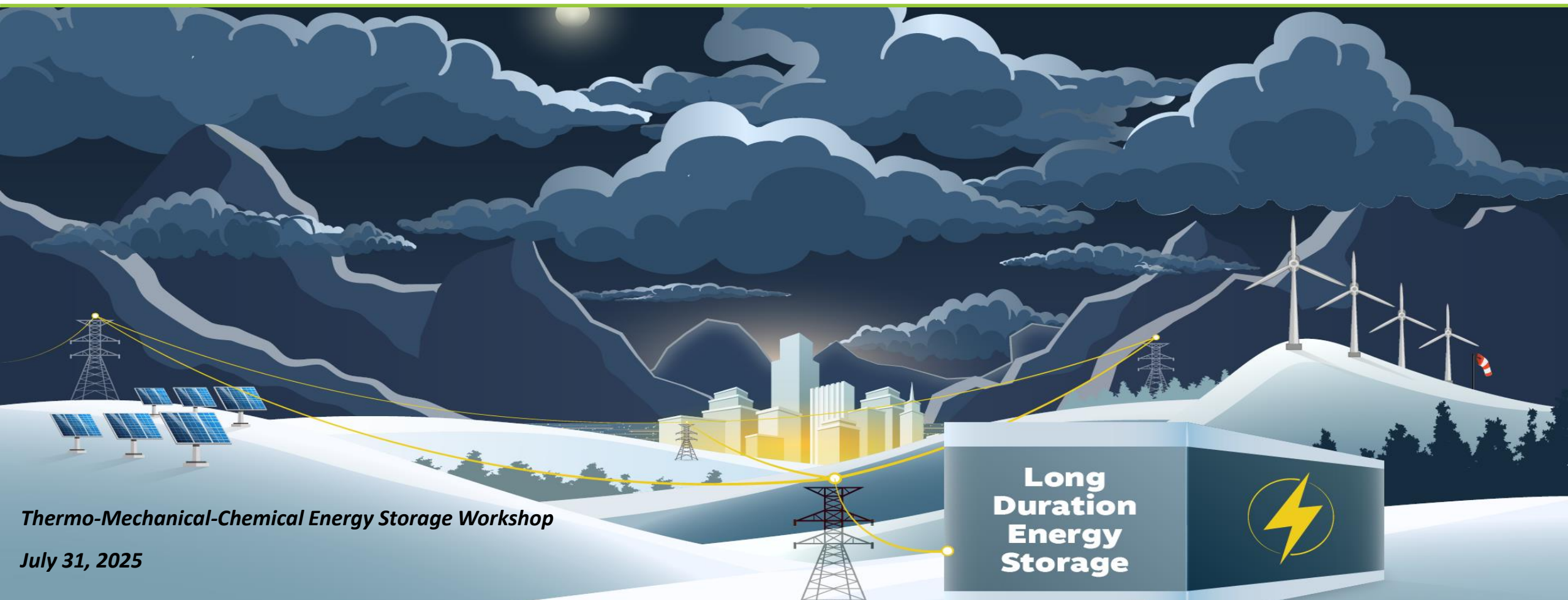
# Long Duration Energy Storage Viability Survey

Determining the Cost Floor for Energy Storage Technologies



*Lee Aspitarde, PhD*

*NETL Support Contractor*



*Thermo-Mechanical-Chemical Energy Storage Workshop*

*July 31, 2025*

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*Lee Aspitar<sup>1,2</sup>; Rigel Woodside<sup>1</sup>*

