

# Application cost of vanadium battery for energy storage

Is vanadium good for flow batteries?

Vanadium is ideal for flow batteries because it doesn't degrade unless there's a leak causing the material to flow from one tank through the membrane to the other side. Even in that case, MIT researchers say the cross-contamination is temporary, and only the oxidation states will be affected.

Are there any vanadium flow batteries in the United States?

The United States has some vanadium flow battery installations, albeit at a smaller scale. One is a microgrid pilot project in California that was completed in January 2022.

Which energy storage technologies are included in the 2020 cost and performance assessment?

The 2020 Cost and Performance Assessment provided installed costs for six energy storage technologies: lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries, lead-acid batteries, vanadium redox flow batteries, pumped storage hydro, compressed-air energy storage, and hydrogen energy storage.

Does vanadium have a supply chain problem?

But vanadium comes with its own supply chain issues. As the adoption of long-duration energy storage grows, demand for vanadium will skyrocket. Pure vanadium is rarely naturally occurring, though, and it's usually mined as a byproduct or is otherwise found in compounds. Current production is segmented in China, Russia, and South Africa.

Where is vanadium used?

Vanadium use is primarily limited to a single market, the production of steel, which accounts for about 90% of demand, and only China, Russia, and, most recently, South Africa are major exporters.

How much does a vanadium pentoxide cost?

For leasing to be an attractive option as compared to upfront purchase, vanadium prices must be sufficiently high and/or annual fees must be suitably low. At the time of writing, the price of vanadium pentoxide is ca. 16 \$/kg, which corresponds to 29 \$/kg of vanadium.

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