

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Flywheel energy storage creepage distance



Overview

Flywheel energy storage (FES) works by accelerating a rotor (flywheel) to a very high speed and maintaining the energy in the system as rotational energy. When energy is extracted from the system, the flywheel's rotational speed is reduced as a consequence of the principle of conservation of energy; adding energy to the system correspondingly results in an increase in the speed of it. Main componentsA typical system consists of a flywheel supported by a bearing connected to a motor-generator. The flywheel and sometimes motor-generator may be enclosed in a vacuum chamber to reduce friction.

Compared with other ways to store electricity, FES systems have long lifetimes (lasting decades with little or no maintenance; full-cycle lifetimes quoted for flywheels range from in excess of 10,000, up to 100,000, cycles).

In the 1950s, flywheel-powered buses, known as *flywheel buses*, were used in the United Kingdom and the United States and there is ongoing research to make flywheel systems that are smaller, lighter, cheaper and have longer lifetimes.

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