

**2<sup>ND</sup>** ANNUAL ENERGY STORAGE  
GRAND CHALLENGE SUMMIT

# Innovation in Manufacturing and Securing Domestic Supply Chains

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**Diana Bauer**

Acting Deputy Director,  
Advanced Manufacturing  
Office,  
U.S. Department of Energy



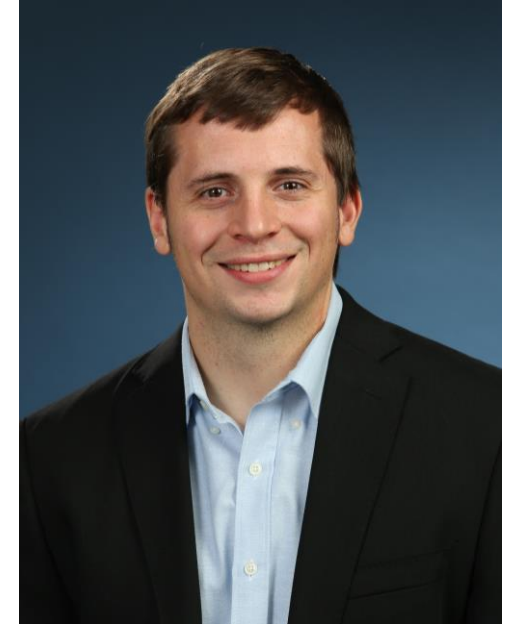
**Steven Boyd**

Program Manager, Office  
of Manufacturing and  
Energy Supply Chains,  
U.S. Department of Energy



**Billy Woodford**

Chief Technology Officer,  
Form Energy



**Eric Gratz**

Co-Founder and Chief  
Technology Officer,  
Ascend Elements



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## ESGC Summit: Innovation in Manufacturing & Securing Domestic Supply Chains

**Diana Bauer**

Acting Deputy Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Office,  
Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy,  
U.S. Department of Energy

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September 27, 2022



# Agenda

- **Innovation in Manufacturing for Energy Storage**
  - Focus areas
  - Challenges
- **Manufacturing and Supply Chain Track**
  - Activities
- **DOE Energy Storage Innovation, Demonstration, and Manufacturing Landscape (Interoffice Collaboration)**
- **New DOE Offices (from AMO):**
  - Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office (IEDO)
  - Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO)



# Manufacturing and Supply Chain Innovation for Energy Storage

A strong, diverse domestic manufacturing base with integrated supply chains to support U.S. energy storage leadership

## Track Focus

Accelerate scale-up of **emerging manufacturing processes**



Improve **critical materials supply chain resilience**

Address **technical barriers** in production and manufacturing

# Manufacturing Challenges Across Storage Technologies

Different energy storage technologies face a range of challenges including improving manufacturability and strengthening their supply chains.

Source: ESGC Roadmap	Advance processing and recycling to diversity critical materials sourcing	Lower manufacturing cost			Improve performance				Accelerate manufacturing scale up/scale out	Standardize systems design and testing protocols to streamline integration of innovations
		Membranes	Anode, cathode, electrolyte, & chemistries	Containment structures & materials	Electrolyzers	Advanced storage materials	Bipolar plates	Heat exchangers		
Li-based batteries	•		•					•	•	
Flow batteries	•	•	•	•			•		•	•
Other battery chemistries (e.g., Na-ion)	•	•	•			•			•	•
Mechanical energy storage (e.g., pumped water, compressed air, etc.)						•			•	•
Chemical energy storage	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	
Thermal energy storage				•		•		•	•	•

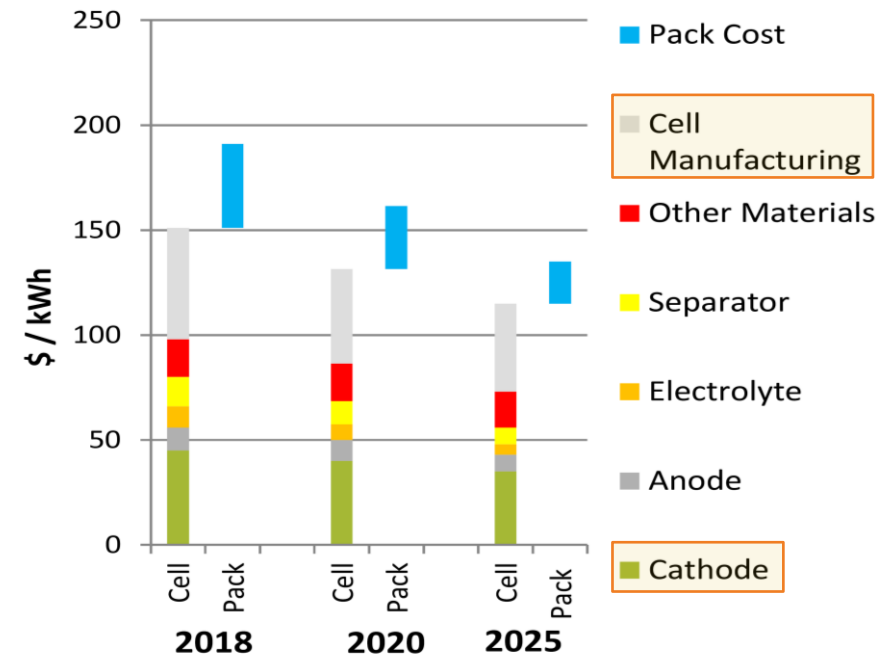
# Manufacturing Challenges Across Storage Technologies

Where to Focus on for Cost Reduction?  
Advanced manufacturing is key for reduced cost.

## Ex. Li-ion battery

- “**Cell manufacturing**” and “**cathode**” account for the two largest cost segments in LiB pack production.
- For 2025, Avicenne Energy estimates both segments will cost ~30% of a \$135/kWh pack.

Li-ion Battery Cost 2018-2025  
(Pack cost for EV)



(For production > 100,000 packs/year)

From AVICENNE ENERGY 2019 ADEME-Bpifrance Battery Storage Meeting , Paris, France, May 28, 2019

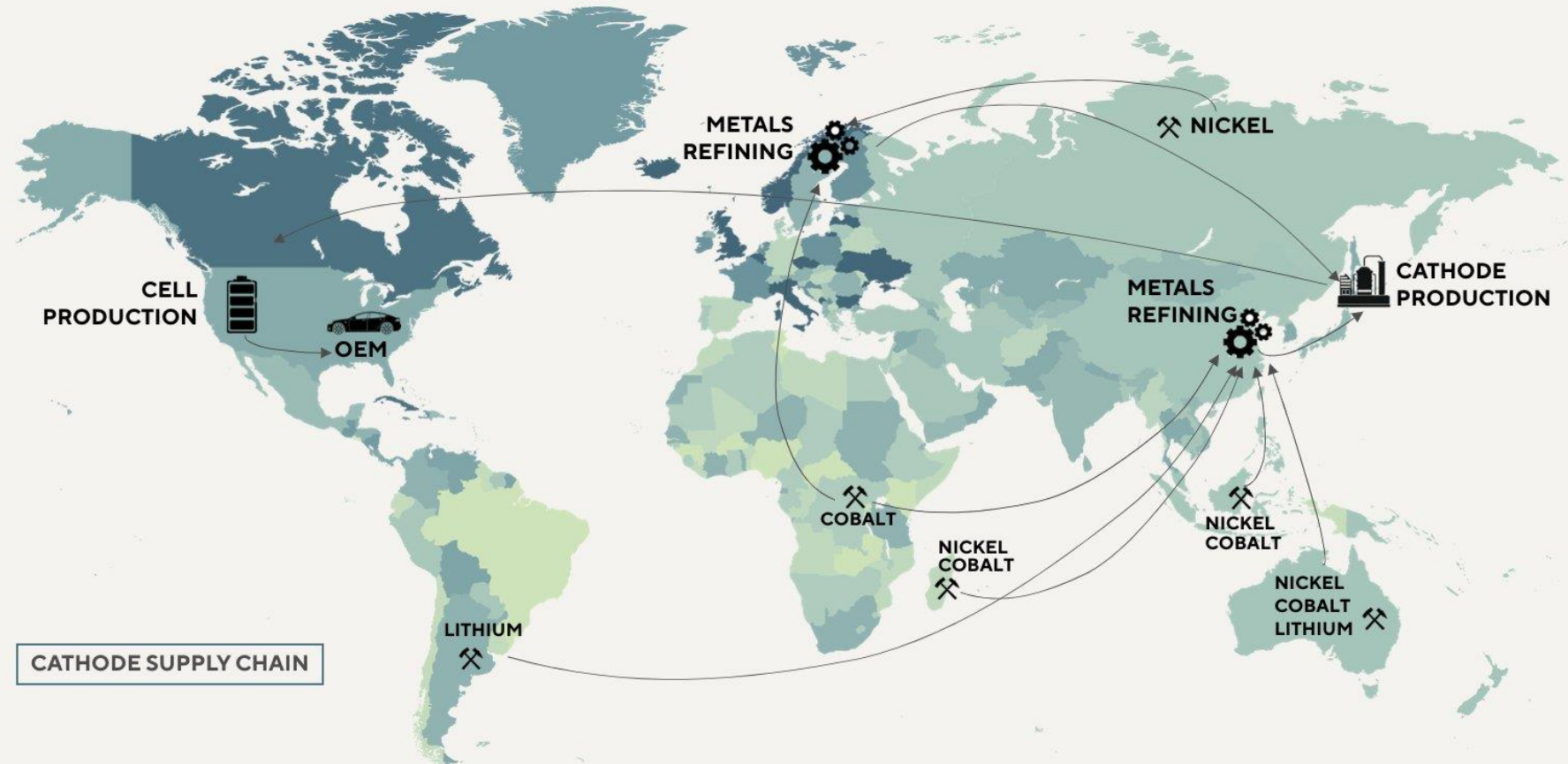
# Supply Chain Challenges

The Battery community emphasizes potential supply chain risks.

Ex. Li-ion battery cathode supply chain

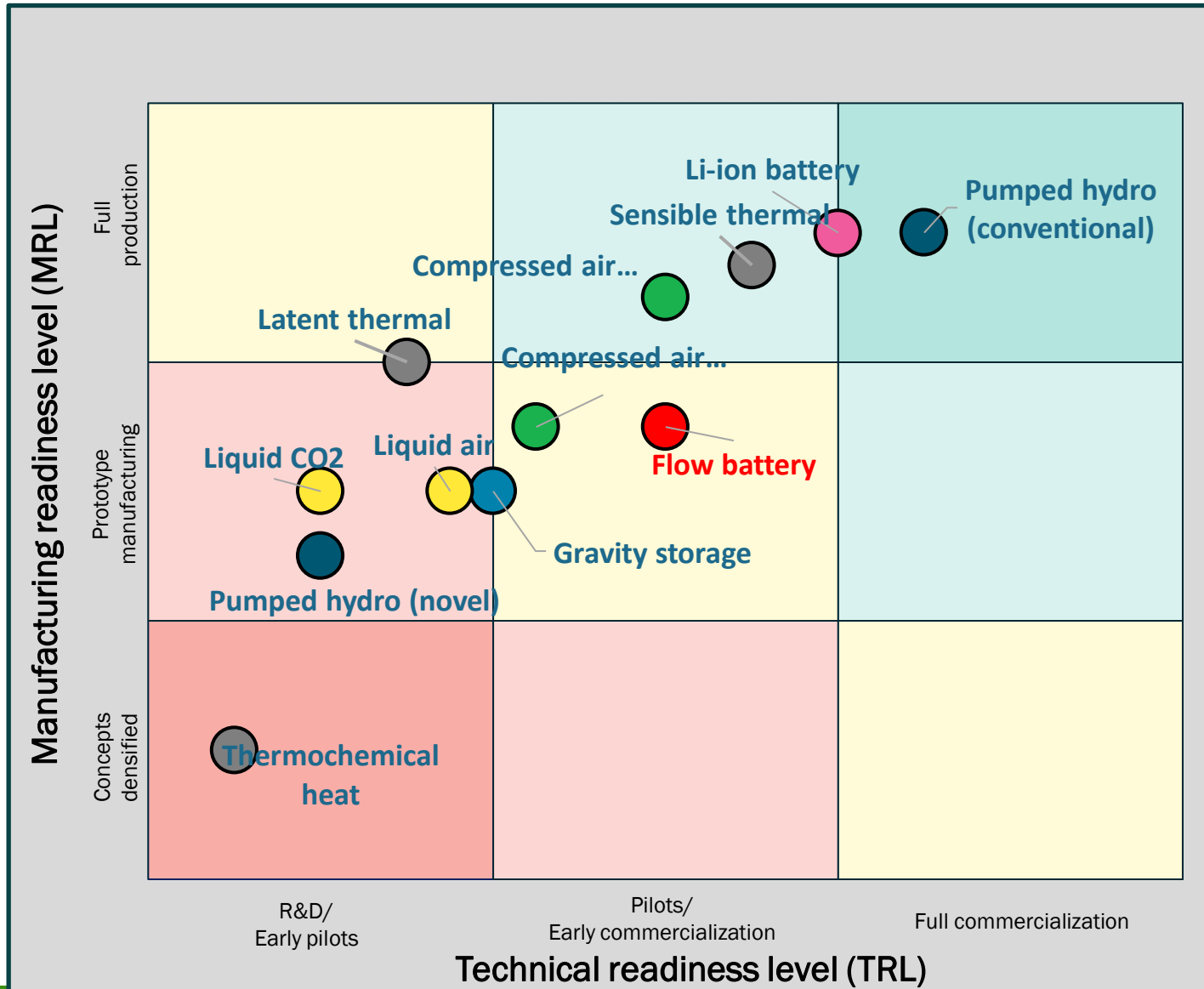
Source: Redwood Materials Twitter (9/21/2022)

THE CURRENT 50,000+ MILE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN





# • Flow Batteries: Technology and Manufacturing Maturity Comparison



- Flow batteries form a fairly mature technology group with some on-going evolutionary design improvements.
- However, manufacturing is still inefficient and expensive.

Source: Y. Zhou, "Beyond Lithium-Ion: Long-Duration Storage Technologies, Technology Deep Dive, BloombergNEF, Department of Energy, and International Energy Agency.

