

# Profit analysis of smart energy storage and new energy

How do business models of energy storage work?

Building upon both strands of work, we propose to characterize business models of energy storage as the combination of an application of storage with the revenue stream earned from the operation and the market role of the investor.

Is energy storage a profitable business model?

Although academic analysis finds that business models for energy storage are largely unprofitable, annual deployment of storage capacity is globally on the rise (IEA,2020). One reason may be generous subsidy support and non-financial drivers like a first-mover advantage (Wood Mackenzie,2019).

How can energy storage be profitable?

Where a profitable application of energy storage requires saving of costs or deferral of investments, direct mechanisms, such as subsidies and rebates, will be effective. For applications dependent on price arbitrage, the existence and access to variable market prices are essential.

How do I evaluate potential revenue streams from energy storage assets?

Evaluating potential revenue streams from flexible assets, such as energy storage systems, is not simple. Investors need to consider the various value pools available to a storage asset, including wholesale, grid services, and capacity markets, as well as the inherent volatility of the prices of each (see sidebar, "Glossary").

Do investors underestimate the value of energy storage?

While energy storage is already being deployed to support grids across major power markets, new McKinsey analysis suggests investors often underestimate the value of energy storage in their business cases.

What is a energy storage revenue stream?

The revenue stream describes the type of income a storage facility can generate from its operation. Table 1 provides a list and description of eight distinct applications derived from previous reviews on potential applications for energy storage (Castillo and Gayme,2014; Kousksou et al.,2014; Palizban and Kauhaniemi,2016).



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