



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Electrical and Computer Engineering  
*College of Engineering*



# Enabling Technologies for Deploying Second-Life EV Batteries in Grid Storage Applications

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**SDSU** | San Diego State  
University

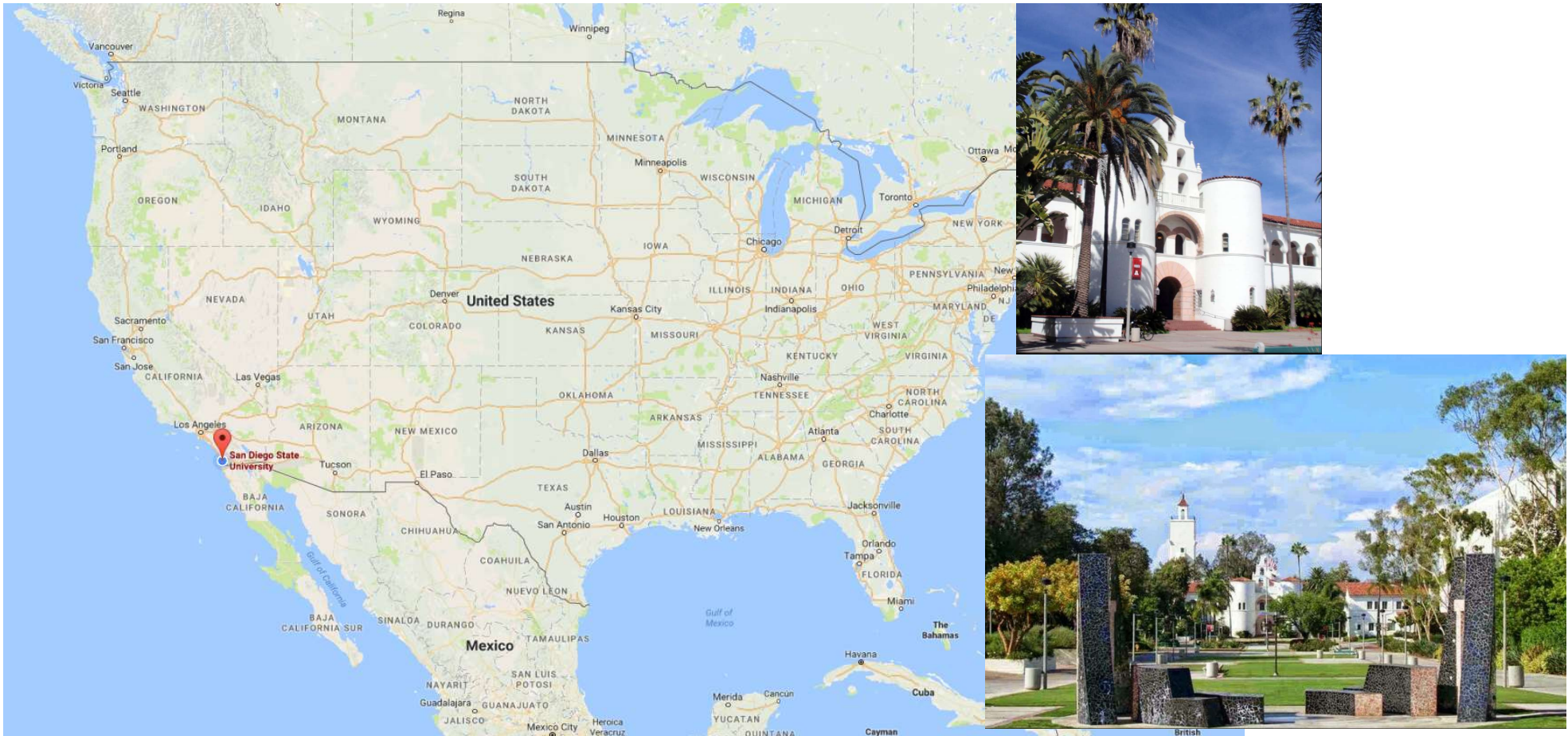
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SDSU

EVTeC 2025, Yokohama, Japan, May 19-21, 2025

# San Diego State University



# Outline

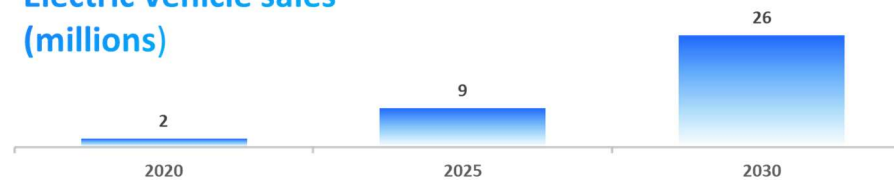
- **Needs of energy storage in renewable energy systems**
- **Second-life batteries**
- **Aging of second-life EV batteries**
- **Energy storage system design with SLBs**
- **Standards for the use of second-life EV Batteries**
- **Recycling of EV Lithium-Ion Batteries**
- **The project is to answer three questions:**
  - Can spent EV batteries be used for storage applications?
  - If yes, how can they be used?
  - How can the system be designed to be safe, reliable, and cost effective?