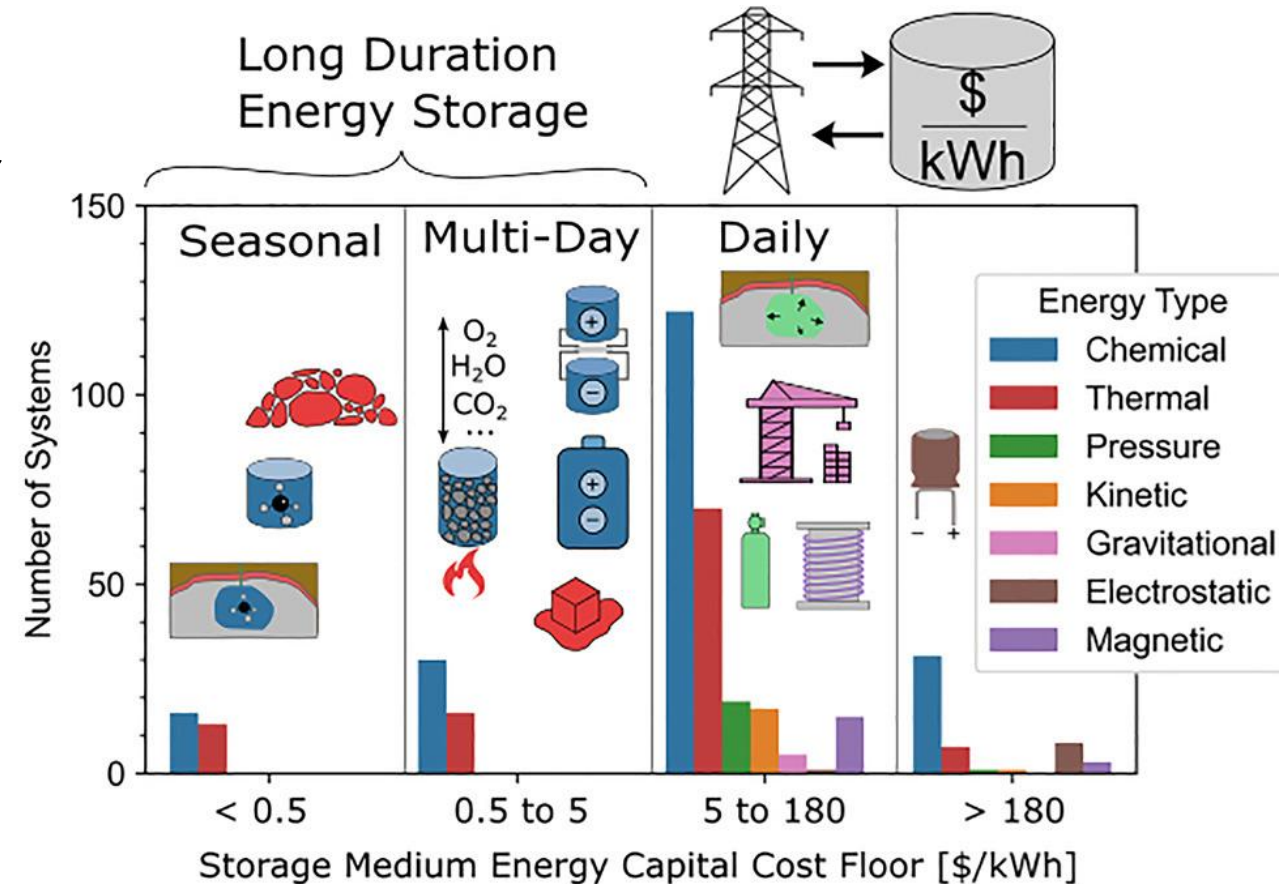
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# Paper Summary

[10.1016/j.crsus.2023.100007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsus.2023.100007)

- Found promising technologies for long-duration energy storage (LDES) by calculating energy capital cost floor for 376 Storage media.



## Cell Reports Sustainability



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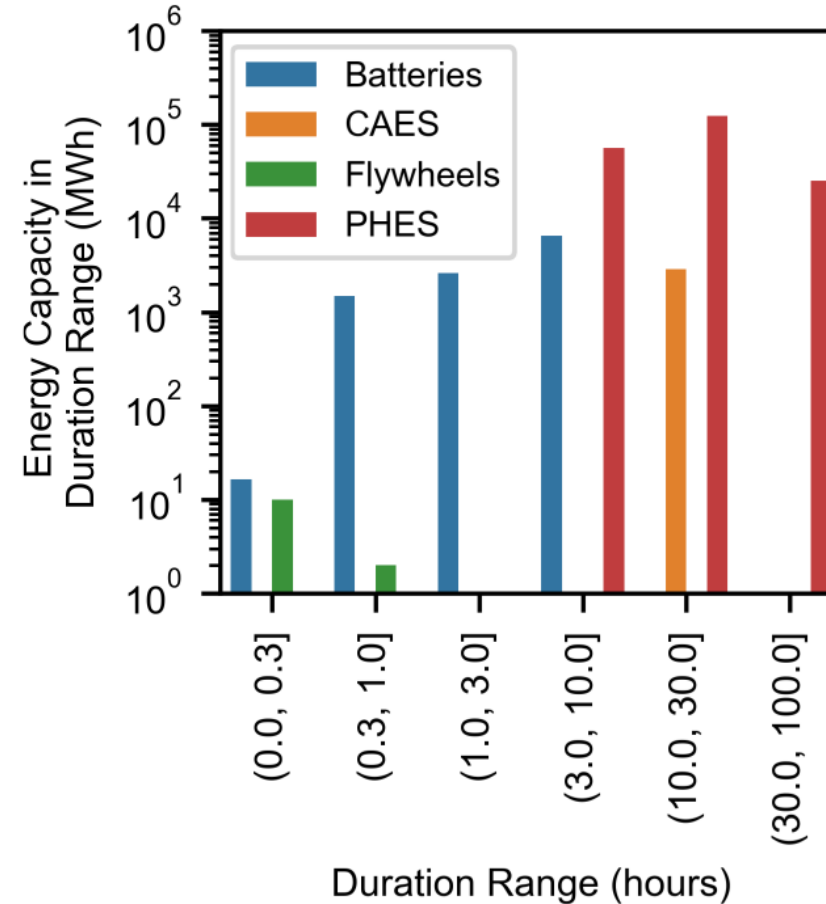
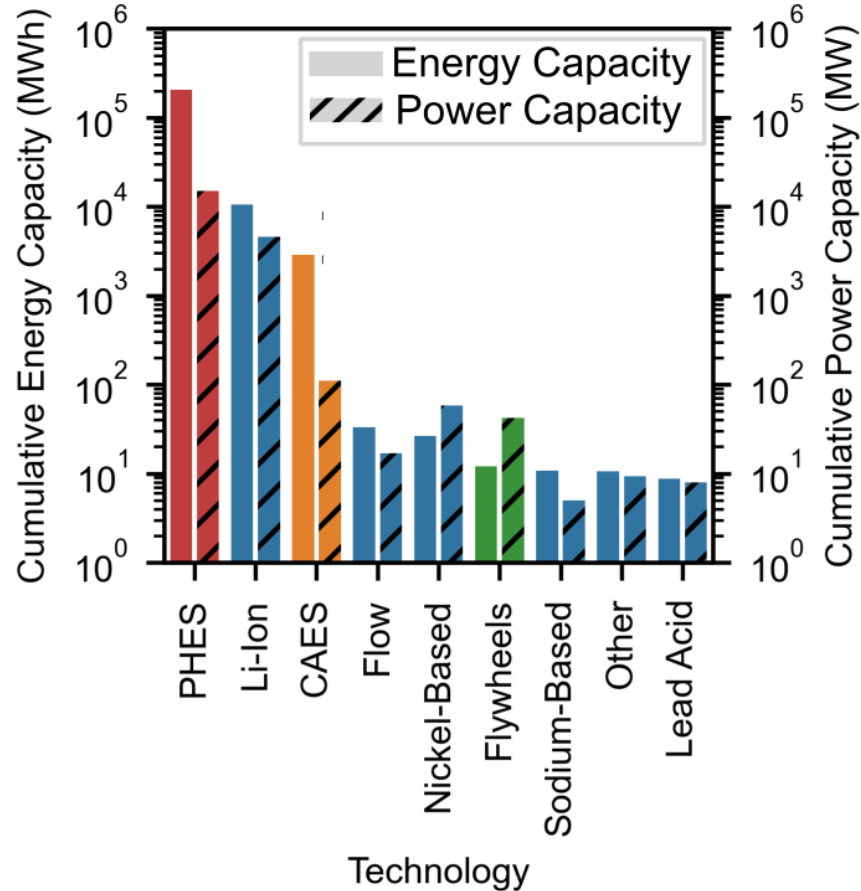
Perspective