**Note that different studies might place technical, manufacturing, and market maturity at different places.**

# • Key DOE Flow Battery Collaborations

## Key DOE Flow Battery Collaborations – Technology Advances for Large-Scale Energy Storage

AMO

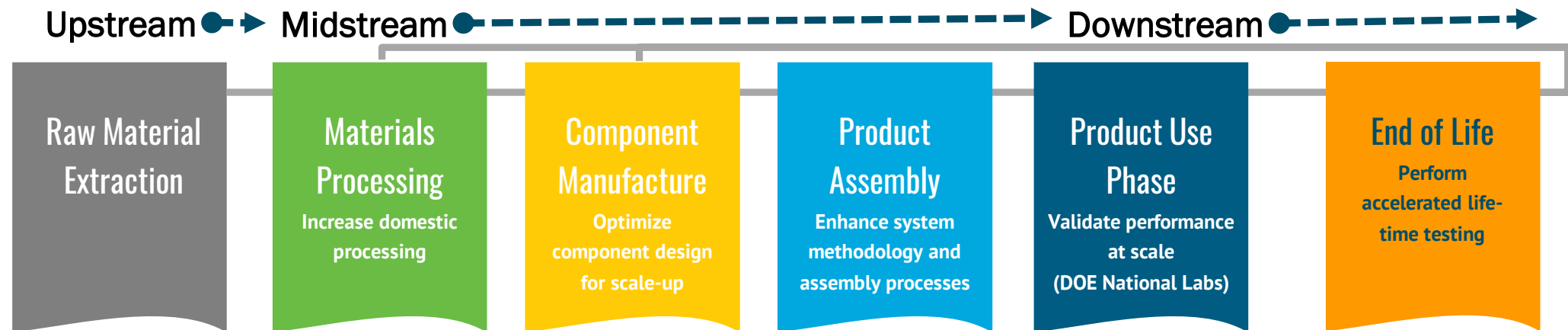
- New chemistries and designs
- Innovative mfg. capabilities, technologies, and practices
- Accelerated, cost effective scale-up
- Streamlined & secure domestic supply chains

OE

- Predictable and robust systems and components
- Grid use cases and testing protocols
- Safe and reliable large-scale deployment
- Enable systems integration

### AMO/OE Flow Battery FOA

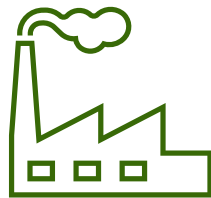
Goal: accelerate innovation & deployment by addressing the entire ecosystem:



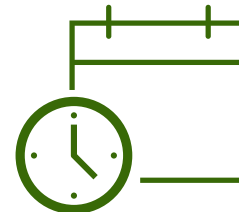


# Industrial Heat Shot

Develop cost competitive industrial heat decarbonization technologies with **at least 85% lower greenhouse gas emissions by 2035**



**>85% Lower Emissions**



**2035**

# 3 Pathways to Decarbonize Industrial Heat

Reduce the amount of heat and/or emissions from heat to make cleaner products



## Generate Heat from Clean Electricity

### Reduce Emissions:

electrify equipment & use clean electricity, improve energy efficiency

### Examples:

resistive heating, heat pumps, microwave heating, thermal storage, etc.



## Integrate Clean Heat from Alternative Sources

### Reduce Emissions:

switch to low-emissions heat sources and increase thermal storage

### Examples:

solar thermal, advanced nuclear, geothermal, hydrogen, some sustainable fuels



## Innovative Low- or No-Heat Process Technologies

### Reduce Emissions:

new chemistry and emerging biotechnology processes to reduce heat demand

### Examples:

bio-based manufacturing, electrolysis, ultraviolet curing, advanced separations, etc.



# ESGC Manufacturing and Supply Chain Track

## Major Activities

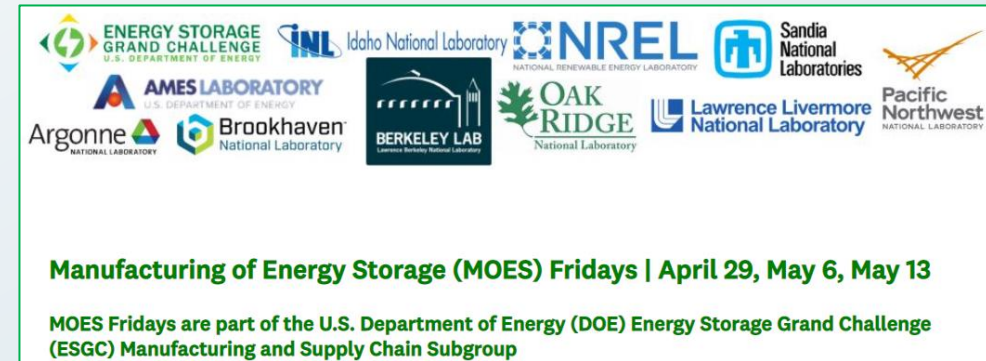
### Subgroup 1: Analysis (Sarang Supekar and Sara Smith)

- Convening virtual seminar series
- Exploring analysis capabilities

### Subgroup 2. Manufacturing for Energy Storage (Albert Lipson and Ilias Belharouk)

#### Manufacturing of Energy Storage (MOES) workshops

- April 29, 2022: Thermal Storage
- May 6, 2022: Flow Batteries
- May 13, 2022: Solid State Batteries
- Brought together energy storage device manufacturers with manufacturing technologies innovators in
  - Material manufacturing
  - Device fabrication
  - QC w/ AI and ML to improve cost, energy, and environmental performance
- Identified opportunities to transfer technologies
- Identified gaps, barriers, and pitfalls



# ESGC Manufacturing and Supply Chain Track

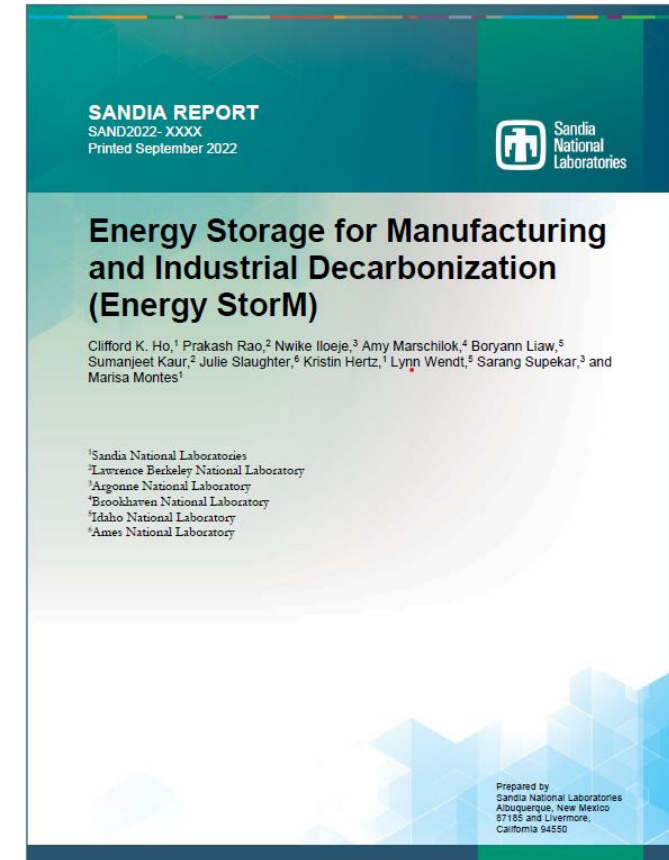
## Major Activities

### Subgroup 3. Energy Storage for Manufacturing (Cliff Ho and David Reed)

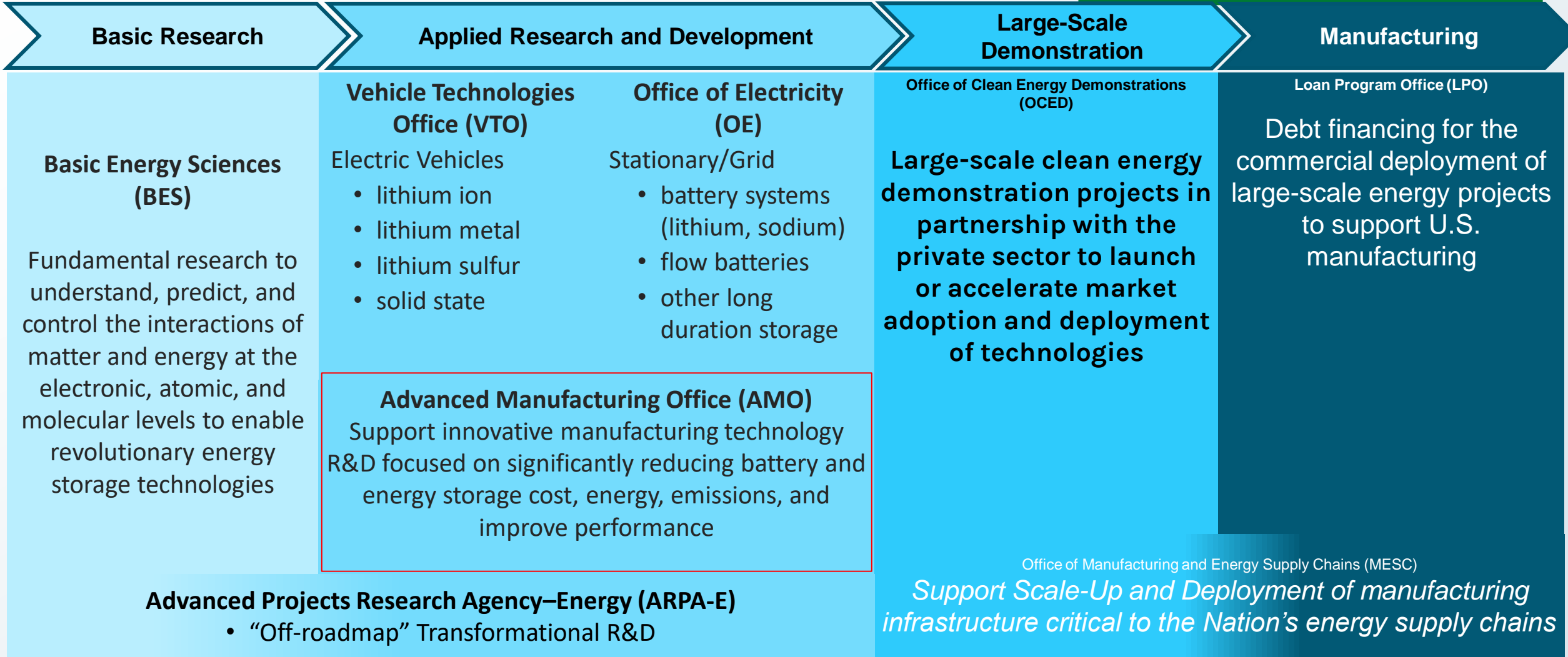
#### Energy Storage for Manufacturing and Industrial Decarbonization (Energy StorM) Workshop

- February 8 – 9, 2022
- Brought together members of industry, national laboratories, universities, government, and other stakeholders to discuss
  - Carbon-free energy and energy storage for manufacturing and industrial decarbonization.
- Addressed energy needs and challenges for different manufacturing and industrial sectors (e.g., cement/steel production, chemicals, materials synthesis)
- Covered potential role for energy storage technologies including electrochemical, thermal, and chemical energy storage
- Identified needs
  - Large, continuous on-site capacity (tens to hundreds of megawatts),
  - Compatibility with existing infrastructure, cost, and safety.
  - Analysis tools to value energy storage technologies in the context of manufacturing and industrial decarbonization

*The workshop report will be available soon.*



# DOE Energy Storage Innovation, Demonstration, and Manufacturing Landscape



**Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO)**  
 Support innovative manufacturing technology R&D focused on significantly reducing battery and energy storage cost, energy, emissions, and improve performance



# AMO Plans to Become 2 Offices Beginning October 9, 2022

## Industrial Efficiency & Decarbonization Office (IEDO)

Director

Deputy Director

Chief Engineer

Operations

Energy Intensive Industries

Cross-Sector Technologies

Technical Assistance & Workforce

Technical Project Officers

## Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO)

Director

Deputy Director

Senior Advisor

Operations

Energy Technology Manufacturing & Workforce Development

Next Generation Materials & Processes

Secure & Sustainable Materials

Technical Project Officers





**Thank you!**  
**Any Questions?**



For additional information and to subscribe for updates:  
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/amo/>

# Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains

## *Energy Storage Grand Challenge Summit*

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Steven Boyd  
Program Manger  
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September 27, 2022



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

# Executive Order 14017: America's Supply Chains

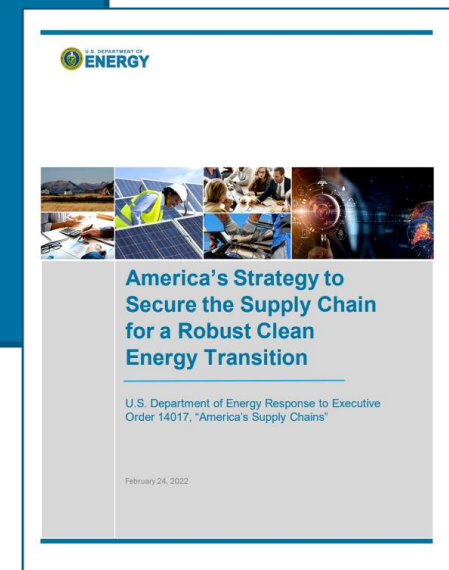
## *(February 2021-2022)*

- DOE released **14 reports on the energy sector supply chains**, including 13 issue-specific deep dive assessments and an overarching strategy report
- “America’s Strategy to Secure the Supply Chain for a Robust Clean Energy Transition” is the **first-ever comprehensive U.S. government strategy to secure our domestic energy supply chains and an Energy Sector Industrial Base**
- Lays out dozens of **critical strategies and actions** to build secure, resilient, and diverse domestic energy supply chains
- Part of a larger **whole-of-government approach** on supply chains

### Deep-Dive Assessment Report Topics

- Carbon capture materials
- Electric grid including transformers and high voltage direct current
- Energy storage
- Fuel cells and electrolyzers
- Hydropower including pumped storage hydropower
- Neodymium magnets
- Nuclear energy
- Platinum group metals and other catalyst
- Semiconductors
- Solar photovoltaics
- Wind
- Commercialization and competitiveness
- Cybersecurity and digital components

<https://www.energy.gov/policy/securing-americas-clean-energy-supply-chain>



# DOE Optimizes Structure to Implement \$62 Billion in Clean Energy Investments From Bipartisan Infrastructure Law *(February 2022)*

“The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Energy Act of 2020 supercharge the Department of Energy to propel the U.S. economy towards cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy. These structural changes set DOE up for success in carrying out all of our missions – and to carry them forward for the coming years and decades.”

- U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm

DOE’s February 2022 realignment established **the Office of the Under Secretary for Infrastructure**, which will focus on deploying clean energy solutions, and included the launch of three new offices to support clean energy infrastructure deployment:

- The Grid Deployment Office to modernize and upgrade the nation’s electric transmission lines and deploy cheaper, cleaner electricity across the country.
- The State and Community Energy Program to work more closely with states, localities, and communities to in the planning and deployment of decarbonization solutions.
- **The Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains** to ensure the energy industrial base is supported by a clean, resilient, domestic supply chain.