# Electric Vehicle & Battery Growth

- **EV battery market has 750GWh, \$126+ Billion USD in 2023 (14M+ vehicles produced)**
  - Assuming \$150/kWh and 60KWh battery pack per vehicle -> \$9,000 /EV
- **15 % (HEV + EV) Penetration annually**
- **It will likely triple to reach US\$300 billion by 2030, or 2.25 TWh**

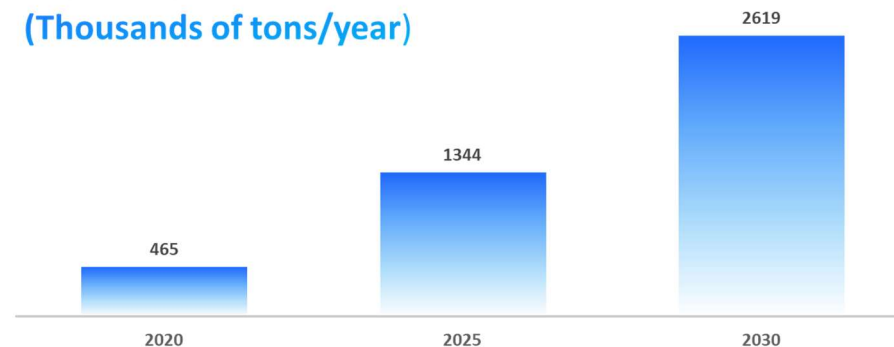
Electric vehicle sales  
(millions)



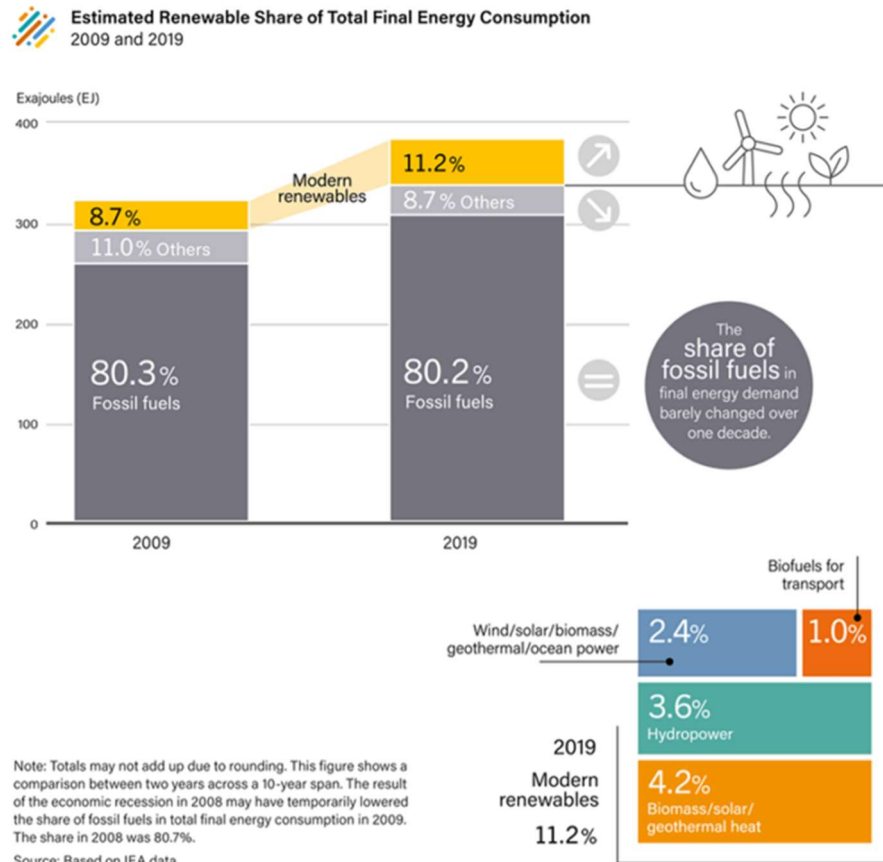
Lithium-ion battery demand  
(GWh)



End-of-life lithium-ion batteries  
(Thousands of tons/year)

