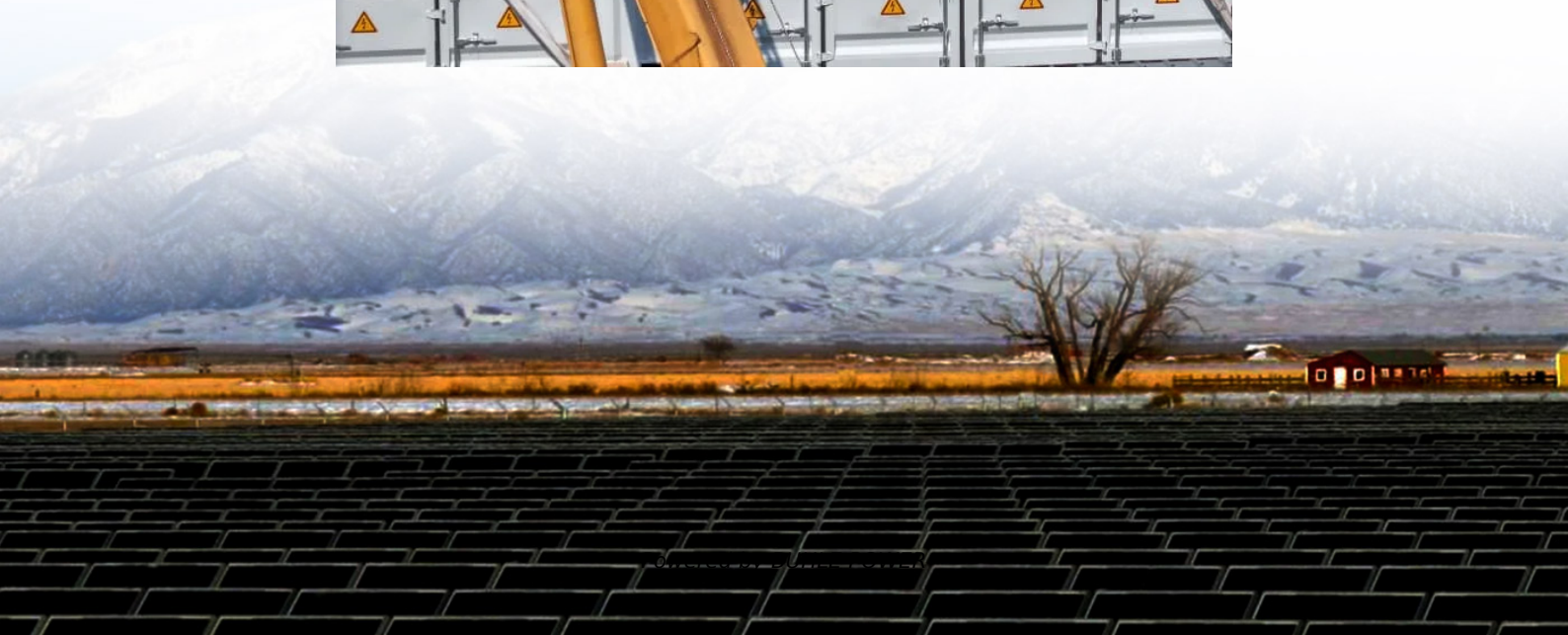


One kilowatt of flywheel energy storage





Overview

Could flywheels be the future of energy storage?

Flywheels, one of the earliest forms of energy storage, could play a significant role in the transformation of the electrical power system into one that is fully sustainable yet low cost.

What is a flywheel energy storage system?

Fig. 1 has been produced to illustrate the flywheel energy storage system, including its sub-components and the related technologies. A FESS consists of several key components: (1) A rotor/flywheel for storing the kinetic energy. (2) A bearing system to support the rotor/flywheel.

How do flywheels store kinetic energy?

Beyond pumped hydroelectric storage, flywheels represent one of the most established technologies for mechanical energy storage based on rotational kinetic energy. Fundamentally, flywheels store kinetic energy in a rotating mass known as a rotor [1, 2, 3], characterized by high conversion power and rapid discharge rates.

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.



One kilowatt of flywheel energy storage



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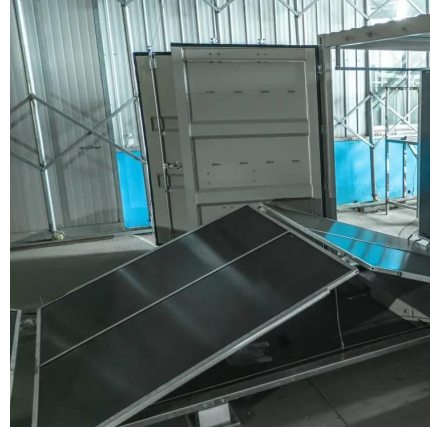
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