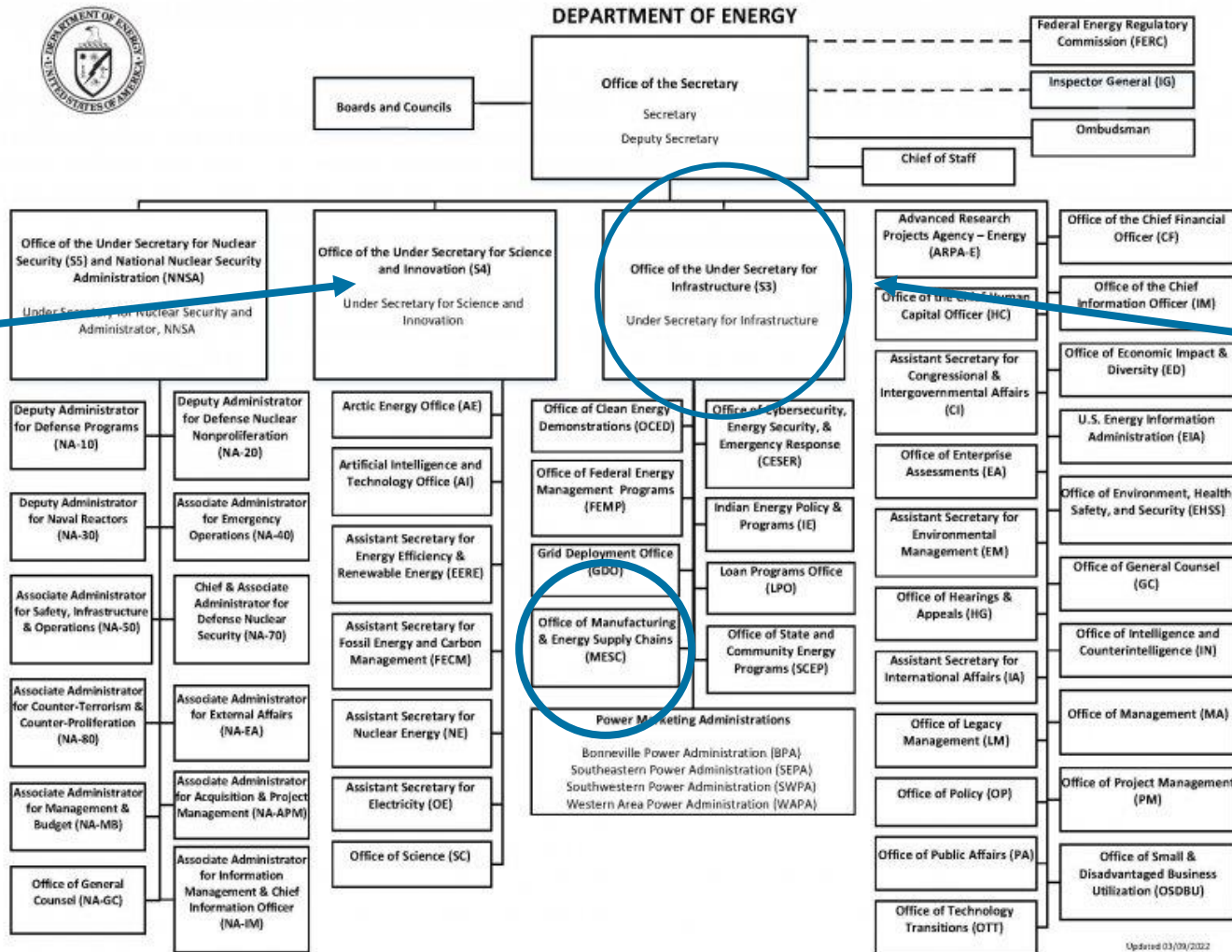
# DOE's Office of Manufacturing & Energy Supply Chains, in context

**Under Secretary for Science and Innovation (S4)**

- Research & Development focus
- Includes EERE, OE, and SC

**Under Secretary Demonstration & Deployment (S3)**

- Demonstration & Deployment focus
- Includes OCED, LPO, and MESC



# DOE's Office of Manufacturing & Energy Supply Chains

Responsible for **strengthening and securing manufacturing and energy supply chains** needed to modernize the nation's energy infrastructure and support a clean and equitable energy transition.

- **Catalyzing the development of an energy sector industrial base** through targeted investments that establish and secure domestic clean energy supply chains and manufacturing
- **Engaging with private-sector companies, other Federal agencies, and key stakeholders** to collect, analyze, respond to, and share data about energy supply chains to inform future decision making and investment.
- Managing programs that **develop clean domestic manufacturing and workforce capabilities**, with an emphasis on opportunities for small and medium enterprises and communities in energy transition.
- Coordinates closely with the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations for the **management of major demonstration projects, and across all of DOE's programs on manufacturing and supply chain issues**, including with the Advanced Manufacturing Office in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

# DOE's Office of Manufacturing & Energy Supply Chains

- **Facility and Workforce Assistance:** Create and support partnerships between the public and private sector to address regional manufacturing and supply chain challenges and train the next generation of energy engineers
  - Industrial Assessment Centers, Expansion, and Implementation (\$550M)
  - Manufacturer/Industrial/ Recycling Grants in Distressed Communities (\$750M)
  - State Manufacturing Leadership (\$50M BIL)
- **Battery and Critical Materials:** Support Scale-Up and Deployment of manufacturing infrastructure critical to the Nation's energy supply chain
  - Battery Manufacturing, Material Processing, and Recycling (>\$6B)
  - Rare Earth Element Demo Facility (\$140M)
- **Energy Sector Industrial Base:** Assess and identify national and regional energy sector supply chain gaps and issues, and strategies to address those issues
  - Transformer and EPS Rebates (\$20M)

# National Blueprint for Lithium Batteries

By 2030, the United States and its partners will establish a secure battery materials and technology supply chain that supports long-term U.S. economic competitiveness and job creation, enables decarbonization goals, and meets national security requirements.



<https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/articles/national-blueprint-lithium-batteries>

Minerals

Battery Materials

Cells/Packs

Recycling

Innovation

## GOALS TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION



**1** Secure access to raw and refined materials and discover alternates for critical minerals for commercial and defense applications



**2** Support the growth of a U.S. materials processing base able to meet domestic battery manufacturing demand



**3** Stimulate the U.S. electrode, cell, and pack manufacturing sector



**4** Enable U.S. end of life reuse and critical materials recycling at scale and a full competitive value chain in the United States



**5** Maintain and advance U.S. battery technology leadership by strongly supporting scientific R&D, STEM education, and workforce development

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Various provisions to support **domestic materials sourcing and battery production**, including credits for clean vehicles with domestic content, and other provisions that can help increase the number of vehicles that qualify and are designed to support domestic materials sourcing and battery production themselves.
- **Grants:**
  - **\$2 billion in Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grants** to support the transition of domestic manufacturing facilities to manufacture EVs, hybrids, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles
  - **\$3 billion as credit subsidies for Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing** through DOE's Loan Programs Office.
- **Credits:**
  - A new **Advanced Manufacturing production tax credit** is created for battery components and critical minerals, along with other critical technology component categories
  - The new and expanded **Advanced Energy Project Credit** credits up to 30 percent of the qualified investment in property used in a qualifying advanced energy project.
- **Direct Purchase:** in an important market signal, **\$3 billion is allocated for the United States Postal Service** to purchase zero-emission electric vehicles and install charging infrastructure.

# Thank you

Visit  
[energy.gov/MESC](https://energy.gov/MESC)

**Strengthening and securing energy supply chains** to modernize the nation's energy infrastructure and support the clean energy transition



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



# BREAKTHROUGH MULTI-DAY ENERGY STORAGE,

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**Billy Woodford**  
**Co-founder & Chief Technology Officer**  
September 27, 2022



Energy Storage  
For A Better World





# Our team: 300+ employees across the U.S.

200k square feet of facilities across Somerville, MA; Berkeley, CA; and near Pittsburgh, PA





# Our leadership

Decades of experience in energy storage, 100's of MWs deployed, and over \$1 billion of equity raised



**CHARLOTTE BEARD**  
*SVP, Finance*

- VP of Tile Inc; Director of Energy Products Finance for Tesla
- B.S Accounting, Defiance College



**SARAH BRAY**  
*VP, Communications*

- Founder, Innovant Public Relations; VP, Clean Line Energy; Sr. Manager, EDPR
- B.B.A., University of St. Thomas



**YET-MING CHIANG**  
*Chief Science Officer*

- MIT Professor, Founder of 6 companies
- S.B Materials Science, Engineering, MIT



**MARCO FERRARA**  
*SVP, Analytics/BD*

- VP IHI (ESWare)
- Ph.D. Nuclear Engineering, MIT



**MATEO JARAMILLO**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

- Founder Tesla Energy, Tesla VP
- A.B. Economics, Harvard



**RJ JOHNSON**  
*SVP, Commercial Operations*

- Head of Energy Operations, Tesla; VP of Origination, NextEra; US Army
- MBA, University of Chicago



**ZAC JUDKINS**  
*VP, Product Development*

- VP of Products for SunPower
- M.S Materials Science, Engineering, MIT



**BRIAN LEWIS**  
*Deputy General Counsel*

- Director & AGC, Facebook; Assistant U.S. Attorney, Oakland
- A.B., Princeton; J.D., Georgetown



**NIDHI THAKAR**  
*VP, Policy & Regulatory*

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- A.B., University of Maryland, J.D., Lewis & Clark Law School



**SOZI TULANTE**  
*General Counsel*

- Partner, Dechert LLP; Solicitor, City of Philadelphia; Assistant U.S. Attorney
- A.B., Harvard; J.D., Harvard



**TED WILEY**  
*President & Chief Operating Officer*

- Co-founder Aquion; US Army
- MBA, Harvard



**WILLIAM WOODFORD**  
*Chief Technology Officer*

- Director R&D 24M
- Ph.D Engineering, MIT

# Our investors: long-term, impact-oriented

\$367M in Venture Capital to Date

TEMASEK

TPG RISE  
CLIMATE

ArcelorMittal

ENERGY IMPACT PARTNERS™

Breakthrough  
Energy VENTURES

Prelude  
VENTURES

COATUE

MACQUARIE

THE  
ENGINE  
Built by MIT

NGP  
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS III

Eni

PRICORN  
INVESTMENTGROUP

# The Challenge

*The electrical grid needs to fundamentally transform to meet today's challenges*



Extreme weather conditions have become more frequent and disruptive



Power supply is becoming tighter



Intermittent resources need firming up



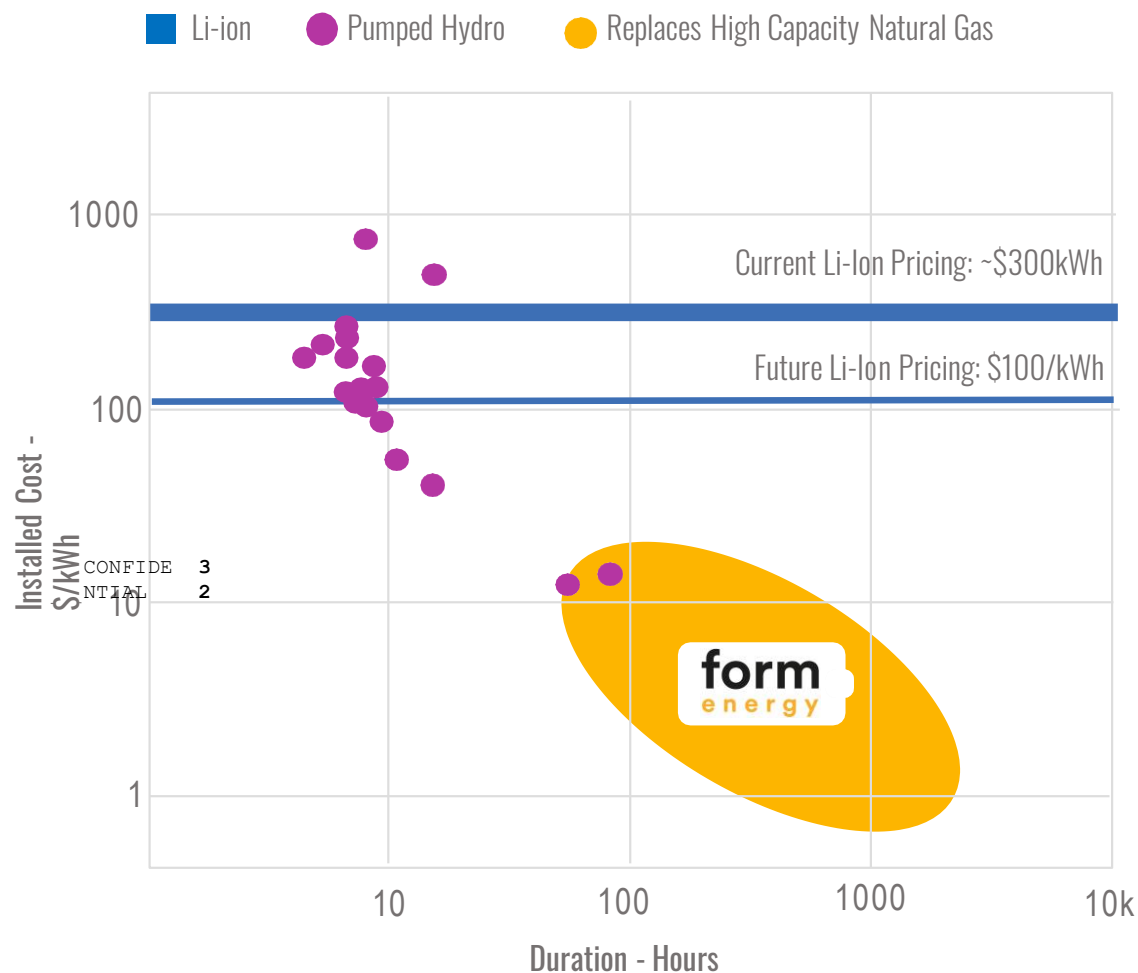
Increased transmission congestion and long interconnection queues



# What kind of storage would it take to replace high capacity factor natural gas?

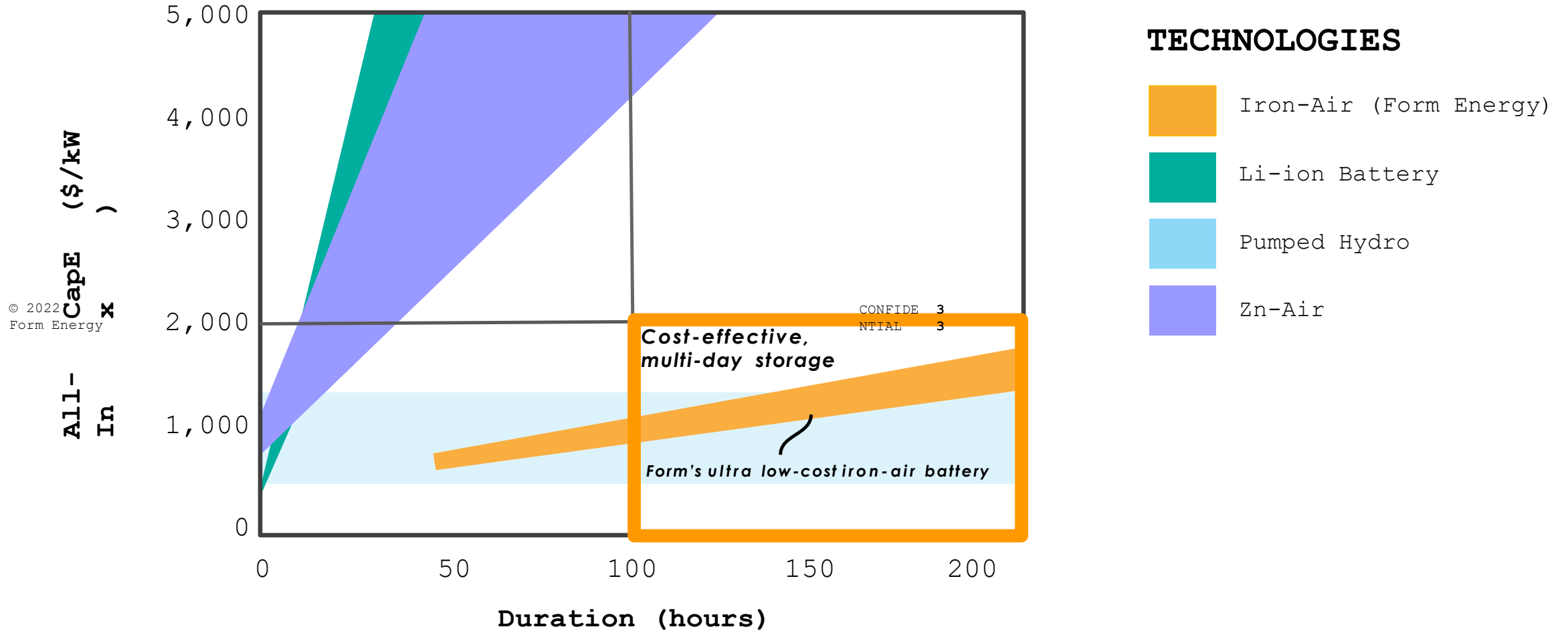
- For renewable generation to replace energy functions of natural gas/coal on the grid, **new storage solutions must be >24 hours duration AND 10-100X cheaper than lithium ion.**

