San jos 233 flow battery technology

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The Bay Area startup aims to revolutionize the electrical energy sector by accelerating how wind and solar energy are stored. The company"s battery is the secret ingredient.

These batteries use nickel hydrogen. The technology"s been around for nearly 50 years, primarily in the space industry. It has stored and provided solar power to everything from satellites, the Hubble telescope, even the International Space Station.

A few years ago, the founder of EnerVenue Yi Cui, who leads a research lab at Stanford University, took a fresh look at the technology. He discovered a clever way to make these batteries dramatically cheaper.

As for the EnerVenue technology, the battery or vessel were tested for fire safety hazards associated with propagating thermal runaway within battery systems. This standard test is called the UL 9540A.

As in space, the batteries can operate in harsh conditions, with little or no maintenance. The company says there"s no need for extra air conditioning or a fire suppression system.

"It has a life cycle of 30,000 cycles that would mean charging the battery and discharging it three times a day for 30 years in practical terms that"s a forever battery," he said.

As for Heinemann, he said if he"s on his bike, it"s where he gets his best ideas. For years, he was looking for a battery that would compete with lithium. With this battery, he now believes he is on the path to success.