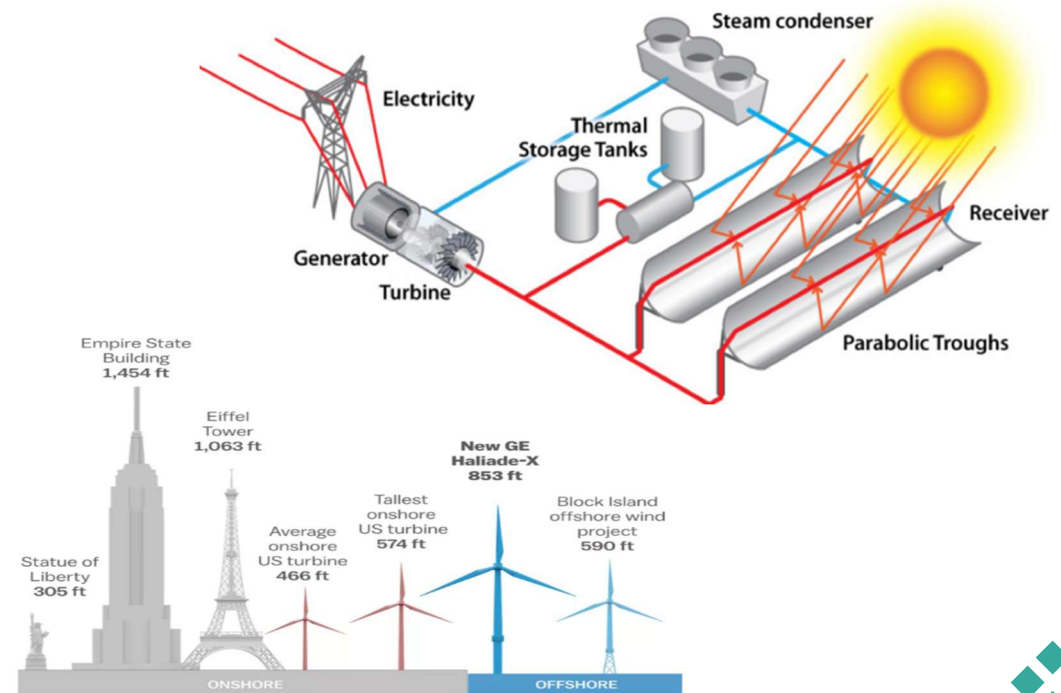


# Renewable Energy Growth



REN21 RENEWABLES 2021 GLOBAL STATUS REPORT

- Added together, lithium-ion batteries will reach 7 TWh/year by 2030 or US\$ 1 trillion



# Second-life EV batteries

- **Second-life EV batteries include those that**
  - are discarded EVs due to degraded conditions;
  - in-warranty replacements;
  - road accidents;
  - test vehicle batteries; and
  - unsold batteries.
- **These batteries may have energy for other purpose before being recycled. Use of these batteries in Grid BESS**
  - extend the life cycle of batteries after their first life in EVs
  - improve the environment
  - reduce EV ownership cost by selling them for second-life use
  - reduce the cost of BESS in renewable energy systems



# Barriers to Use Second-Life EV Batteries

- **Reliability, cost, and safety are of great concerns.**
- **The following hurdles must be addressed:**
  - Proper removal from EV, transport, storage, testing and selection of second-life batteries for storage applications;
  - Quick, simple and accurate battery health estimation of every cell within the BESS after deployment in grid storage;
  - Dynamic battery management systems that can minimize degradation and optimize usage;
  - A thermal management system;
  - Fire hazardous mitigation/prevention, certification, permit, and meeting all other safety related standards.



# Aging of Second-life EV Batteries



# Tested Batteries

1

**BYD LFP Battery Modules (270Ah 3.2V)**



- Four BYD LFP battery modules and cells tests

2

**CALB LFP Battery Cells (100Ah 3.2V)**



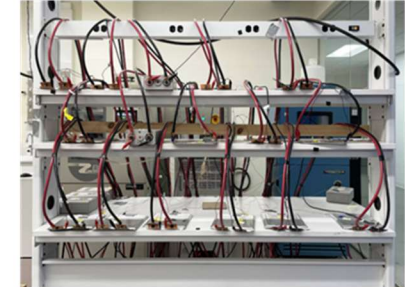
- Four battery cell aging test - 9000 cycles
- The influence of long-time resting on the battery SOH

**Nissan Leaf Gen1 Battery Packs (32.8Ah \*3.8V) \*2P\*96S = 24kWh**



- 100 Battery Packs SOH investigation
- Tested two battery packs
- Aging test for two battery cells -- 7000 cycles

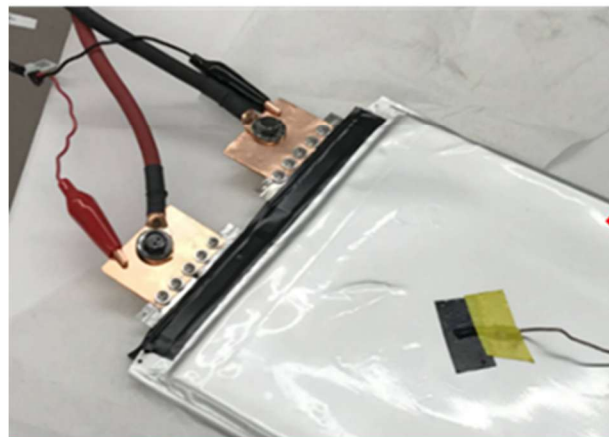
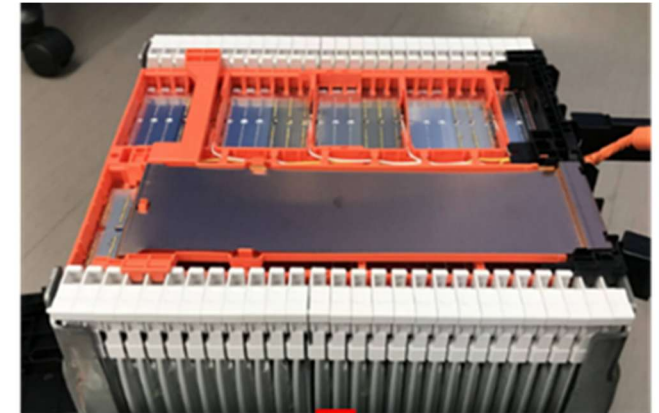
**Nissan Leaf Gen3 battery packs (56.3Ah \*3.75V) \*3P\*96S = 62kWh**