- Pumped hydro is longest duration/lowest cost today



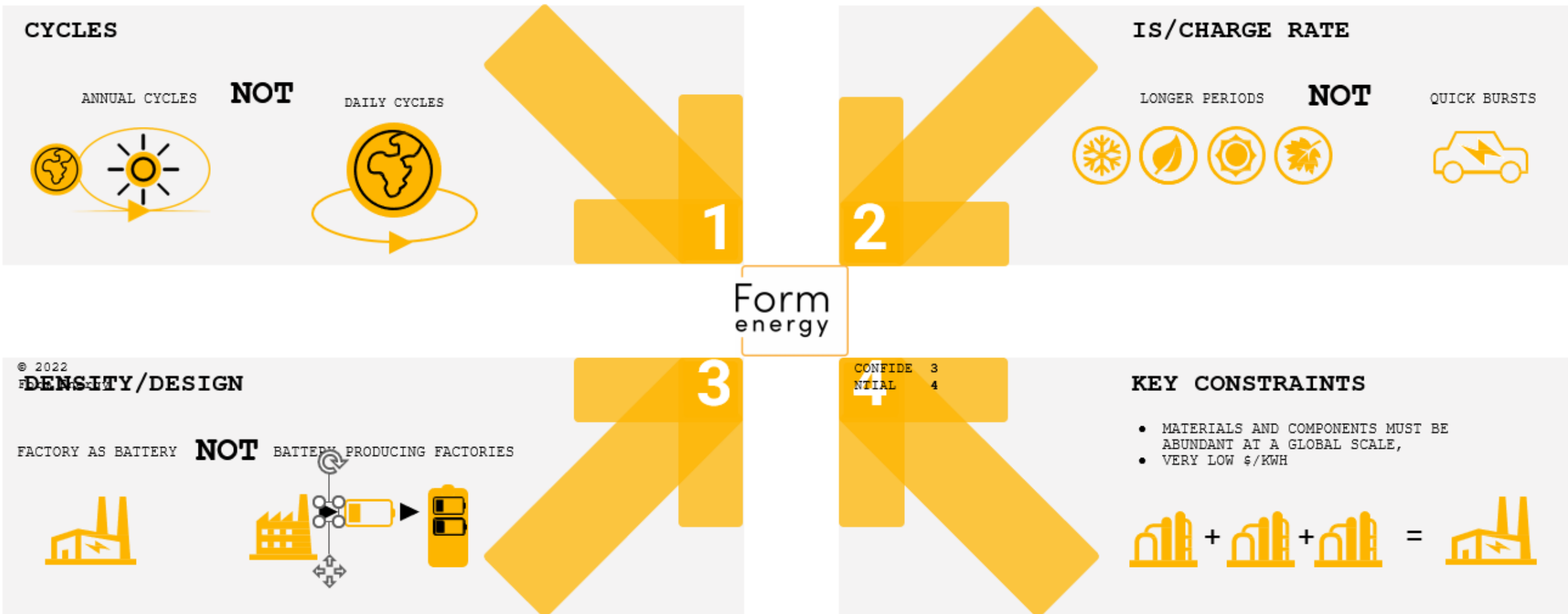
# New storage solutions must be 10x longer duration & 10x cheaper

Form's multi-day storage is uniquely positioned to displace fossil generation

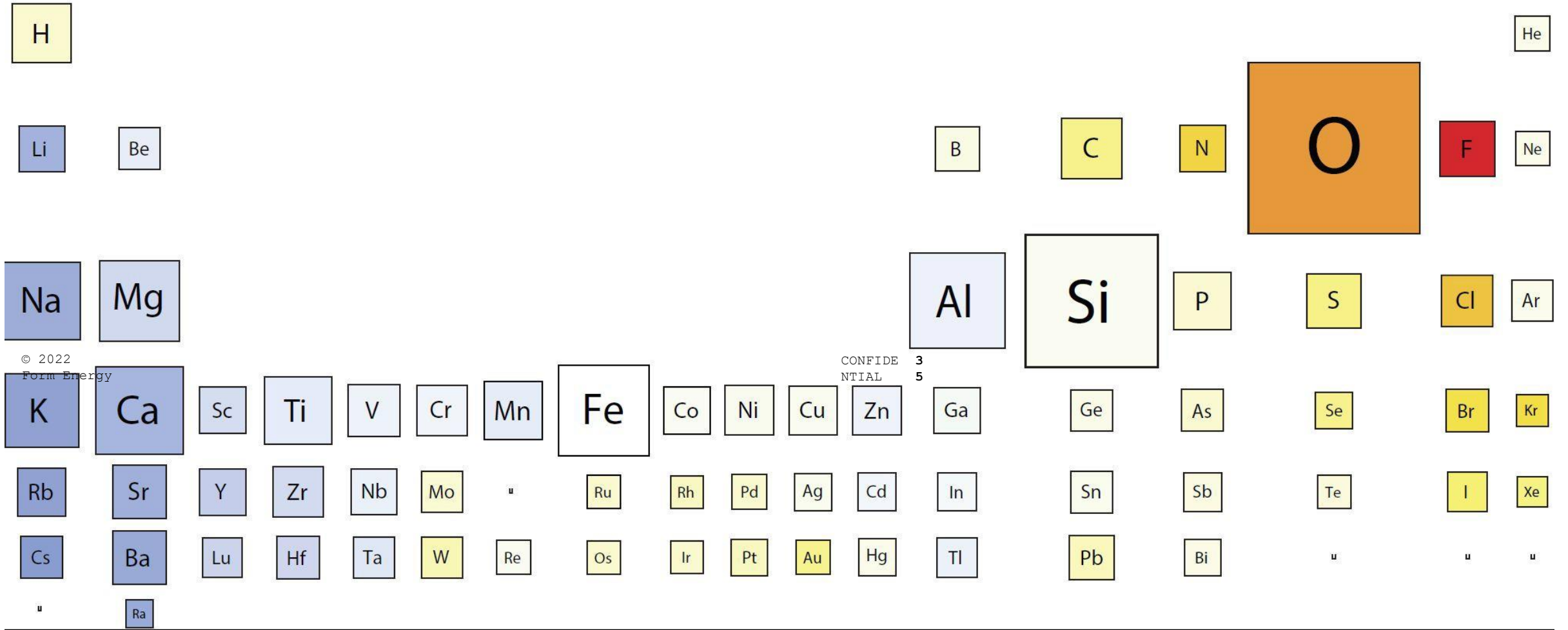


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# But what kind of storage exactly is Form Energy developing?



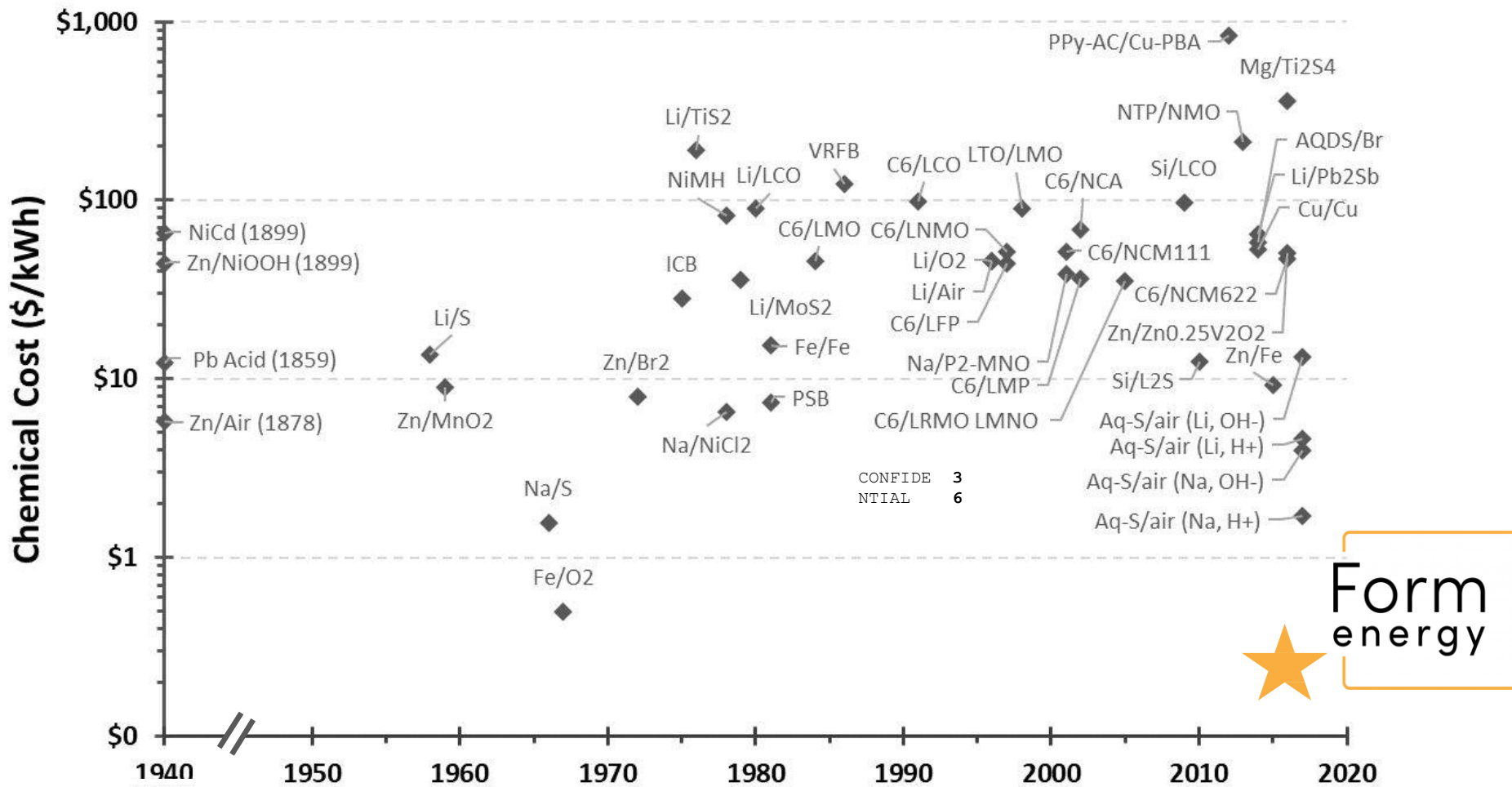
# The Elements (Scaled by log – Crustal Abundance)



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CONFIDENTIAL

# Form's iron-air battery has the lowest-cost entitlement



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[Li et al., Joule, 2017](#)

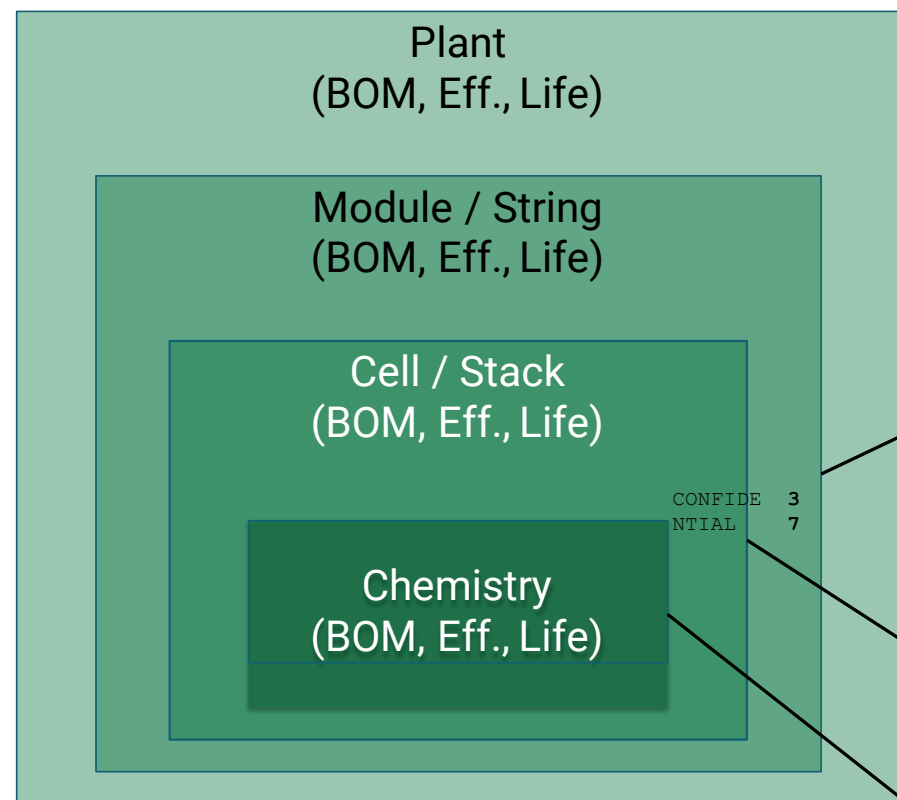
JCESR | JOINT CENTER FOR  
ENERGY STORAGE RESEARCH

Form  
energy



# Techno-economic analysis: cells to plants

Low-cost chemistry is necessary but not sufficient.



- Land
- Works (Electrical, Civil)
- Interconnection
- Development Fee
- End-of-life
- HVAC
- Blowers
- Bus bars
- Safety infrastructure
- Controls
- Mechanical enclosure
- Gas treatment / scrubbing
- Mechanical design
- Air electrode switching
- Air handling
- Current collection
- Anode
- Cathode
- Electrolyte

# Rechargeable iron-air is the best technology for multi-day storage



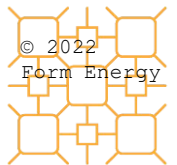
## COST

Lowest cost rechargeable battery chemistry.  
Less than 1/10th the cost of lithium-ion batteries



## SAFETY

Non-flammable aqueous electrolyte. No risk of thermal runaway. No heavy metals.



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## SCALE

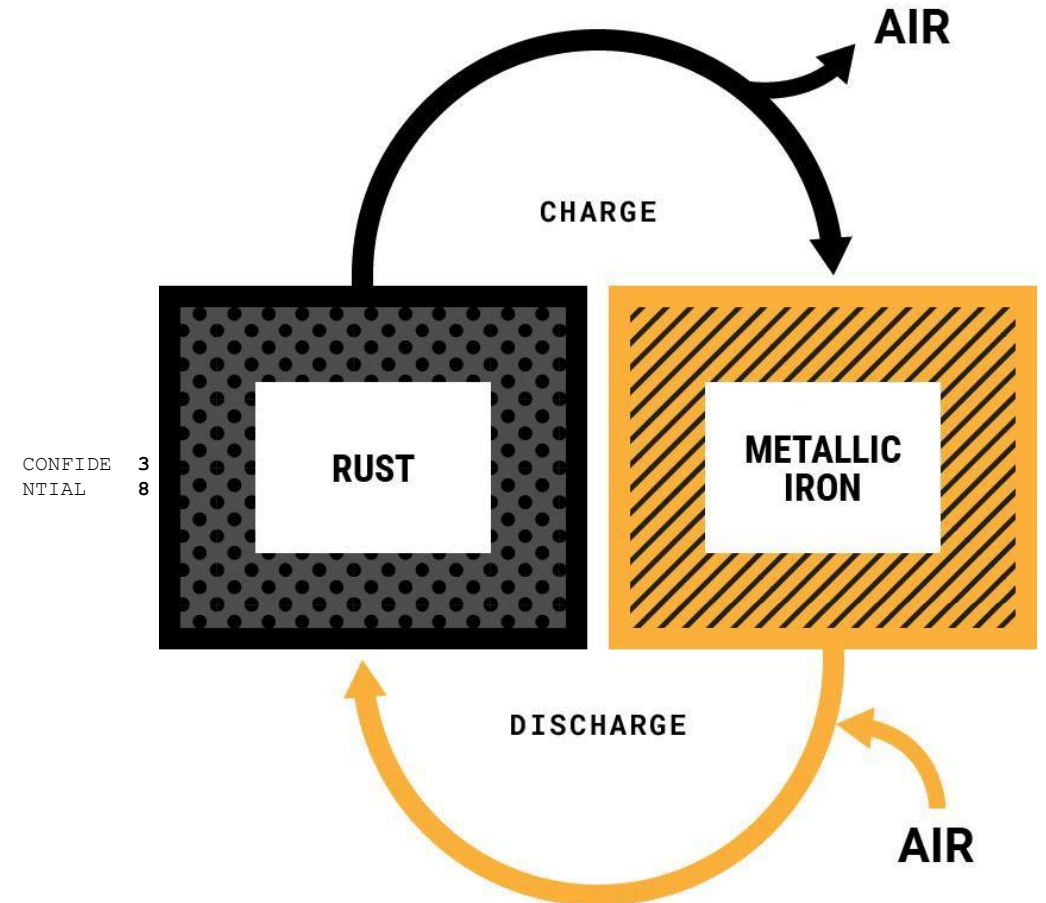
Uses materials available at the global scale needed for a zero carbon economy. High recyclability.