### A techno-economic survey of energy storage media for long-duration energy storage applications

Lee Aspitarte<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Rigel Woodside<sup>1</sup>

# Current U.S. Energy Storage Capacity

## Cross-Referencing Sandia Global Energy Storage Database and EIA Data



- Pumped Hydro (PHES) and Compressed Air (CAES) are only energy storage > 10 hours

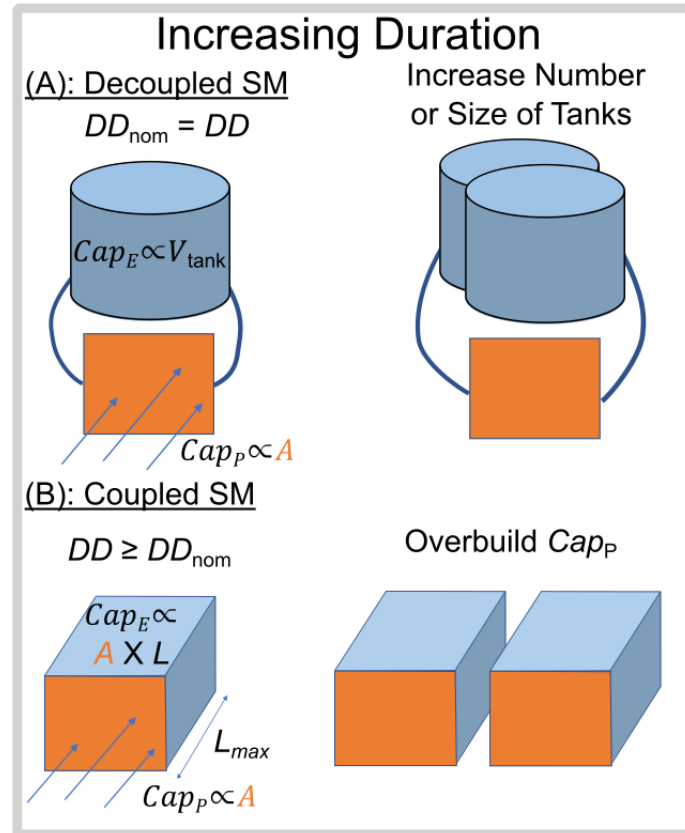
$$\text{Need} \sim \frac{1kW}{\text{person}} * 10 \text{ B people} * 100 \text{ hours} = 10^9 \text{ MWh}$$



