

The EU's industrial policy on batteries

Flow Batteries Europe Position Paper

At a glance

In June 2023 the European Court of Auditors published the report titled "The EU's Industrial Policy on Batteries - New Strategic Impetus Needed." Although the document focuses on the action plan of Sustainable Mobility for Europe, we want to emphasise that **an updated comprehensive strategy for the battery value chain should include batteries used for energy storage.**

Key metrics

14 times

Driven by the electrification of transport the global demand for batteries is projected to surge 14 times by 2030.

87% and 68%

87% of lithium the EU imports come from Australia and 68% of cobalt from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The lithium-ion battery cells should be used only in those applications where weight and energy density are critical.

3%

Only 3% of funding for battery research initiatives under the Horizon 2020 framework was allocated to flow batteries.

CHALLENGES

Global demand for batteries is expected to surge in the coming years and the EU still heavily depends on imports of raw materials for production of batteries. According to the JRC, while the EU is making swift strides in the li-ion battery value chain, the progress has been too slow in the realm of stationary battery technologies that are based on abundant raw materials, such as flow batteries. **If the current funding trends do not shift, the EU risks on missing out being competitive in the field of stationary battery market.**

SOLUTIONS

Flow batteries offer a sustainable answer to this pressing challenge. They use abundant raw materials, have low investment costs, and have a rapid manufacturing time. Their scalability features mean that they can be easily expanded to meet changing energy storage needs. Additionally, flow batteries have a longer lifespan compared to other battery technologies, making them a more durable and reliable option for long-term energy storage.



Use of abundant raw materials



Low investment costs



Durable and reliable for LDES

PRIORITIES

1

Diversify energy storage technologies

Recognise the crucial role of flow batteries in alleviating any dependency, as part of an energy storage diversification strategy which will facilitate both a sustainable transition and security of energy supply.

2

Increase funding for flow batteries

Support R&I of flow batteries in its critical areas, e.g. LCA comparative studies, efficient recycling technologies, low-cost membranes, optimized electrodes.

3

Support manufacturing of flow batteries in Europe

Encourage public-private partnerships and allocate resources for the establishment of lighthouse projects and manufacturing facilities.



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