## RELIABLE

100+ hr duration required to make wind, water and solar reliable year round, anywhere in the world.

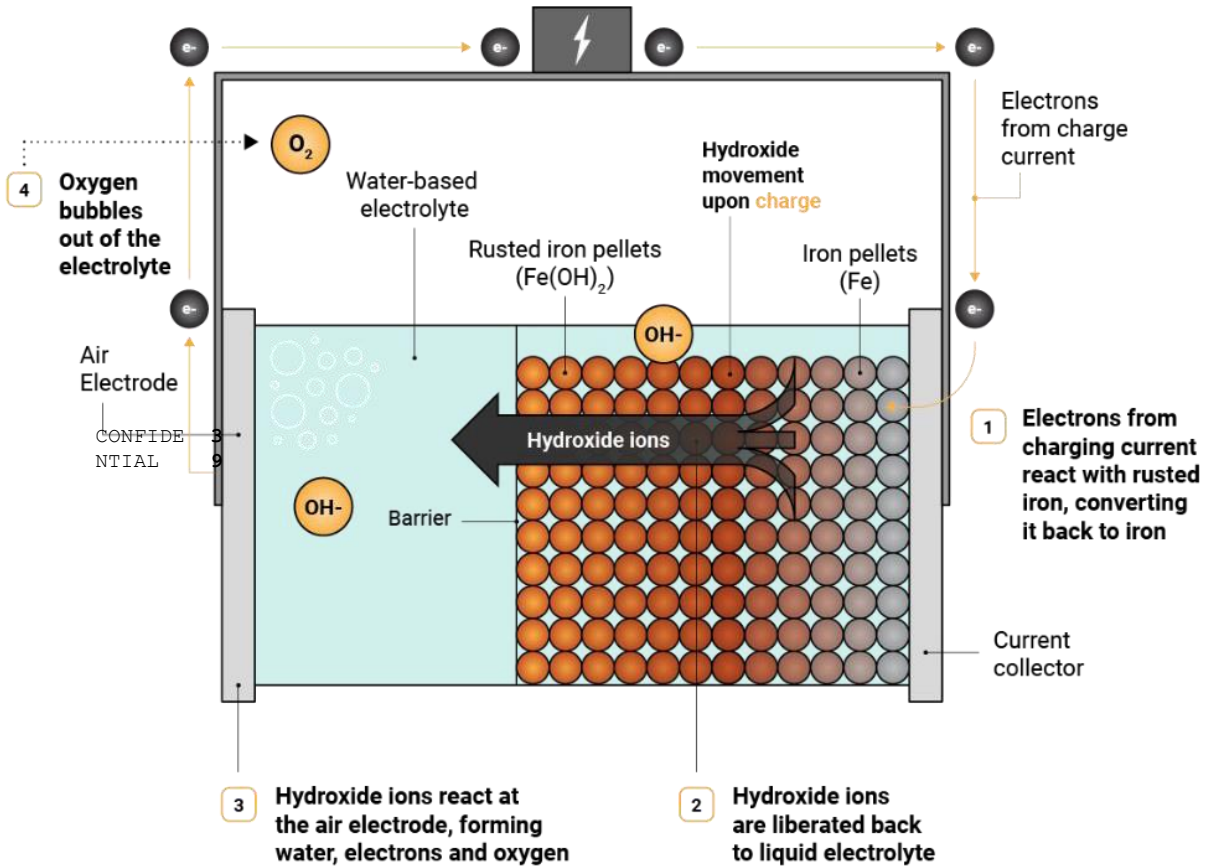
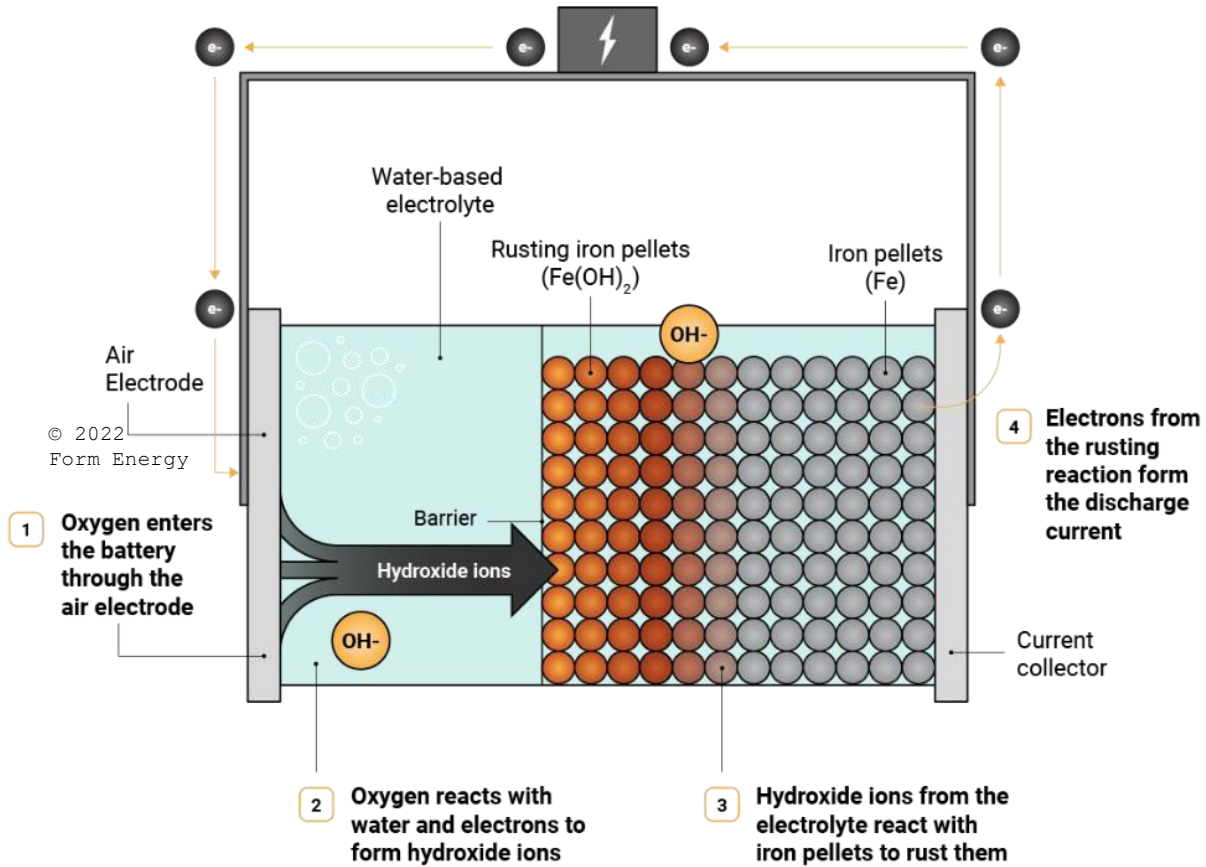
Reversible Rust Battery



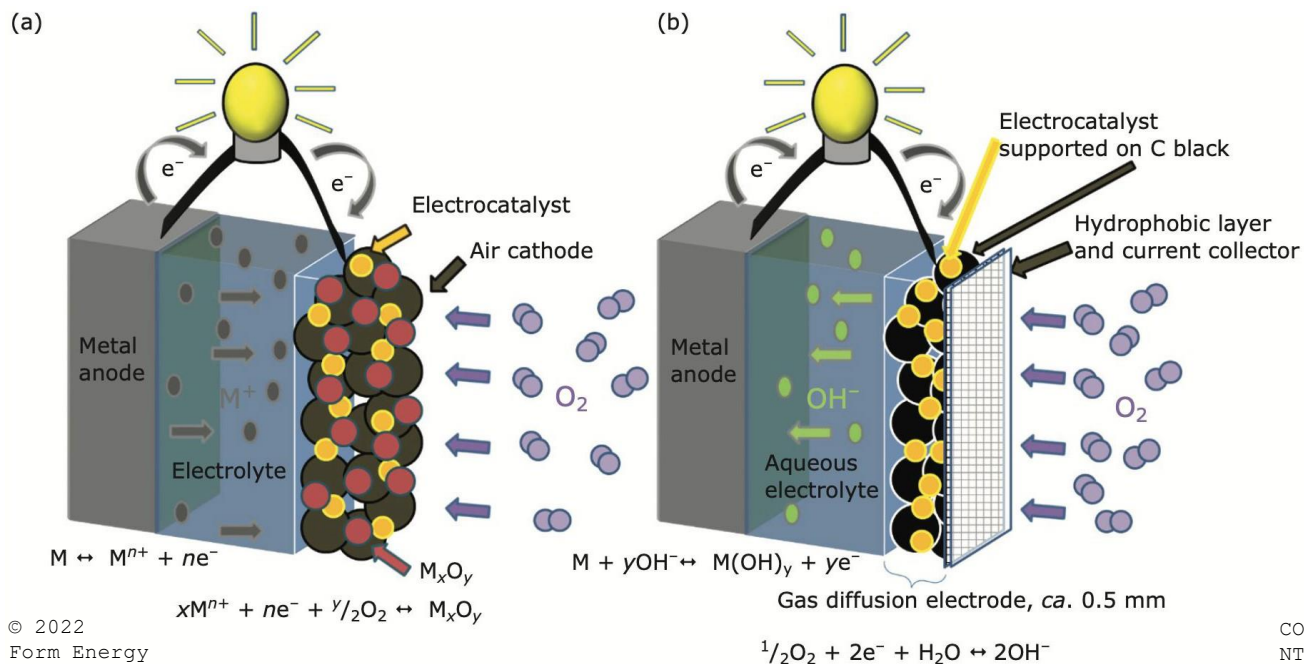
# Iron-air principle of operation: “reversible rust”

Discharge

Charge



# Aqueous inorganic-air batteries



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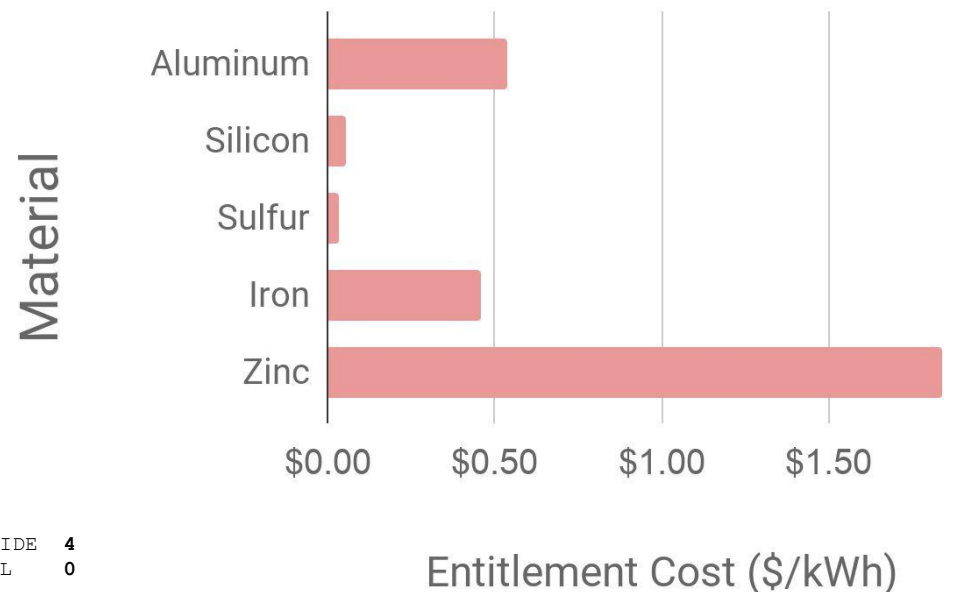
Hardwick and de León, "Rechargeable Multi-Valent Metal-Air Batteries," *Johnson Matthey Technol. Rev.*, 2018, **62**, (2), 134–149

## Advantages

- Low-cost
- Globally available, highly abundant reagents
- Inherent safety

## Challenges

- Round Trip Efficiency
- Air Electrode Lifetime
- Balance of System/Plant



Compare to ~10 \$/kWh for Pb-acid



Fe-chemistries

**Fe-air**

Inorganic  
Air-Breathing



# Thank you!

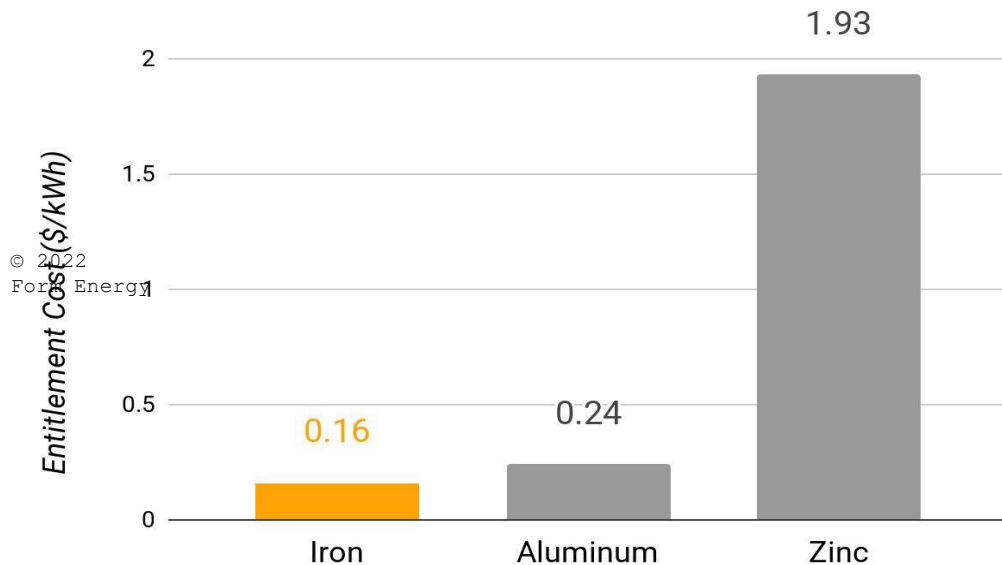
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CONFIDENTIAL 2

# Why not other metals?

## Entitlement cost (Raw materials cost floor)

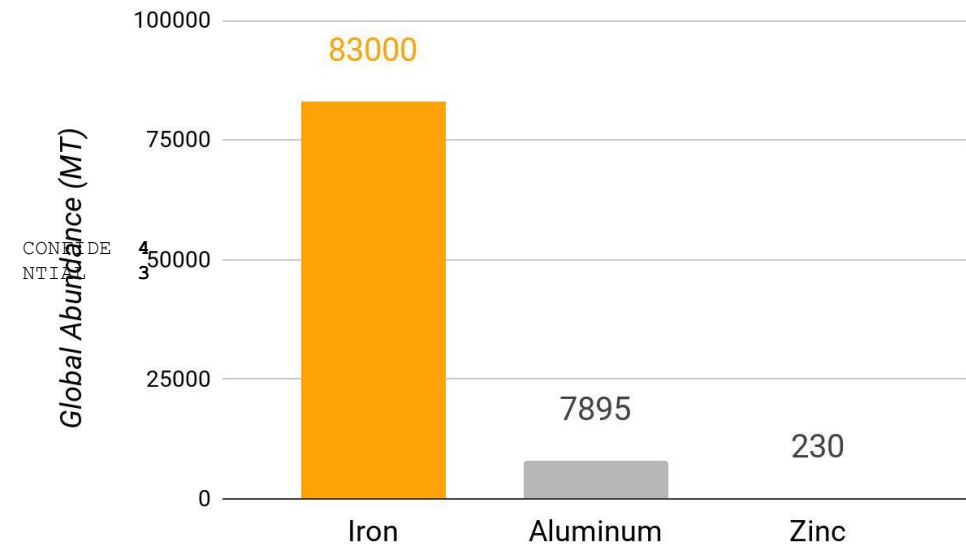
Iron has an advantageous combination of cell voltage, raw metals cost (\$/kg) and specific capacity (Ah/kg) - leading to a low entitlement cost (\$/kWh) for iron-air ESS



Why not aluminum? It's not reversible!