# Coupled and Decoupled Storage Media

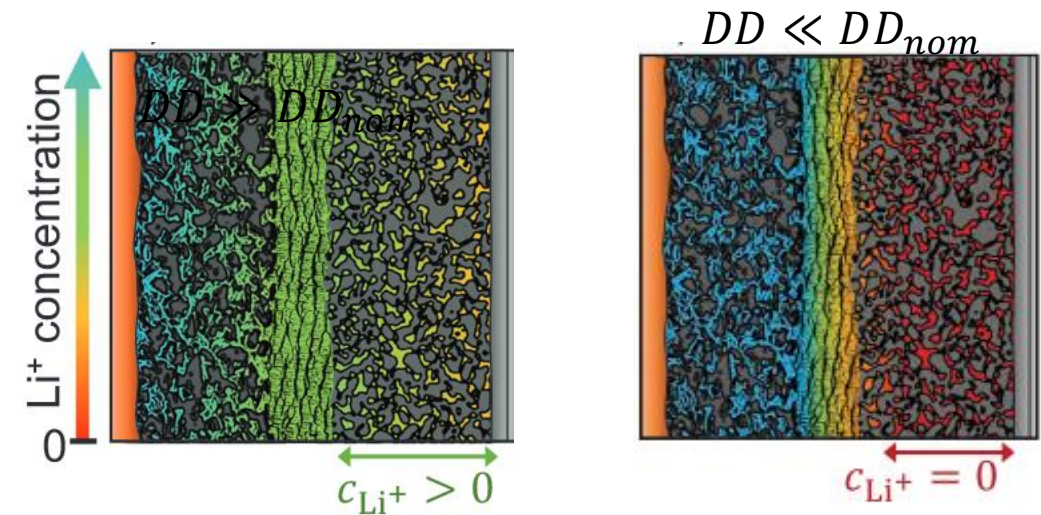
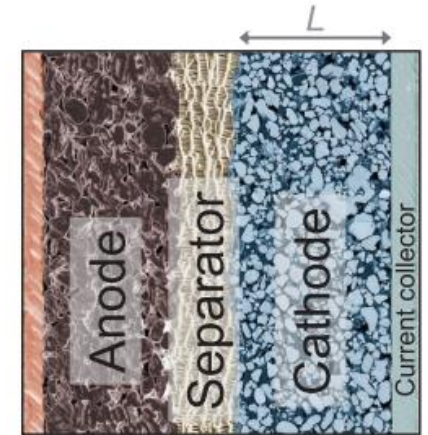
- Coupled or Decoupled energy capacity ( $Cap_E$ ) and power capacity ( $Cap_P$ ).
- Coupled Storage Medium (SM) have a limited **nominal discharge duration**

$$DD_{nom} = \frac{\eta_d Cap_E}{Cap_P}$$



## Example: Lithium-ion batteries

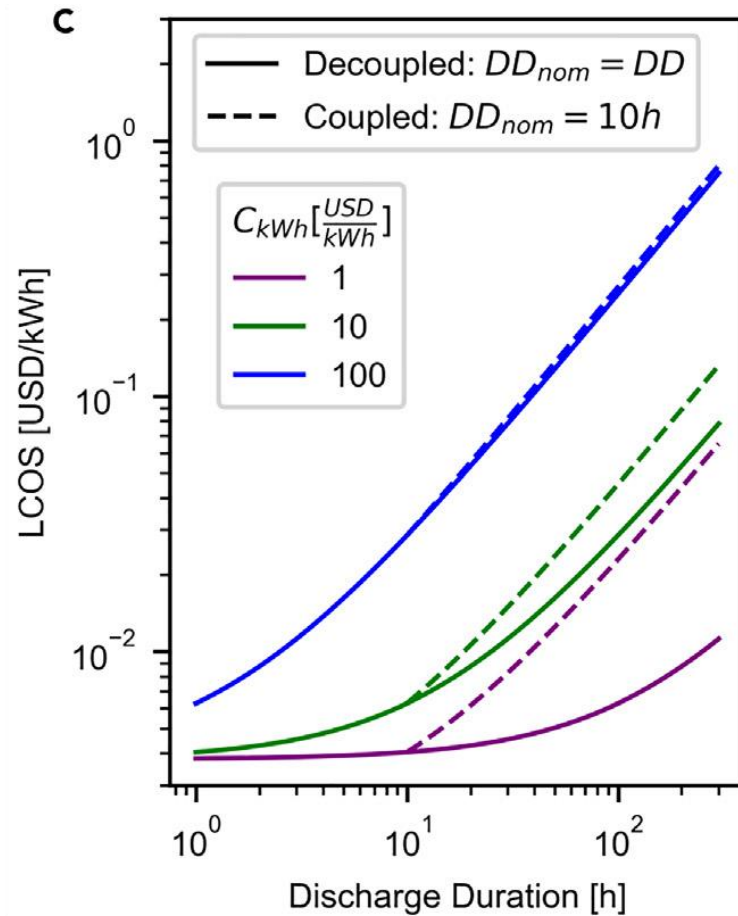
- Coupled: cannot increase thickness independent of area.
- Practically limited to  $\sim 100 \mu m$  and  $DD_{nom} \sim 1 \text{ hour}$ .
- Increasing  $Cap_E$  (thickness) limits  $Cap_P$ .



Christian et al. "Diffusion-Limited C-Rate: A Fundamental Principle Quantifying the Intrinsic Limits of Li-Ion Batteries." *Advanced Energy Materials* 10 (2020): <https://doi.org/10/gjq5w2>.

