**"Mainstreaming" batteries:** How to identify most competitive technologies and ensure profitable deployment

**Dr Oliver Schmidt** Imperial College London

o.schmidt15@imperial.ac.uk in .com/in/oliver-schmidt

Energy Transition Summit September 26, 2024 Dublin

## The electricity sector is transforming rapidly

#### What is already happening:



#### Global capacity additions

#### What will be needed:



Electricity generation from low-carbon sources



#### **Ireland is among the leaders of this transformation!**

#### What is already happening:

Annual capacity additions



#### What is likely to happen:

Electricity generation from low-carbon sources



## There are many concepts and technologies for storing energy



## Lifetime cost is *the* metric for comparing these technologies



#### **Example: For peak capacity, flow batteries beat lithium-ion**

Peak capacity: 10 MW capacity, 300 cycles per year x 4 hours per cycle



#### The competitiveness of technologies will change over time



## There are dominant technologies for different requirements



## Circles denote typical power system applications:

- (ST) Inter-seasonal storage
- (RL) Power reliability
- (TD) Transmission & distribution investment deferral
- (RE) Renewables integration
- (SC) Increasing self-consumption
- (PC) Peaking capacity
- (EA) Energy arbitrage
- (BS) Black start
- (DR) Demand charge reduction
- (CM) Congestion management
- (FS) Frequency response (ramping / inertia)
- (FG) Frequency regulation (power quality)
- (HC) High cycle

Source: Graph generated on www.EnergyStorage.ninja

## There are dominant technologies for different requirements



## Circles denote typical power system applications:

- (ST) Inter-seasonal storage
- (RL) Power reliability
- (TD) Transmission & distribution investment deferral
- (RE) Renewables integration
- (SC) Increasing self-consumption
- (PC) Peaking capacity
- (EA) Energy arbitrage
- (BS) Black start
- (DR) Demand charge reduction
- (CM) Congestion management
- (FS) Frequency response (ramping / inertia)
- (FG) Frequency regulation (power quality)
- (HC) High cycle

Source: Graph generated on www.EnergyStorage.ninja

## There are dominant technologies for different requirements



# Circles denote typical power system applications:

- (ST) Inter-seasonal storage
- (RL) Power reliability
- (TD) Transmission & distribution investment deferral
- (RE) Renewables integration
- (SC) Increasing self-consumption
- (PC) Peaking capacity
- (EA) Energy arbitrage
- (BS) Black start
- (DR) Demand charge reduction
- (CM) Congestion management
- (FS) Frequency response (ramping / inertia)
- (FG) Frequency regulation (power quality)
- (HC) High cycle

Source: Graph generated on www.EnergyStorage.ninja

## Like with technologies, there is a wide range of applications



## Key applications in Ireland are DS3, energy trading and CRU



# Frequency response can be provided at a cost of ~50 £/kW/yr



#### But, frequency response revenues have fallen below that





## FFR in Ireland is saturated as well – expect <60 €/kW/year



FFR contracted volumes (MW) – DS3 Volume uncapped



"The TSS scalars should be **reduced** from October 2024. [...] option to **close** the procurement of FFR-TOR2."

September 11, 2024

FFR bids – DS3 Volume capped

*"Batteries in Ireland to provide"* frequency response for less than 60 €/kW per year" DS3 Volume Capped procurement in 2019 *"The aim of System Services"* Future Arrangements (SSFA) is to *introduce daily competitive* auctions for system services"

*Electricity Storage Policy* Framework for Ireland 2024

## Power price trading can be provided at ~160 £/kW/yr



#### But, this is not yet profitable, even at longer durations



#### Increasing discharge duration beyond 8 hours adds no value



(a) Profit (USD/kW-year)



Based on day-ahead wholesale prices from 2012-19 in various markets

Source: Monetizing Energy Storage (2023)

## Trading profits in Ireland in 2023 were even lower than in GB



## **Trading profits in Ireland diminish less with longer duration**





Wholesale trading profits – relative to **annual cycles** 



#### 90% of the value can be captured trading 25% of the year



Note: Based on day-ahead wholesale prices from 2012-19 in various markets

#### Therefore, multiple revenue streams must be combined



## In GB, complex revenue stacking is the reality

#### Annualized revenues of battery assets in Q4/2023 by market and duration



Source: Matt Middleton (Modo Energy, 2024)

# All the insights and tools shown here are available in this book and website

"Essential for me as an investor to navigate this complex, fastpaced energy storage industry."

Gerard Reid, Alexa Capital

User-friendly tools for custom analyses: www.EnergyStorage.ninja

"The go-to resource... exemplary in terms of academic rigour set in a real world context."

Jim Skea, Chair of the IPCC

OXFORD

#### MONETIZING ENERGY STORAGE

Available open access

a toolkit to assess future cost and value

OLIVER SCHMIDT 

IAIN STAFFELL

🔩 Energy Storage Ninja 🗵 ☆ Pro Login Value Analysis Models Home umulative cashflow iscounted cumulative About Charging Value Analysis Dischargin Peak domand - 1 Annual domand -**Project Economics** 04-Jan 11-Jan 18-Jan 25-Ja Arbitrage Project Economics Arbitrage System Value System Need System Value **Cost Analysis Models** Cost Analysis Peak capacity Lifetime Cost End-of-85 \$2.12 Hataric data
 Heteracce year
 Departence tate
 Departence tate Charging \$58.73 C6M \$6.19 Competitiveness Investmer \$109.47 Landscape **Investment** Cost Lifetime Cost Tech Competitiveness Competitive Landscape Investment Cost

#### This highlights the need for storage to optimize volatility



Revenues are driven by volatility, so instead of acting only in one market, revenues are maximized by 'skimming volatility cream' of multiple markets.

#### But, 1 GW of storage already reduces abitrage profits by 20%

#### Day-ahead wholesale power market



## Arbitrage profits in Australia are also most consistent





- Revenues in wholesale power trading in Europe were driven by gas price crises in 2021-2023 – generally significantly lower
- Revenues in mainland Australia (e.g., SA, VIC) are consistently high due to
  - High wind and solar penetration
  - High solar irradiation
  - Power network constraints
  - (Realtime spot market)

#### **Option 1: Sequential stacking**



#### **Option 2: Sequential stacking in opposite directions**



#### **Option 3: Parallel stacking**





#### Falling cost is driving the uptake of lithium ion

#### Lithium-ion battery packs (\$/kWh)



#### Similar to how the uptake of solar PV was driven

#### Lithium-ion battery packs (\$/kWh)



#### But, most storage technologies experience cost reductions