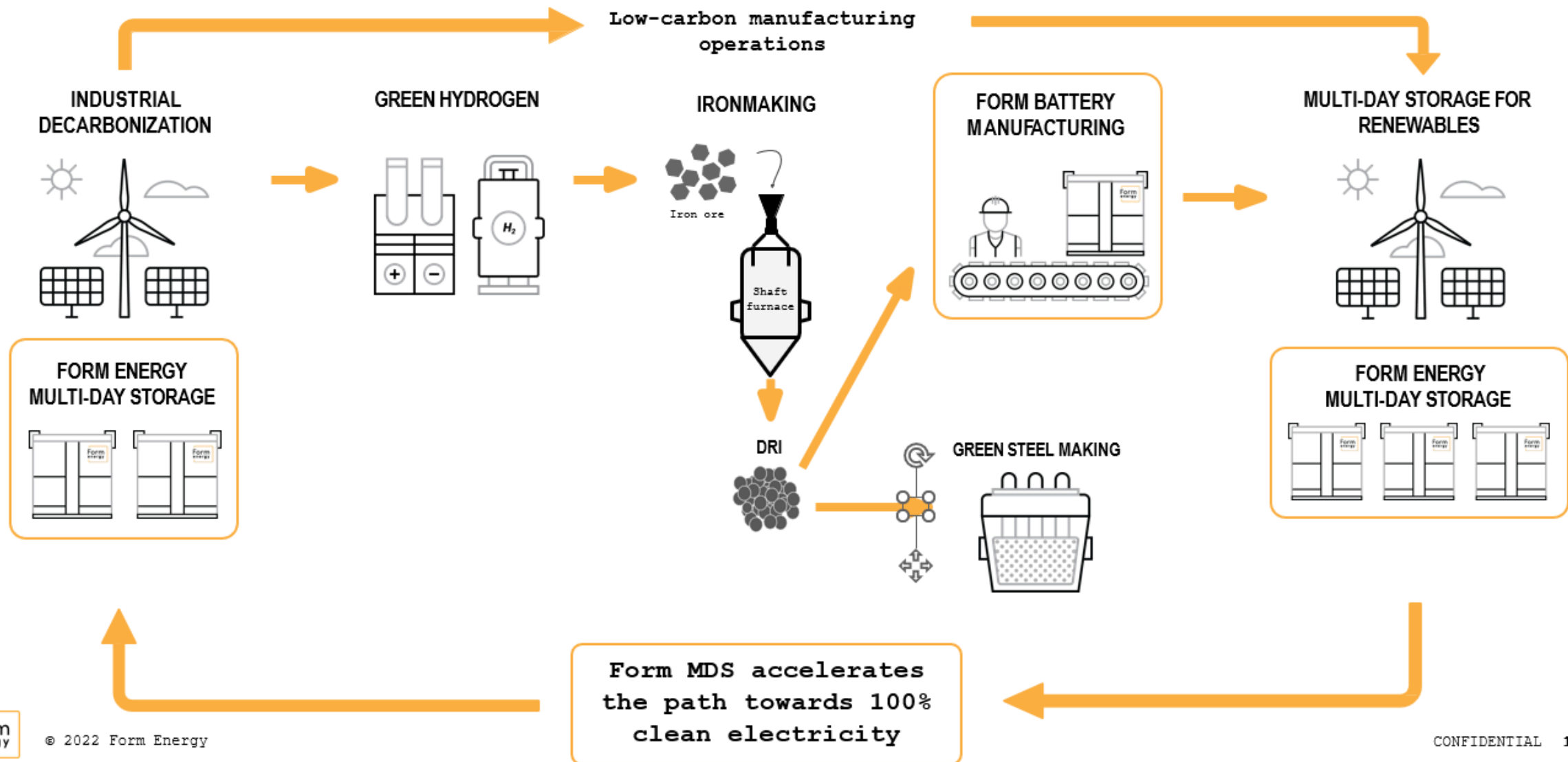
## Proven reserve of material

There is a great deal of iron available globally and it is the 2nd most mined mineral (after coal) - iron-air can meet the TWh-scale demands of a 100% renewable grid



Source: USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries - [Fe, Al, Zn](#)  
USGS defines "reserve" as materials that are discovered, recoverable, and commercial.

# Domestic multi-day storage production spurs innovation, and decarbonization across industries



# Supply Chain Challenges for Energy Storage

Eric Gratz, Ph.D.

September 27, 2022



**ASCEND**  
ELEMENTS

# We were winning...

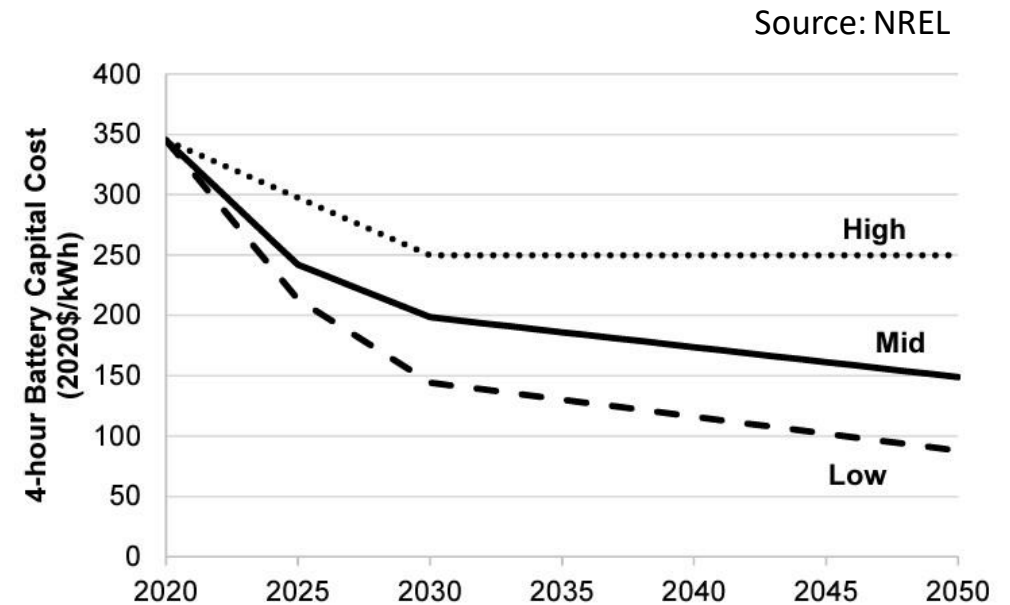
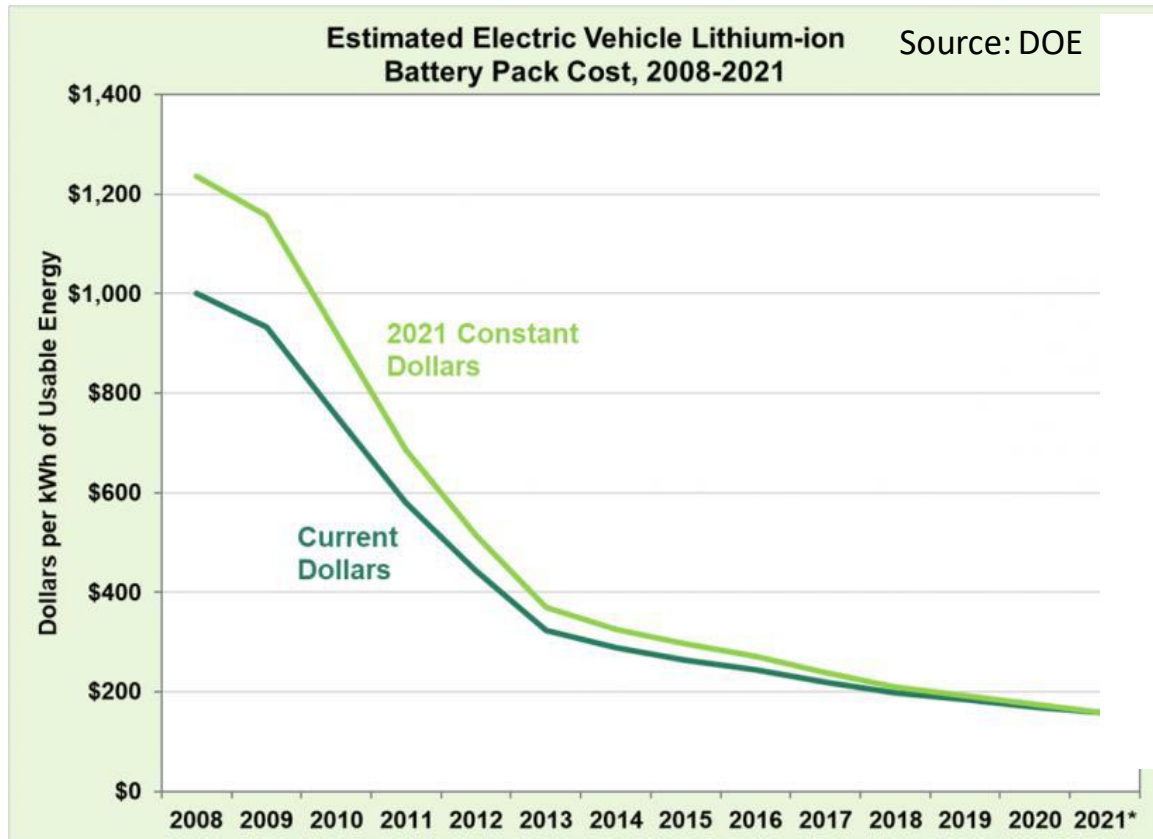


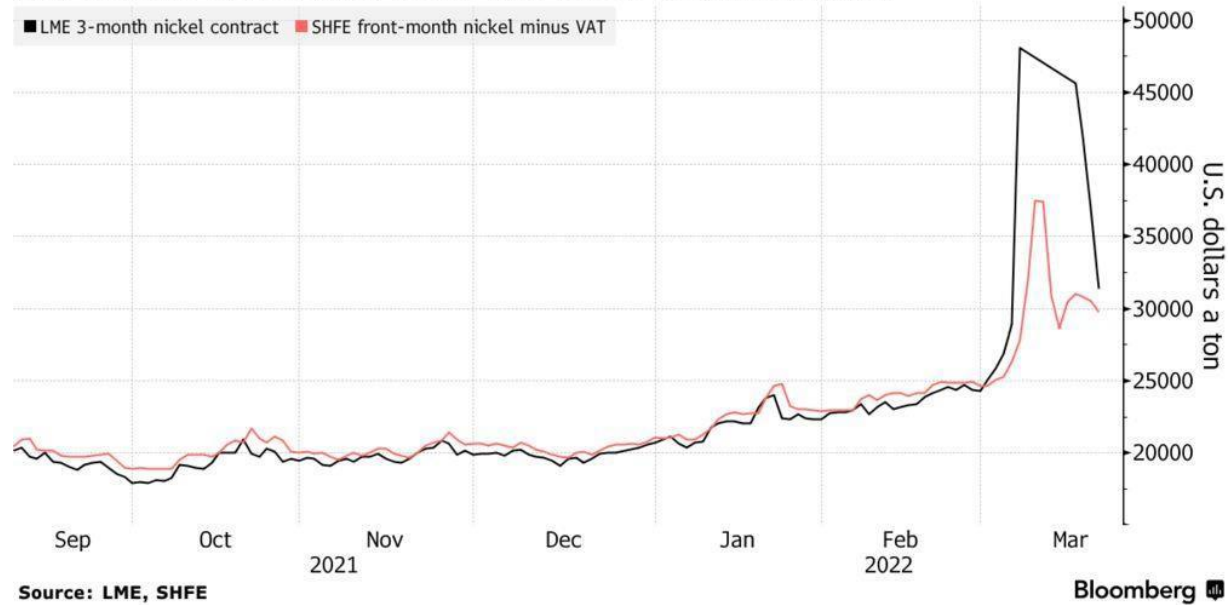
Figure 2. Battery cost projections for 4-hour lithium ion systems.

- With over wins on the way more dense electrodes, dry coating, etc



# Until the supply crunch!!!

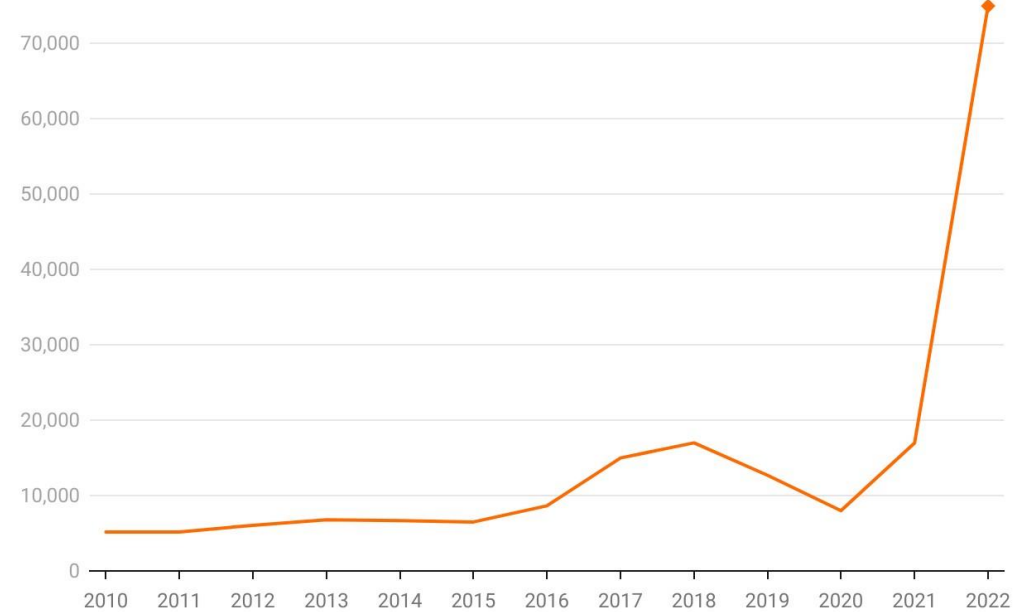
## Closing In LME nickel is approaching parity with prices seen in Shanghai



Source: BNEF

## Lithium prices have spiked sky-high

Price of battery-grade lithium carbonate per metric ton in U.S. dollars  
JSD



Prices for 2010–2021 are annual averages from the U.S. Geological Survey. Price for 2022 is from S&P Global Commodity Insights on May 4, 2022.

