Joule Hive

Replacing fire with renewable heat.

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Problem: renewable energy is creating many hours of low value electricity, rising curtailment





Prediction Source: NREL reality Source: CAISO

Significant zero-carbon energy is wasted today, and will increase without affordable storage technology

Solution: use low-value electricity to run gas turbines, via Electrically-heated Thermal Energy Storage (E-TES)

- E-TES converts low-value electricity into heat, stores for later use.
- Attached to a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) where fuel is normally used.
- When prices are low: Charge the E-TES.
- When prices are high: Produce electricity using heat stored in E-TES.
- If E-TES is empty, use fuel source.

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From plant perspective: E-TES is a *fuel option*

From grid perspective: CCGT + E-TES is a *battery*

E-TES for gas turbines requires innovation

mature, but too cold (700-800°C)

Residential heat

Commercial heat

Industrial steam

Need a heating approach for E-TES that solves the shortcomings of existing heater options

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• A stack of **electrically conductive** honeycomb firebricks in a steel vessel

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- Charge up to 2000°C via 100% efficient joule-heating
- Discharge via convection with an air/gas stream, creating hot gas
- Solves heater limitations using novel patent materials and brickwork designs

Joule Hive can match temperature of many applications

• 100-1000 MWh storage

- 1 MWh/m³ density
- Day-night or weekly cycling
- <2%/day Heat leakage
- 1-10 kPa pressure loss
- \$10-\$30/kWh cost

Constant heat

- Steam systems (<500°C): chemicals, pulp, paper, food, others
- Gas systems (500-1600°C): glass, ceramics, cement, steel, others

Cheap electrical storage

- Steam power plants (35-45%)
- Gas turbine combined cycles (55-65%)
- Advanced solar/nuclear (65-75%)

Joule Hive + CCGT is lowest cost of energy storage: low capital cost, moderate efficiency

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- Li-ion storage is \$200-350/kWh → Batteries dominate cost
- Joule Hive **\$10/kWh** → negligible cost
- Buying a full power plant is a better value than Li-ion batteries

LESSON: Efficiency isn't everything. Cost-effectiveness is.

2019 Case study in Southern California using electricity and natural gas price data

- Operated on "Day-ahead market" data
- Charge E-TES if elec. price < gas price
- Produce electricity if elec. price > gas price/η
- Use E-TES instead of fuel whenever available
- Results: 5 hr charge, 5 hr discharge:
- 10% of the time elec. price < gas price
- 12% reduction in fuel usage
- 7 year payback period*

Status and looking forward

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Joule Hive is being developed by Electrified Thermal Solutions, Inc. with \$1.1M non-dilutive and in-kind funding

- Year 1: Materials refining and production (bottom right)
- Year 2: Lab-scale prototyping and follow-on funding

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We need help hooking up to gas turbines:

- Easy access: recuperated turbines and silo combustors (bottom)
- Need to design inlets for higher temperatures

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