

Total investment cost of VRFB energy storage project in Iran

How much does a VRFB cost?

To validate our model outputs, we compare our base case to other LCOS models of VRFBs in the open literature. Lazard's annual levelized cost of storage analysis is a useful source for costs of various energy storage systems, and, in 2018, reported levelized VRFB costs in the range of 293-467 \$/MWh (for mid-scale systems ~10 MWh).

Can a VRFB be rebalanced?

In contrast, VRFBs can be rebalanced to restore lost capacity without additional capital expenditure. Thus, while VRFBs have significantly higher capacity fade rates than state-of-the-art Li-ion batteries, the resilience of the VRFB electrolyte may lead to cost savings over the project lifetime.

How do you recover a lost capacity in a VRFB?

The primary method for recovering the lost capacity in VRFBs is termed rebalancing, where the negative and positive electrolytes are mixed to equilibrate the concentration of vanadium ions in each electrolyte. Rebalancing is generally performed once the accessible capacity drops to a predefined level that is determined by application requirements.

What is the rate of VRFB component degradation?

We include two additional data points obtained from a recent review on VRFB component degradation by Yuan et al. [26, 57, 58], which cites two experimental values for the rate of capacity decay as 1.3% and 0.067% per cycle (not shown in Fig. 2 because cycling data was not provided).

What is a vanadium redox flow battery (VRFB)?

The vanadium redox flow battery (VRFB) is arguably the most well-studied and widely deployed RFB system. At the time of writing, there are approximately 330 MW of VRFBs currently installed around the world with many more systems announced or under development, including a 200 MW/800 MWh plant in Dalian, China [15,16].

What are some criticisms of the VRFB?

A common critique of the VRFB is the relatively high and volatile price of vanadium [52,53]. For example, in 2018, the price of vanadium pentoxide (V_2O_5), one of the most common vanadium electrolyte precursors, fluctuated greatly and nearly quadrupled before decreasing in early 2019.



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