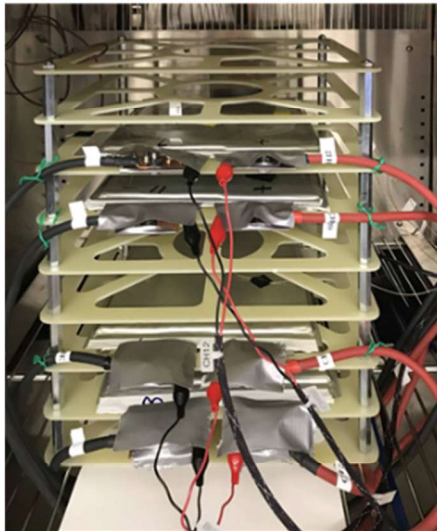
- Tested 24 retired battery packs
- Aging test for a battery module - 1000 cycles
- Aging test for 24 battery cells at different working conditions



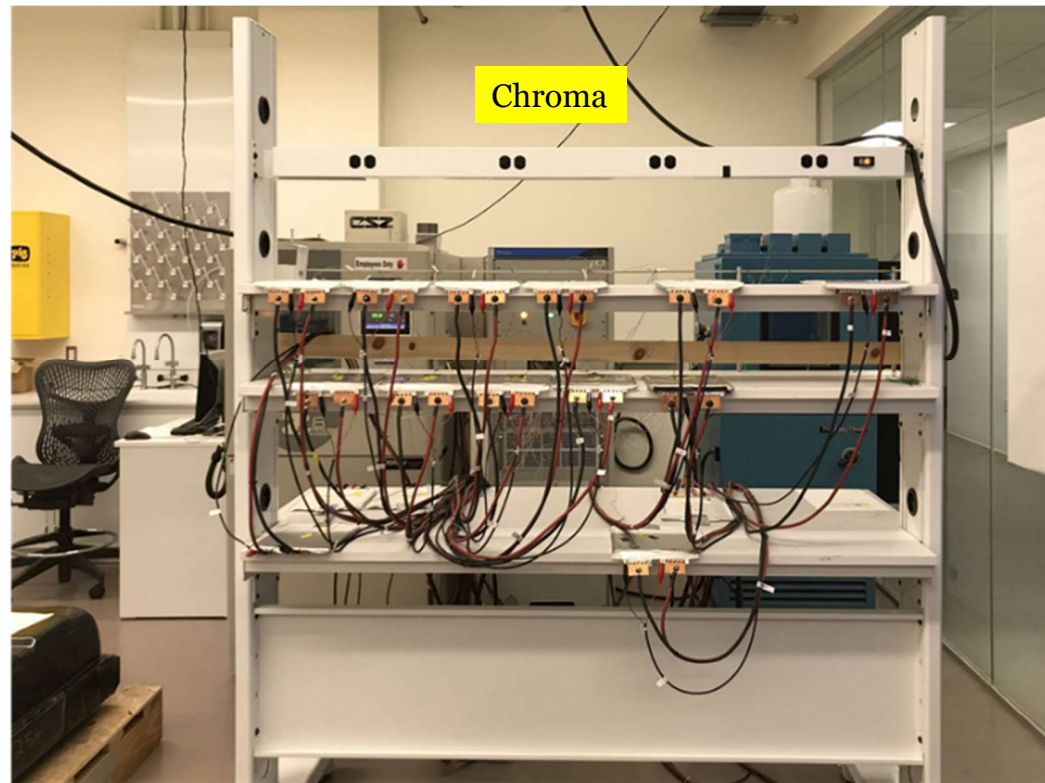
# Leaf Gen3: Pack to Module to Cell



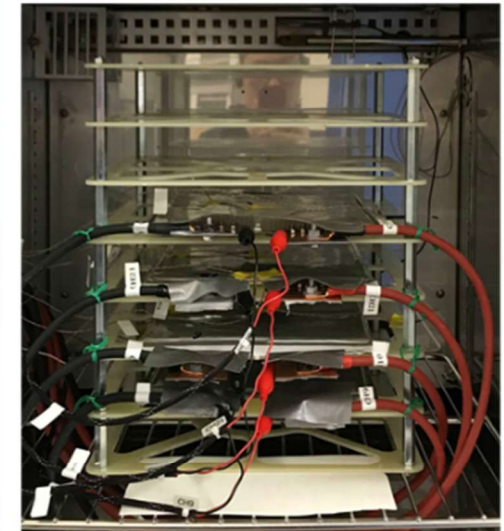