# Techno-Economic Analysis

## Levelized Cost of Storage (LCOS) Based on Price Arbitrage



$$LCOS \left[ \frac{\text{USD}}{\text{kWh}} \right] = \underbrace{P_{chg} \left( \frac{1}{\eta_{RT}} - 1 \right)}_{\text{Inefficiency Premium}} + \frac{1}{CF * 8760 * LT_{eff}} \left( \underbrace{\frac{C_{kWh}}{\eta_d} DD}_{\text{Energy capital repayment}} + \underbrace{C_{kW} \frac{DD}{DD_{nom}}}_{\text{Power capital repayment}} \right)$$

$C_{kW(h)}$  - Power (Energy) Capital Cost  
 $P_{chg}$  - Electricity Price  
 $\eta$  - Discharge/Round Trip Efficiency  
 $LT_{eff}$  - Effective system lifetime  
 $CF$  - Capacity Factor

- Quantified effect of decoupled vs coupled systems.
  - Assume decoupled ( $DD = DD_{nom}$ ) for consistency/best-case.
- Energy capital costs drive LCOS in the linear 'long-duration regime' ( $\frac{C_{kWh}}{\eta_d} DD \gg C_{kW}$ ).

# $C_{kwh,max}$ Targets for Long-Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Applications

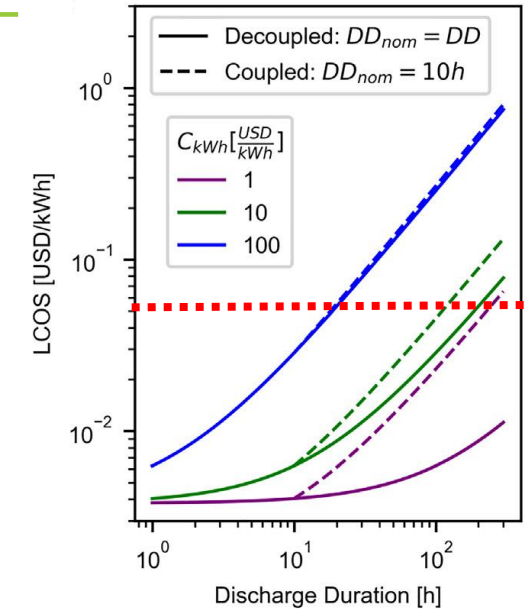
- $C_{kwh}$  targets present in the literature but generally results of complex models.
- Developed quick  $C_{kwh,max}$  Fermi estimate for different applications, valid in 'long duration regime'.

$$C_{kWh,max} = LCOS_{target} * N_c * LT_{eff} * \eta_d$$

$N_c$  - Yearly Cycles,  $LT_{eff}$  - effective (discounted) lifetime,  $\eta_d$  - discharge efficiency

**Table 1. Mid- and long-duration energy storage applications and associated  $C_{kwh,max}$  values**

Application	$N_c = CF \frac{8,760 \left[ \frac{h}{y} \right]}{DD[h]}$	$C_{kWh,max}$ (USD/kWh)	Description/ref.	Example application parameters
Mid-duration energy storage (MDES)	$\sim 365$	$\sim 180$	diurnal (intra-day) cycling <sup>37,38</sup>	DD = 12 h, CF = 0.5;
Multi-day LDES	$\sim 10$	$\sim 5$	multi-day shortfall <sup>38,39</sup>	DD = 100 h, CF = 0.1;
Seasonal LDES	$\sim 1$	$\sim 0.5$	annual worst ~ month (a.k.a. "Dunkelflaute") <sup>40,41</sup> seasonal shifting <sup>37</sup>	DD = 720 h, CF = 0.1 DD = 2,000 h, CF = 0.25

