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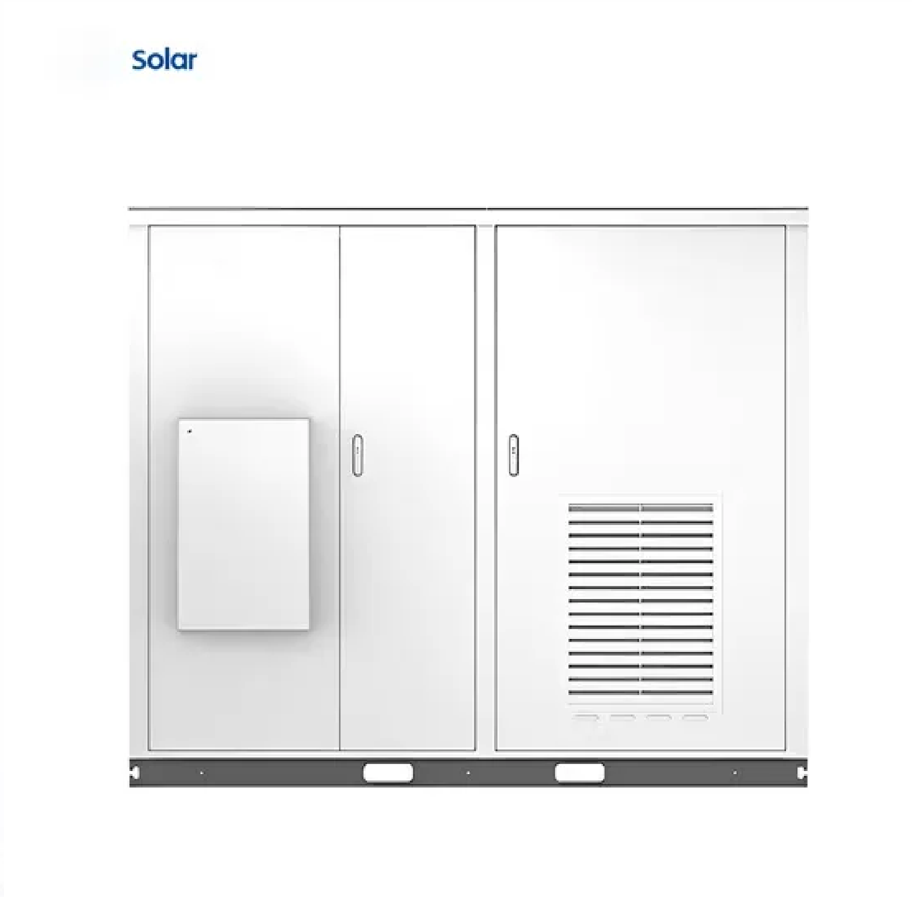
Long-lasting grid energy storage batteries



Overview

Long-duration energy storage (LDES) systems—ranging from pumped hydro and flow batteries to gravity-based and thermal setups—are emerging as critical infrastructure for grid stability and decarbonization (Climate Insider, MCE Clean Energy). Pumped hydro is the most mature form of LDES.

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New storage technologies, if successful, could bring down the costs of energy storage compared to lithium ion batteries. Long-duration storage technologies are batteries that contain 10 to 160 hours of energy discharge, according to the Department of Energy. There are many types of long duration.

Over the past few years, lithium-ion batteries emerged as the default choice for storing renewable energy on the electrical grid. The batteries work fabulously for discharging a few hours of electricity, but they’re too expensive to dispatch energy for much longer. Now several companies say they.

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It’s hard to imagine a decarbonized grid without batteries that can last longer — far longer — than the four hours today’s grid-scale, lithium-ion batteries can pump power onto the grid. But who’s going to pay for it?

That’s the question developers and researchers are puzzling over as the U.S.

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