# Temperature Testing – Leaf Gen3



(a) CSZ +35°C



(b) Room Temperature 23°C

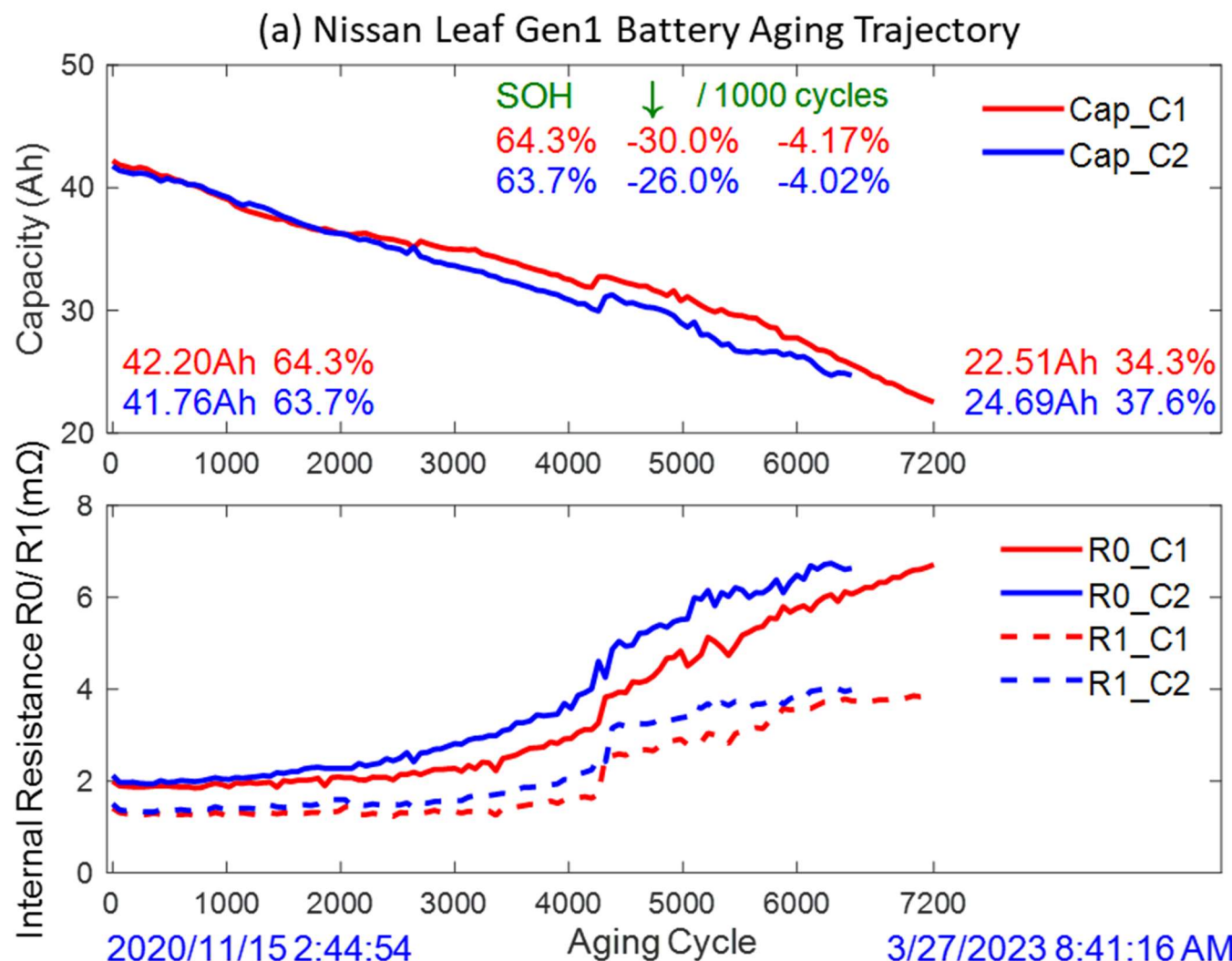


(c) THERMOTRON +10°C

# Aging Test Results:

## Nissan Leaf Gen 1

20 months aging test, 5640 cycles  
– equivalent to 19 years of second life service