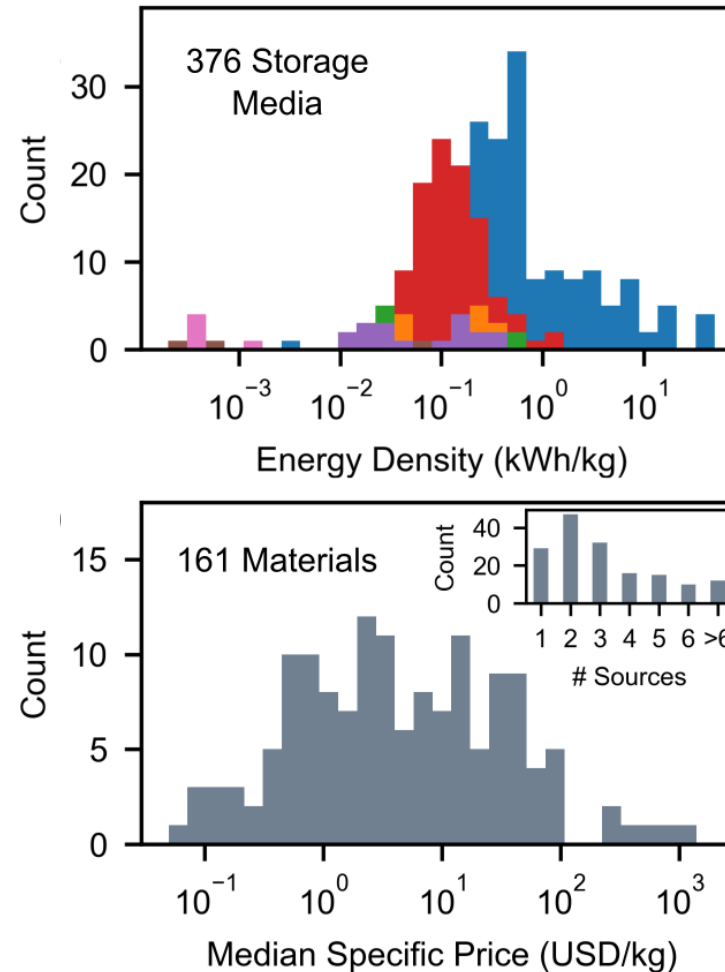
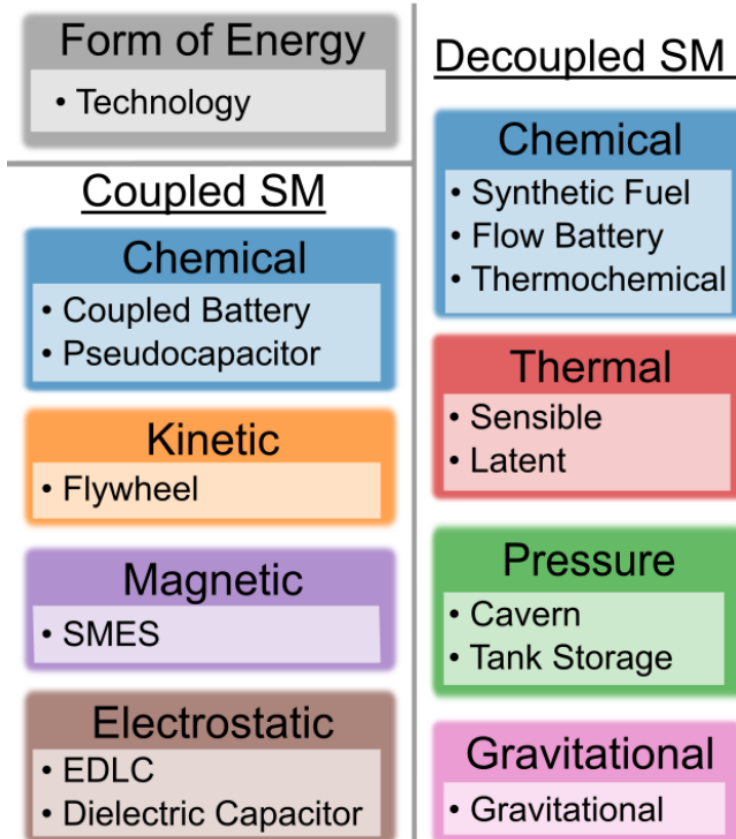


- Assumptions
  - $\frac{C_{kwh}}{\eta_d} DD \gg C_{kW}$
  - DOE  $LCOS_{target} = 0.05 \text{ USD/kWh}$
  - Discount rate  $\rightarrow LT_{eff} \sim 10 \text{ y}$
  - $\eta_d \sim 1$



# Broad Survey of $C_{kWh}$ Material Cost Floors

## Best Case Costs Based on Just Energy-Storing Materials



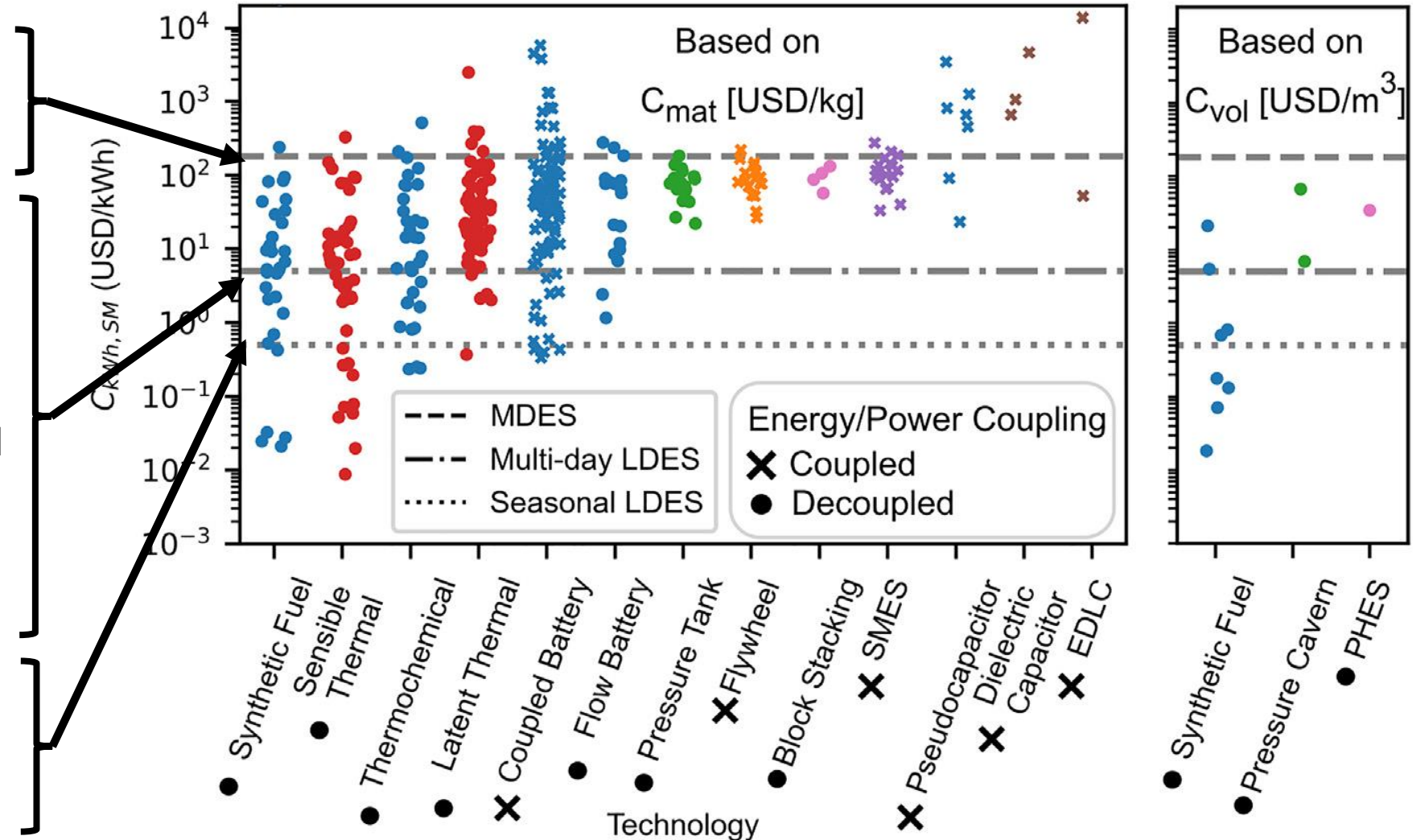
- Identified SM technologies and **energy density** ( $\rho_E$ ) expressions from first-principles
- Developed a data collection framework to collect  $\rho_E$  data and **materials prices**  $C_{mat}$ .
- Used data to calculate material cost floor of  $C_{kWh}$ ,