Chart: Canary Media • Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Source: USGS

- Raw materials cost have changed the economics

# Why?

Permitting, planning and construction time



Gigafactory = 3-4 years



Mine = 10+ years

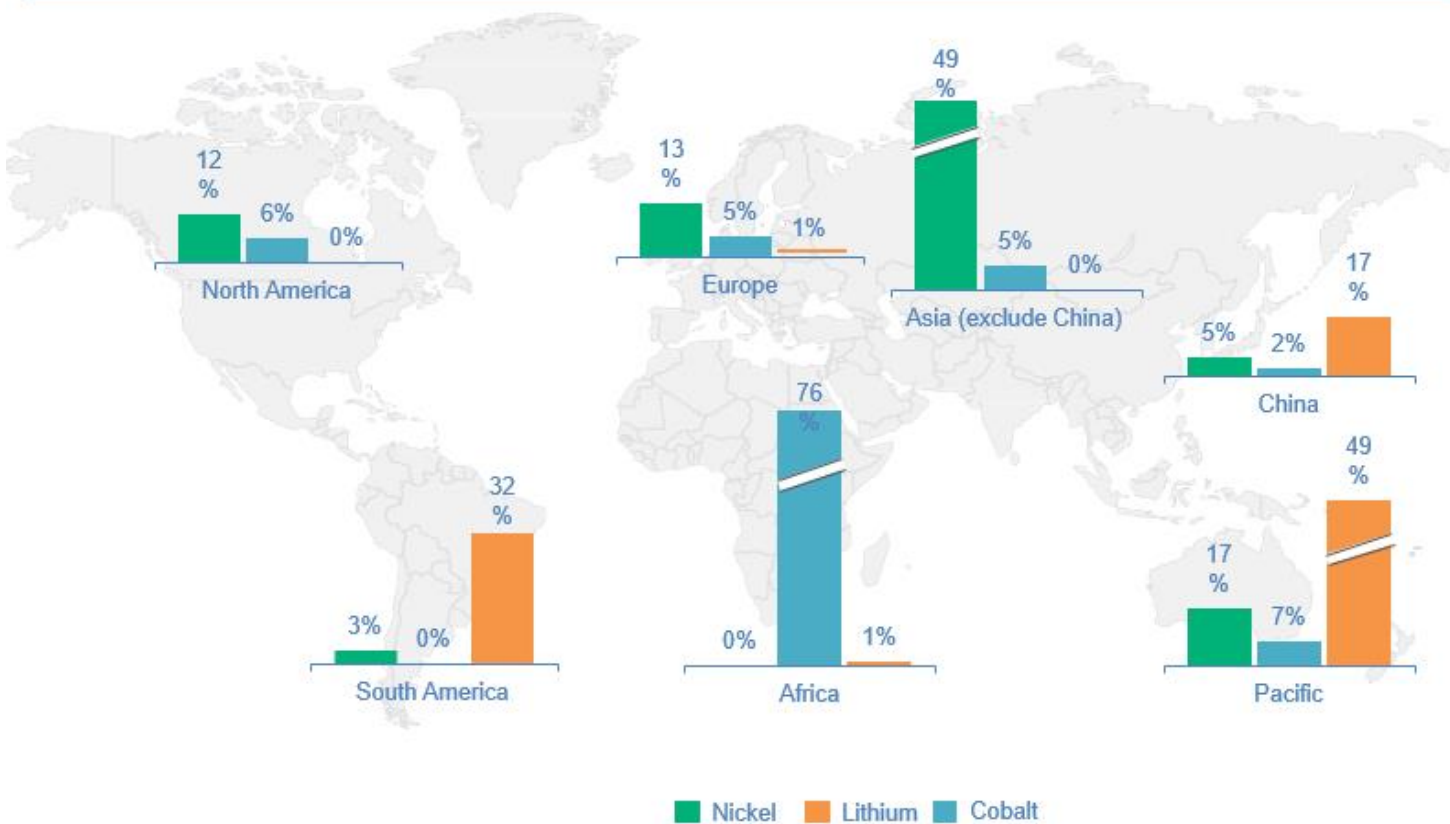
# How to solve this?

Technologies that break the current raw materials paradigm

1. New lithium streams
2. New methods of lithium processing
3. Environmentally friendly materials processing

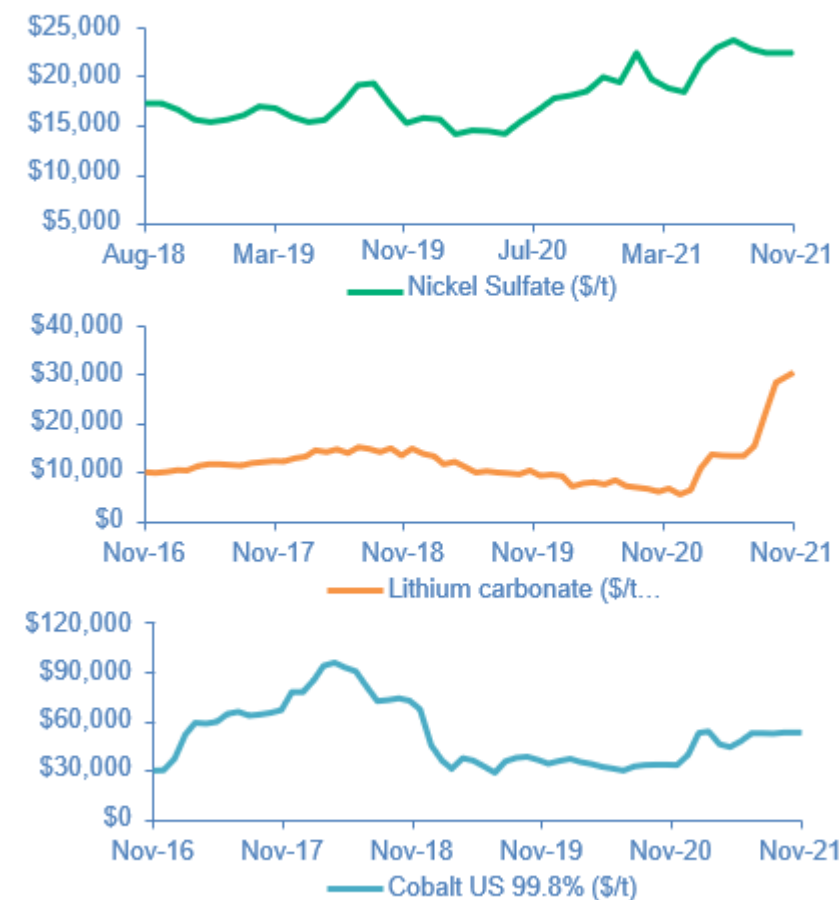
# Battery raw materials in politically risky or less sustainable locations

Virgin raw materials supply, 2020 (% share of global)(a)

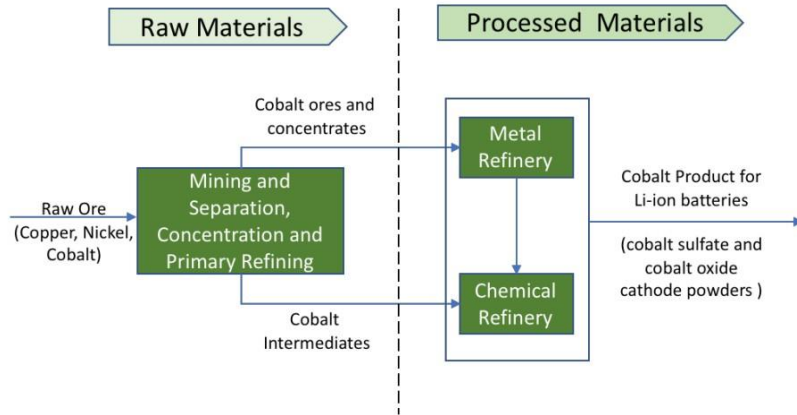


(a) China shown separately. Excludes data of countries either due to small amount or proprietary data  
 Source: United States Geological Survey, Roland Berger, CRU, Broker research

Historical pricing trends

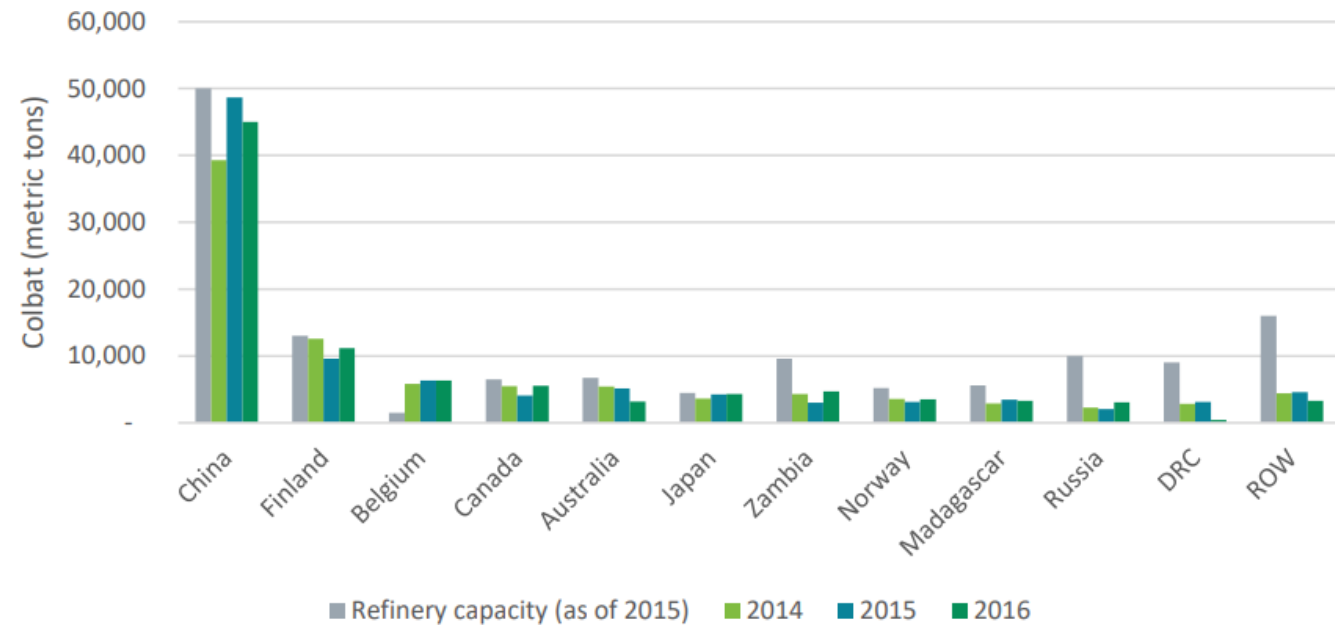


# Battery material refining



Material refining is similar technology to solvent extraction practice on ores

- Market dominated by Chinese players





# EV growth

Figure 1: Lithium-ion battery supply chain rankings, 2020 and expected in 2025

Country	2020 rank	Raw material	Cell & component	Environ.	RII	Demand	2025 rank	Raw material	Cell & component	Environ.	RII	Demand
China	1	1	1	16	11	1	1	1	1	15(▲1)	11	1
Japan	2	12	2	6	7	6	2	8(▲4)	3(▼1)	7(▼1)	7	8(▼2)
S. Korea	3	17	2	9	5	2	8(▼5)	16(▲1)	2	13(▼4)	5	9(▼7)
Canada	4	4	10	4	10	11	5(▼1)	3(▲1)	12(▼2)	4	10	6(▲5)
Germany	4	17	6	12	2	2	6(▼2)	22(▼5)	6	9(▲3)	2	3(▼1)
U.S.	6	15	4	13	6	2	3(▲3)	13(▲2)	3(▲1)	7(▲6)	6	2
U.K.	7	17	6	9	4	6	8(▼1)	17	8(▼2)	10(▼1)	4	4(▲2)
Finland	8	11	13	5	3	13	7(▲1)	10(▲1)	8(▲5)	6(▼1)	3	17(▼4)
France	8	17	13	1	9	5	10(▼2)	17	12(▲1)	1	9	5
Sweden	10	22	13	3	1	8	4(▲6)	17(▲5)	7(▲6)	3	1	7(▲1)
Australia	11	2	13	21	12	8	11	2	12(▲1)	19(▲2)	12	11(▼3)
Brazil	12	3	13	2	24	23	12	7(▼4)	18(▼5)	2	24	15(▲8)
Poland	12	22	5	11	13	14	13(▼1)	22	5	12(▼1)	13	19(▼5)
Hungary	12	22	6	8	14	15	15(▼3)	22	8(▼2)	11(▼3)	14	18(▼3)
Czech Rep.	15	17	10	17	8	17	16(▼1)	17	12(▼2)	17	8	21(▼4)
India	16	9	13	19	18	11	16	13(▼4)	18(▼5)	21(▼2)	18	10(▲1)
Chile	17	6	13	18	16	20	14(▲3)	4(▲2)	12(▲1)	15(▲3)	16	23(▼3)
Vietnam	18	16	6	22	20	10	23(▼5)	17(▼1)	12(▼6)	23(▼1)	20	12(▼2)
S. Africa	19	5	13	23	17	19	20(▼1)	4(▲1)	18(▼5)	19(▲4)	17	22(▼2)
Argentina	20	12	13	6	22	24	16(▲4)	8(▲4)	18(▼5)	5(▲1)	22	25(▼1)
Indonesia	21	7	13	25	21	15	20(▲1)	4(▲3)	18(▼5)	24(▲1)	21	13(▲2)
Mexico	22	12	13	15	19	22	16(▲6)	12	18(▼5)	13(▲2)	19	16(▲6)
Thailand	23	22	10	19	15	17	22(▲1)	22	8(▲2)	21(▼2)	15	20(▼3)
D.R.C.	24	8	13	14	25	24	25(▼1)	10(▼2)	18(▼5)	18(▼4)	25	24
Philippines	25	9	13	24	23	20	24(▲1)	13(▼4)	18(▼5)	25(▼1)	23	14(▲6)

Source: BloombergNEF. Note: "Environ." is environmental. "RII" is regulations, infrastructure and innovation. Red represents countries in the Asia-Pacific region, teal countries in Europe and Africa, and blue countries in the Americas. The symbol represents if country has moved up or down the rankings in comparison to its 2020 score, green represents up and red represents down. The number shows the number of places the country has moved.