# Aging Test Results:

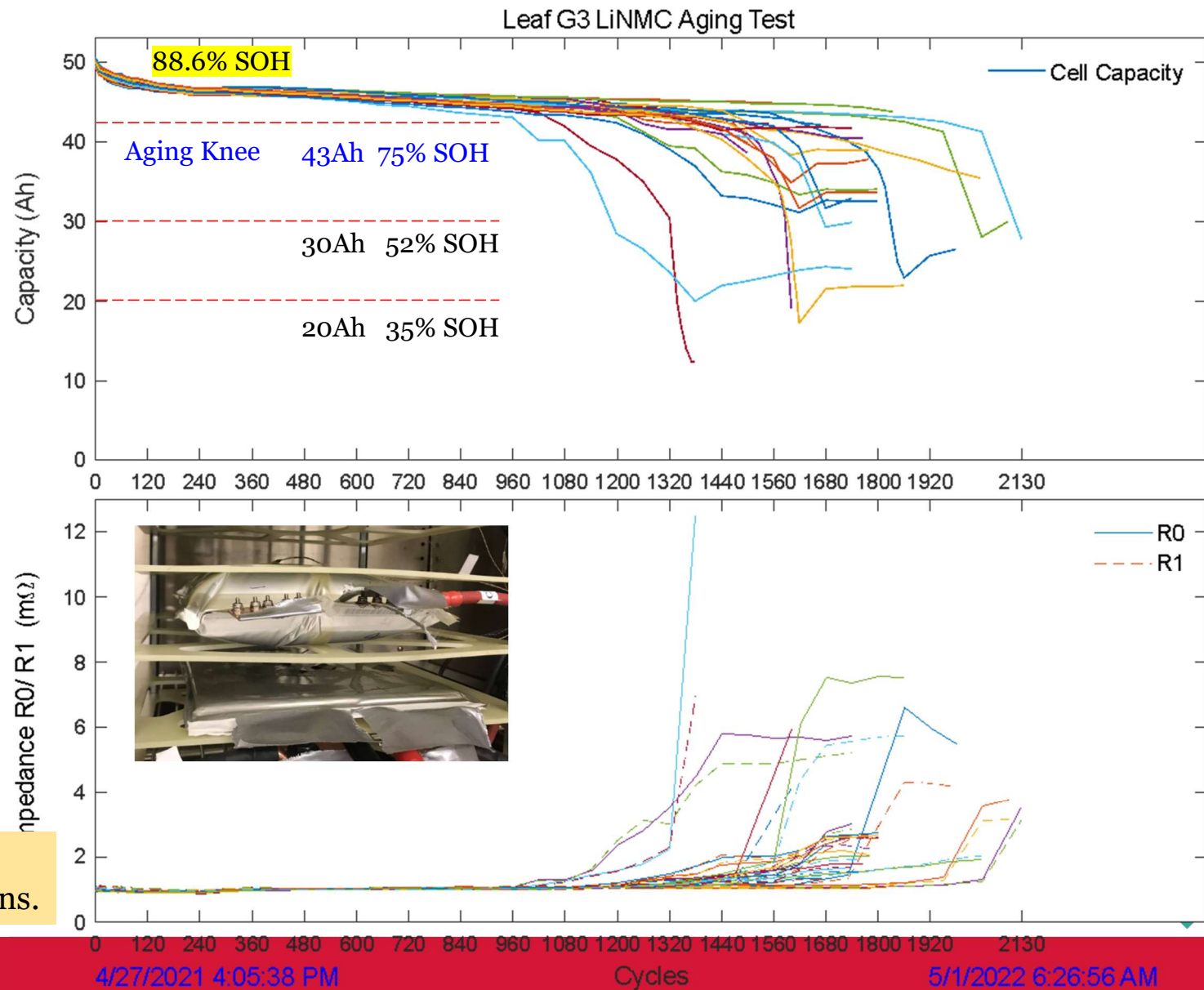
## Nissan Leaf Gen 3

Optimal Working Condition

:

- $\leq 0.4C$  rate ( 4 hour BESS)
- Temperature:  $15^{\circ}\text{C} \sim 27^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Dod: 80% 10%~90% SOC

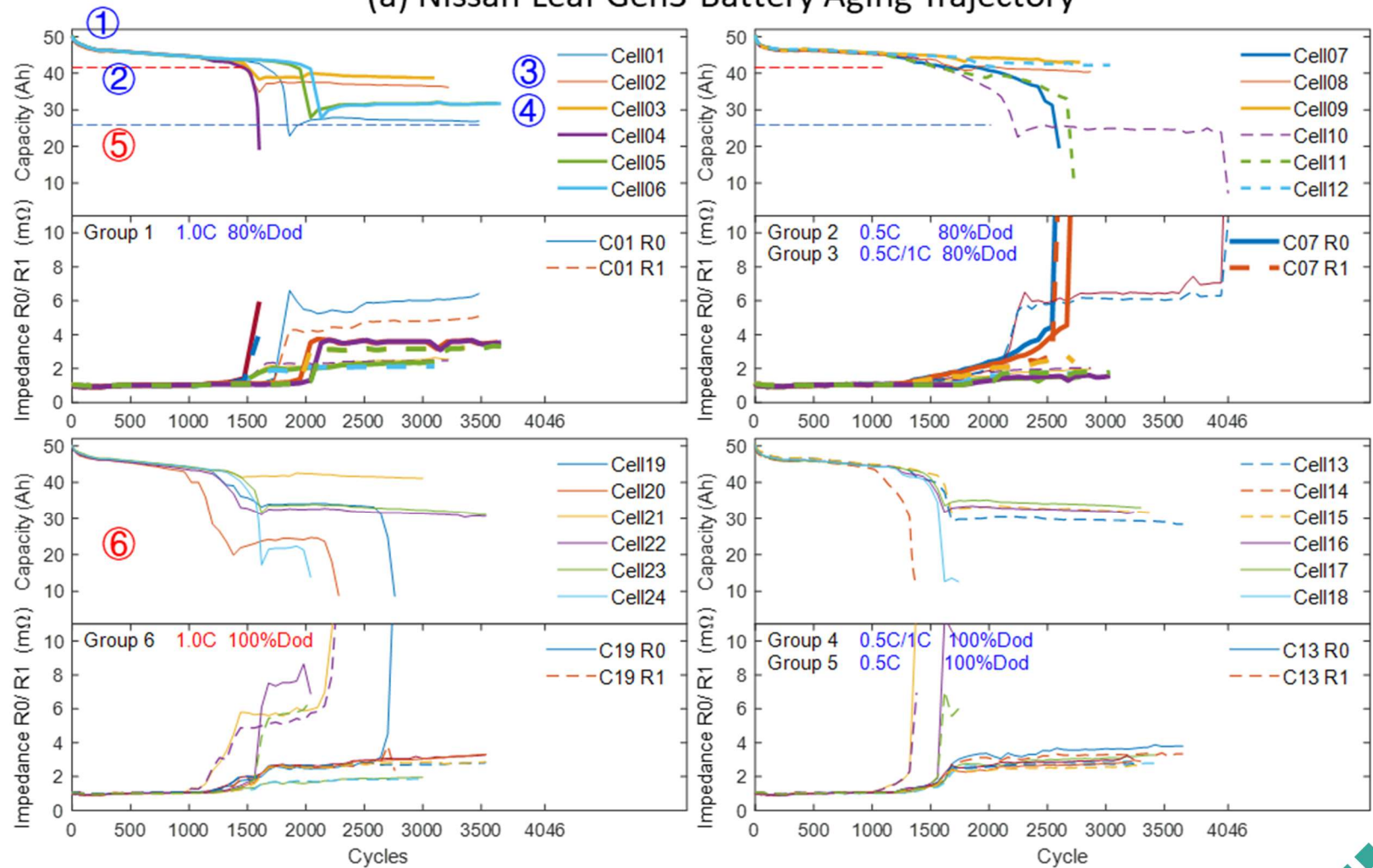
Higher energy density, lower cycle life, and more sensitive to working conditions.