$$C_{kWh,SM} \left[ \frac{USD}{kWh} \right] = \frac{C_{mat} \left[ \frac{USD}{kg} \right]}{\rho_E \left[ \frac{kWh}{kg} \right]}$$

# Energy Storage Material Cost Results

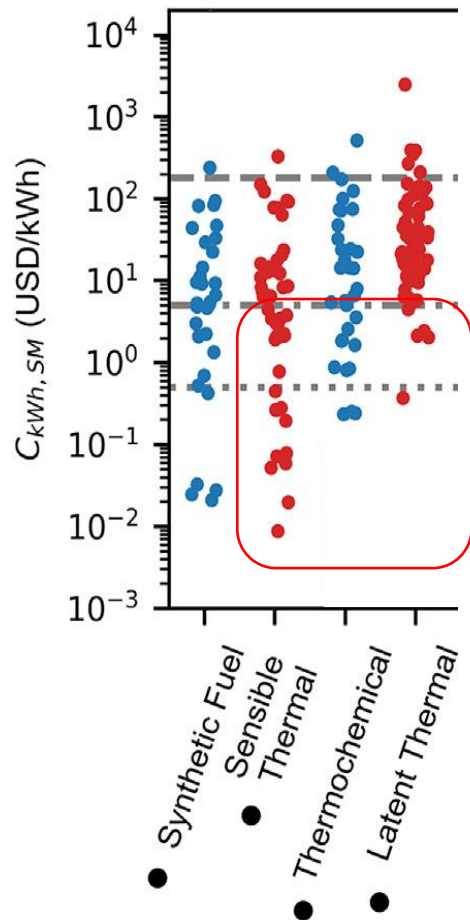
Technologies are potentially viable if below target cost lines for applications

- Most storage systems potentially viable for MDES (mid-duration).
- For multi-day LDES, **select** synthetic fuels, sensible thermal, thermomechanical, latent thermal, coupled battery, and flow battery potentially viable.
- Less systems can work for seasonal LDES.