# Building out a Li infrastructure

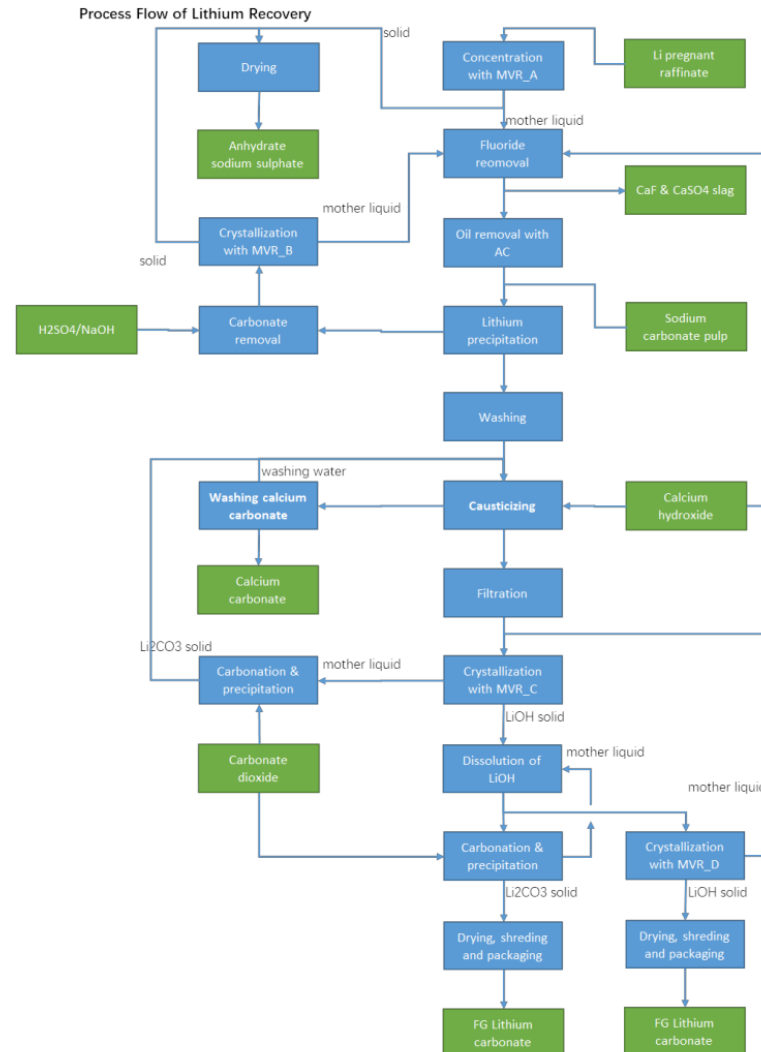
Critically important to:

1. Identify new sources of lithium
2. Develop efficient methods to purify technical and industrial grade lithium to battery grade

**These are two independent things**

# Building out a Li infrastructure

Chinese commercial recycling process for recovery battery grade lithium carbonate after solvent extraction



# Geothermal lithium

## Significant untapped resource

- Permitting time drastically shorter than setting up a “new” lithium mine
- Reduced sodium sulfate output
- Drastically behind Europe, which will have geothermal in mid 2020s
- Skill set of works from fracking



Photo credit: U.S. Dept. of Energy

# Direct lithium extraction

Technology	Lithium recovery %	Maturity	Flexibility	Can handle Na	Permitting risk
Absorbents	80-99.9	Commercial	limited	yes	low
Ion Exchange	80-99.9	Pre-commercial	limited	yes	med
Solvent extraction	>99	Commercial	okay	yes	highest
Membrane separation	>>99	Pre-commercial	Very limited	Only in low concentration	med
Electrochemical separation	>90	Pre-commercial	broadest	yes	lowest



# Environmentally friendly processing

- Technologies that work in Eastern Asia will not work in North America
- Sodium sulfate production levels need to be reduced in both pCAM and lithium recovery



# Cathode is coming, but not precursor

## **Umicore invests \$1.2 in battery materials plant in Ontario**

GM Expands its North America-focused EV Supply Chain with POSCO Chemical in Canada

GM and POSCO Chemical to process cathode active material at new joint venture plant in Quebec

## **BASF to build cathode material plant in Québec**

Tesla applies to build giant new cathode factory for battery production next to 'Gigafactory Texas'

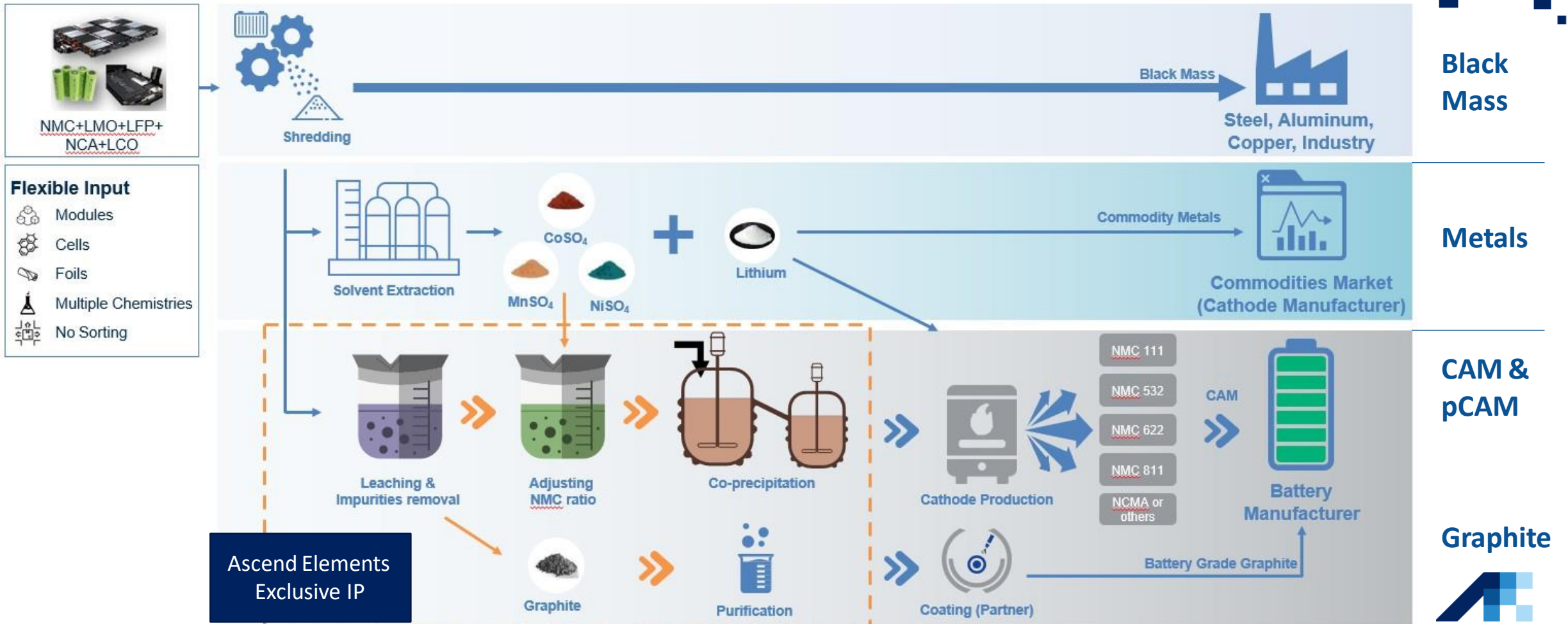
# Why no precursor?

- Permitting
- Environmental risk
- Cost
  
- Sodium sulfate emitted to oceans in east Asia
- Limited locations that allow this in North America.
  - Only a matter of time before this issue is identified by environmental groups.

# Winning CAM technologies

- LFP
- Mid nickel single crystal materials (67% of the current market)
- High Ni core shell and gradient (70% of the current market)
- **Very low cost LFP**
- Single crystal CAM with no sodium sulfate production
  - One pot processes
- Lower cost high Ni technologies that allow gradient or core shell with reduced sodium sulfate

# Hydro-to-Cathode™ direct precursor synthesis process





# Recycling as a solution

- Ascend Elements' technology enables EV batteries to be leveraged as a raw material source for energy storage batteries
- Hydro-to-Cathode™ process produces pCAM with 3.5x lower sodium sulfate versus traditional solvent extraction to pCAM synthesis



# Recycled cathode materials enabled superior performance

- Recycling plays a significant role in alleviating shortage of raw materials and environmental problems.
- However, recycled materials are deemed inferior to commercial materials, preventing the industry from adopting recycled materials in new batteries.
- In a recent study, our upcycled cathode cell exhibited over 50% longer cycle life than the traditional cathode cell, and its power capability was increased by 88%.



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN



Lithium-ion batteries are at the heart of nearly every electric vehicle, laptop and smartphone, and they are essential to storing renewable energy in the face of the climate emergency. But all of the world's current mining operations cannot extract enough lithium and other key materials to meet the soaring demand for these batteries. [Environmental News Service](#)



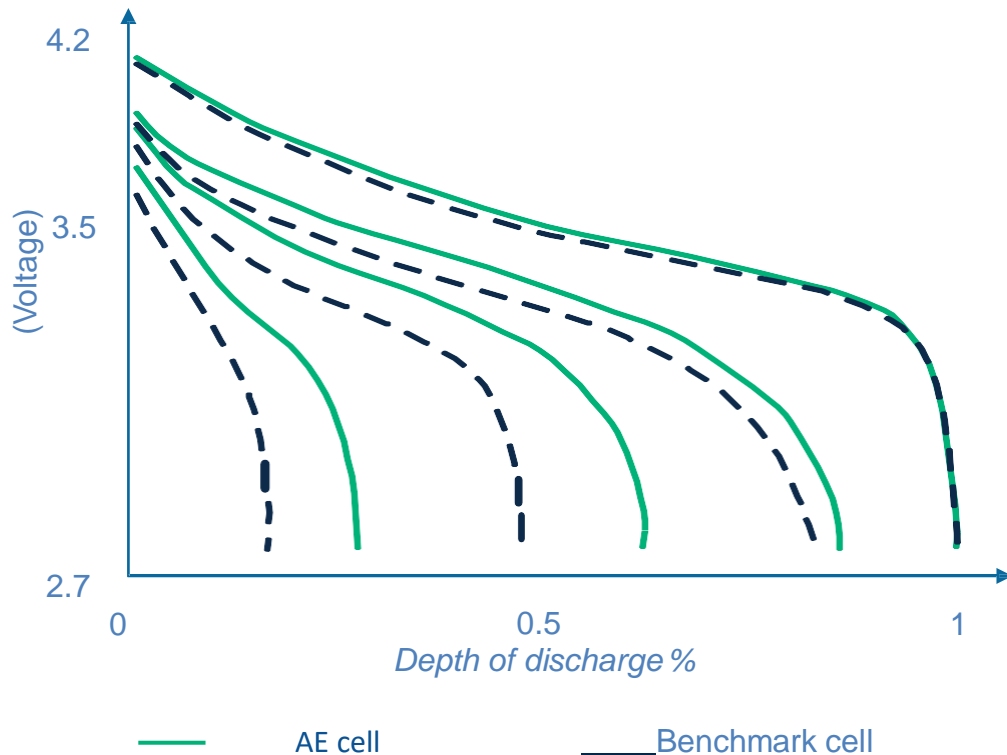
Daily Mail  
**Scientists invent method to recycle environmentally-damaging lithium-ion batteries used in electric cars that sees the cells crushed into 'black dust' before being separated into valuable component metals**

- Ascend Elements, in Westborough, Massachusetts, created the new process
- It shreds used batteries from phones and cars and extracts raw materials
- The process further purifies the metals 'atom-by-atom' and creates a cathode
- These cathodes can then be used by EV manufacturers to create new batteries

# Performance improvements over virgin materials

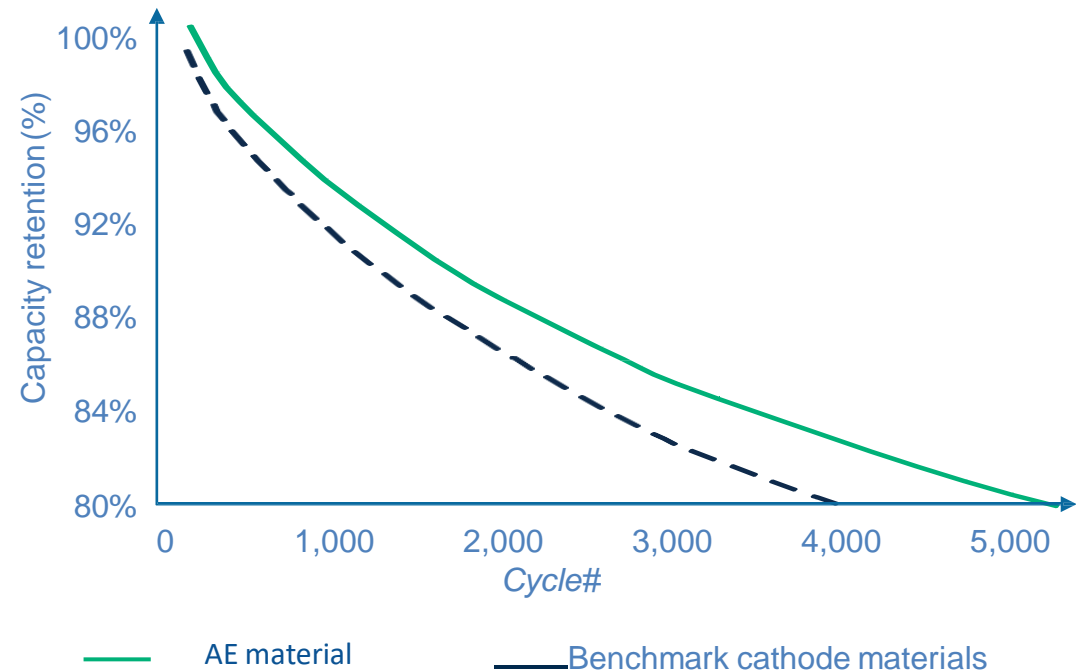
## Cells performance

Cells made from our materials yield higher charge capacities than benchmark cells



## Cathode performance

Cathodes made from our materials reach up to 20% cycle life enhancement compared to leading commercial cathode materials



(a) c-rate is the current through the battery divided by the theoretical current draw under nominal rated capacity in one hour  
Source: Company information, Joule



# Apex 1 Facility (Hopkinsville, Kentucky)



Transforming black mass into high value materials via Hydro-to-Cathode™ direct precursor synthesis

Material for 250,000 EVs per year



<b>Apex 1 facility</b>
Up to <b>\$1B</b> investment
Up to <b>400</b> high-quality jobs
Operational in <b>Q4 2023</b>

# North American Operations

## Novi, MI – Cathode Sintering and Battery Lab

- ⚙️ Cathode NMC production
- ⚙️ Output: NMC cathode = 12,000kg/year
- ★ Operational
- 🏠 6,300 sq ft



## Westborough, MA – HQ and Cathode Precursor

- ⚙️ NMC precursor production
- ⚙️ Output: NMC cathode precursor = 12,000kg/year
- ★ Operational
- 🏠 16,000 sq ft



## Covington, GA – Base 1 Commercial-scale Recycling

- ⚙️ Shredding and metal extraction
- ⚙️ Intake: 30,000 tonnes/year
- ⚙️ - Output: Black mass = 15,000 tonnes/year
- ⚙️ - Output: Metals (Li, Ni, Co) = 1,200 tonnes/year
- ★ Operational Q4 2022
- 🏠 154,000 sq ft



## Hopkinsville, KY – Apex 1 Battery Material Plant

- ⚙️ Active material, precursor and metal extraction
- ⚙️ - Output: Metals (Li, Ni, Co) = 20,000 tonnes/year
- ⚙️ - Output: pCAM and CAM = 20,000 tonnes/year
- ⚙️ - Output: Graphite = 10,000 tonnes/yr.
- ★ Operational 2023
- 🏠 500,000 sq ft