# Leaf Gen 3

## Performance under different Testing Conditions

(a) Nissan Leaf Gen3 Battery Aging Trajectory



# Leaf Gen 3 Aging Summary

- 24 Nissan Leaf G3 batteries completed 2000~2400 aging cycles
- 15 months of testing
- Divided into 6 groups for different testing conditions
- Soon after they reach the aging knee, the capacity degrades very quickly
- Batteries working at harsh conditions (Group 6) reached the aging knee after 1200~1500 cycles **(1C, 100% DoD)**
- Batteries working at better conditions (Groups 1, 4, 5) reached the aging knee after 1500~2000 cycles **(0.5C/1C, 100%DoD)**
- Batteries working at good conditions (Groups 2, 3) reached the aging knee after 2000 cycles **(0.5C, 80% DoD)**



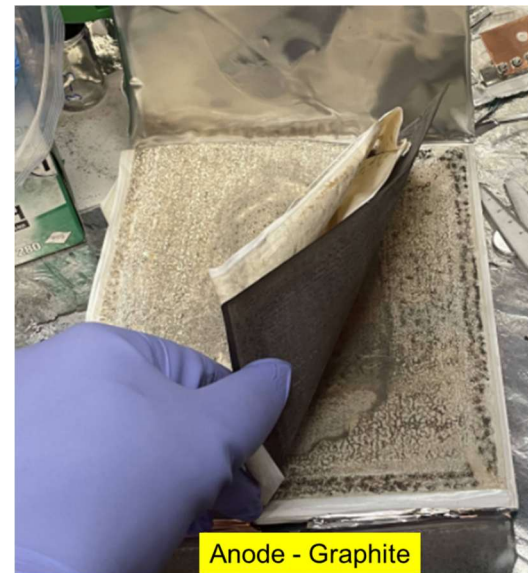
# Leaf Gen 3 Aging Summary

- The aging knee can be stopped as soon as the cycle conditions are improved, i.e., current < 0.4C rate, and Dod < 80%.
- Even though the battery capacity has dropped to 50%~60% nominal value, they can still be cycled another 500 times with improved working conditions.
- If the battery aging knee is detected in the early stage, e.g., when battery capacity has dropped to 75%~80% of its original/nominal capacity, then the battery pack should be retired from the EV and diverted to BESS purpose.
- The battery pack's working conditions should be strictly confined, and their expected service life should be at least 1000~2000 cycles / 4~6 years before the capacity drops to below 50%, and the second-life degradation speed is expected to be 10%~20% per 1000 cycles.







# End of Life Batteries

- **Nissan Leaf Gen 3**
- **Dead after 2000 aging cycles**
- **Dissembled to understand the failure mechanism**
  - The battery material is still wet, which means the electrolyte was not dried out.
  - There is a lot of graphite ripped off the anode copper sheet, suggesting anode graphite material failure, this may be the reason for the dead battery.
  - Nothing special can be found on the cathode material by the naked eye.



# Second-life EV Batteries – Summary

Step	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nissan Leaf Gen1 24 kWh LiMO2</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nissan Leaf Gen3 62 kWh LiNMC</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electric Forklift LFP 100Ah battery</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electric Bus LFP 270Ah battery</li> </ul>
1: Initial SOH	60%~67%	89~97%	Cell: 89% SOH Pack: 50%~60% SOH	Cell: 79% SOH Pack: 52% SOH
2: Balance State	< 5% minor	< 5% minor	30% serious	27% serious
3: Capacity degradation speed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast / Vehicle</li> <li>Slow / BESS</li> </ul>	20% / 1000 cycles 4% / 1000 cycles	20% / 1000 cycles 3.6~5.9% / 1000 cycles	9.3% / 1000 cycles 5.0% / 1000 cycles	Balance Issues exist
4: Aging Knee	No aging knee	Aging knee at 75% SOH (1500 cycles)	No aging knee	
5: Estimated 2 <sup>nd</sup> life	10~15 years 3000~5000 cycles 10 years / 3000 cycles high performance	10 years 3000 cycles 80% Dod <0.4C-rate	30 years 9000 cycles 100% Dod 0.5C charge/ 1C discharge	>10 years 3000 cycles Enhanced balance system is needed