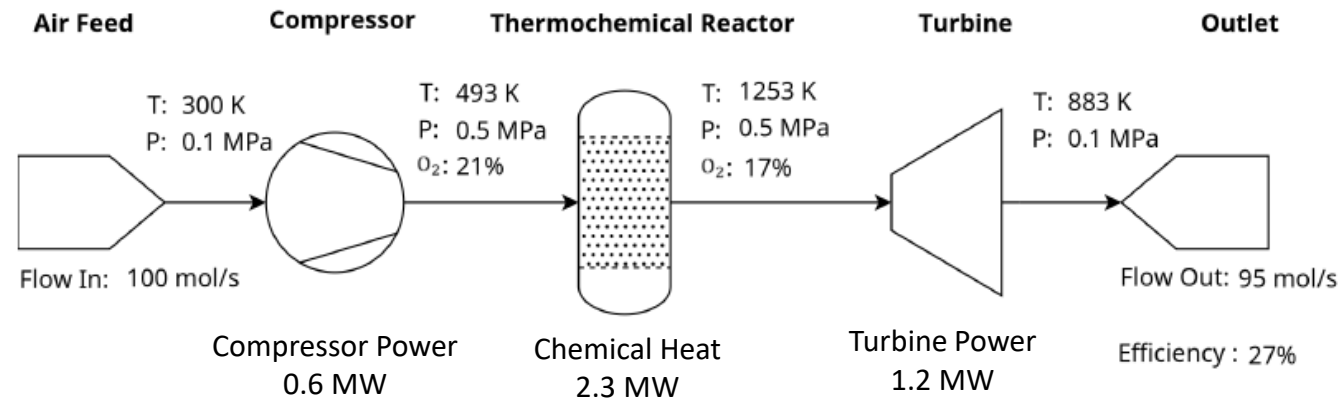


# Ongoing Energy Storage Work

- Viability Analysis Confirmed Promise of Thermal/Chemical Storage



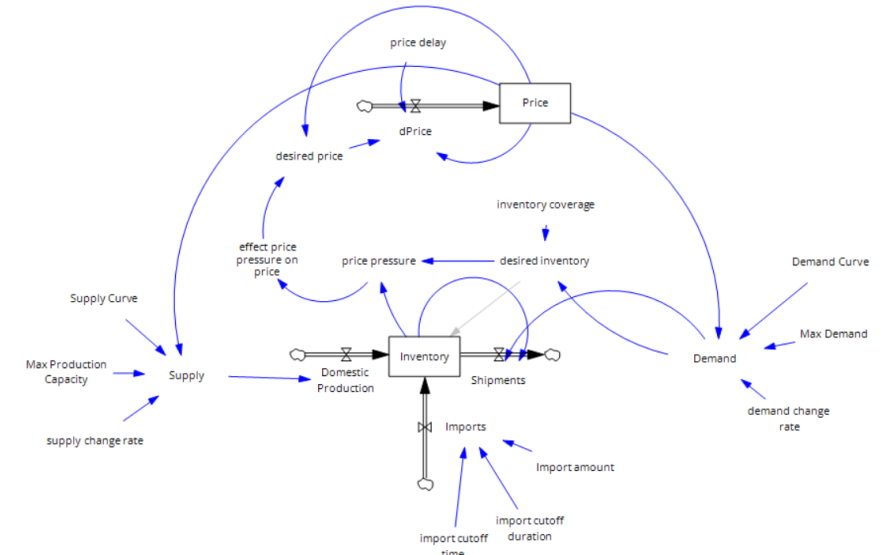
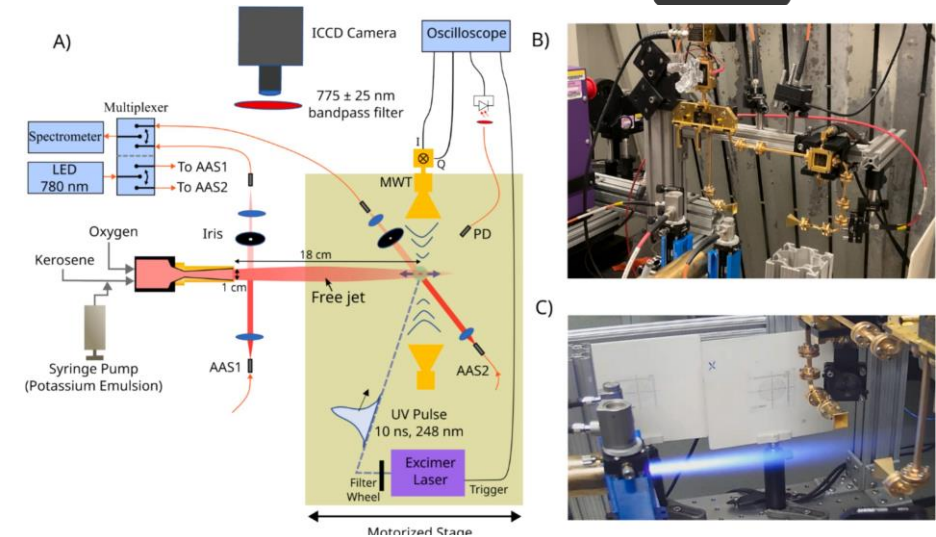
- Modeling of thermal energy storage integrated in fossil assets.
  - Developing models for thermal storage media in NETL's Institute for the Design of Advanced Energy Systems (IDAES) platform.
  - Currently exploring integration into subcritical coal plant to reduce thermal cycling.



Iron oxide thermochemical storage in simple standalone Brayton cycle.

# Other Projects at NETL

- Experimental physics in magnetohydrodynamic power generation laboratory
  - Recent publication "*Photoionization of seeded combustion products as a method of enhancing the efficiency of magnetohydrodynamic power generators*"
- **Potential tie to energy storage:**
  - Recently obtained TGA/DSC and interested in thermochemical materials research
- (New) Critical minerals supply chain analysis
  - Starting system dynamics modeling of rare earth supply shortages
  - **Potential tie to energy storage:**
    - Quantify material supply bottlenecks for energy storage technologies
    - Want better figure of merit than current material market price ( $C_{mat}[\frac{USD}{kg}]$ )





# Acknowledgments

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# NETL RESOURCES

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