# **Storage System Architecture Using Second-Life EV Batteries**



# Using the pack as a storage unit

- **Multiple packs connected in series and/or parallel using various power electronics converters.**
- **Advantages:**
  - Easy to obtain
  - Easy installation
  - Low cost for grouping the system
- **Disadvantages:**
  - Cells inside the pack may be unbalanced – need to address balancing issues
  - No access to cell monitoring
  - Access the CAN messages of the onboard BMS is not possible – a GATEWAY is necessary



# Disassemble the pack and obtain battery cells

- **Advantages**

- Cells can be grouped based on their SOH
- Bad cells are discarded for recycling
- Maximize the new BESS capacity and longer life span

- **Disadvantages**

- Labor intensive to disassemble packs
- Damage can happen during disassembling
- Dangerous for the disassembly process itself
- Difficult to test and store the cells
- A new BMS is needed for the new BESS
- May not be cost-effective

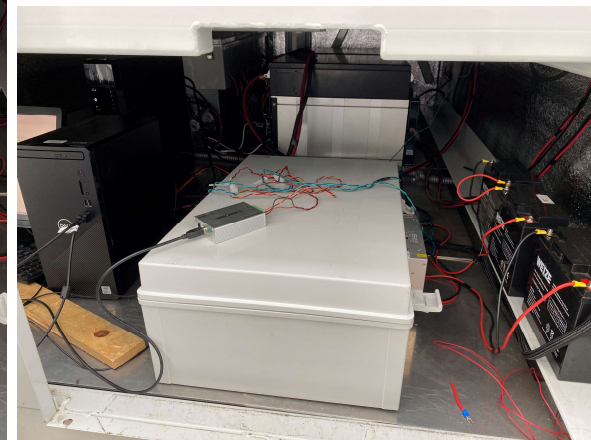


# SDSU System Deployed at UCSD Warehouse

- **Six Nisan Leaf Gen 3 packs**
- **Total 372 kWh nominal**
- **Used packs as is**
- **No balance issues**

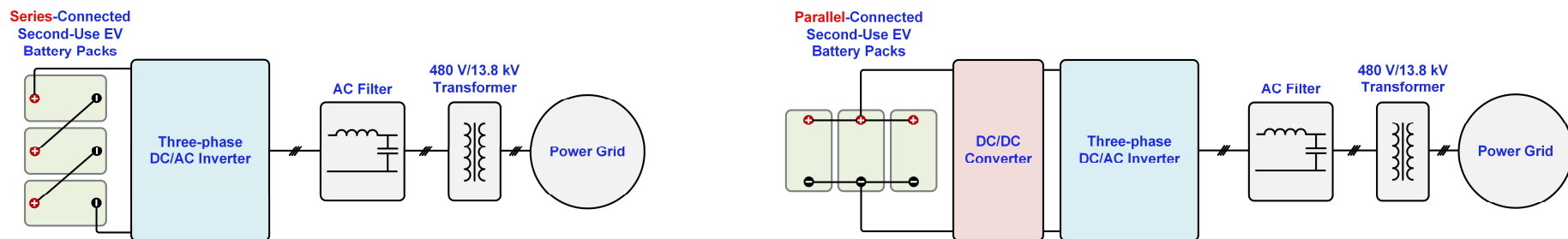


# Installed at UCSD Warehouse

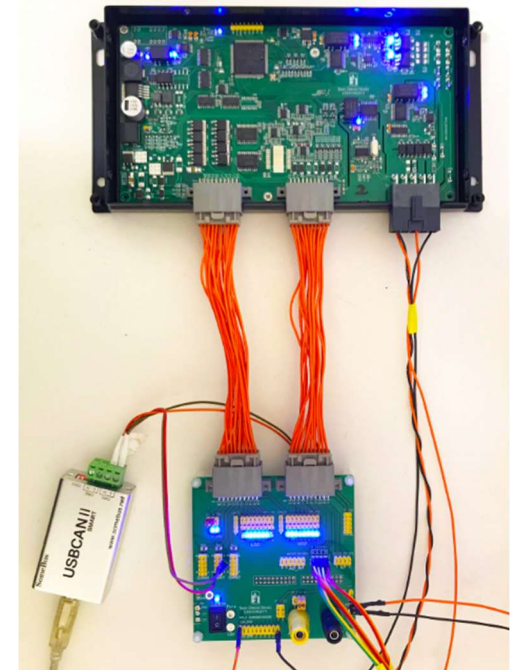


# System Design Considerations

- EV battery packs are typically 300-400V
- Single pack connected to inverters will only support 208V/3-phase grid.
- While the minimum DC-link voltage required for a 480V/3-phase grid is 750V ( $= 480 * \sqrt{2} * 1.1$ )
  - Option #1: two to three packs needs to be connected to series
  - Option #2: Connect each pack or paralleled packs with a DC-DC, and the output of the DC-DC could be fed to an inverter



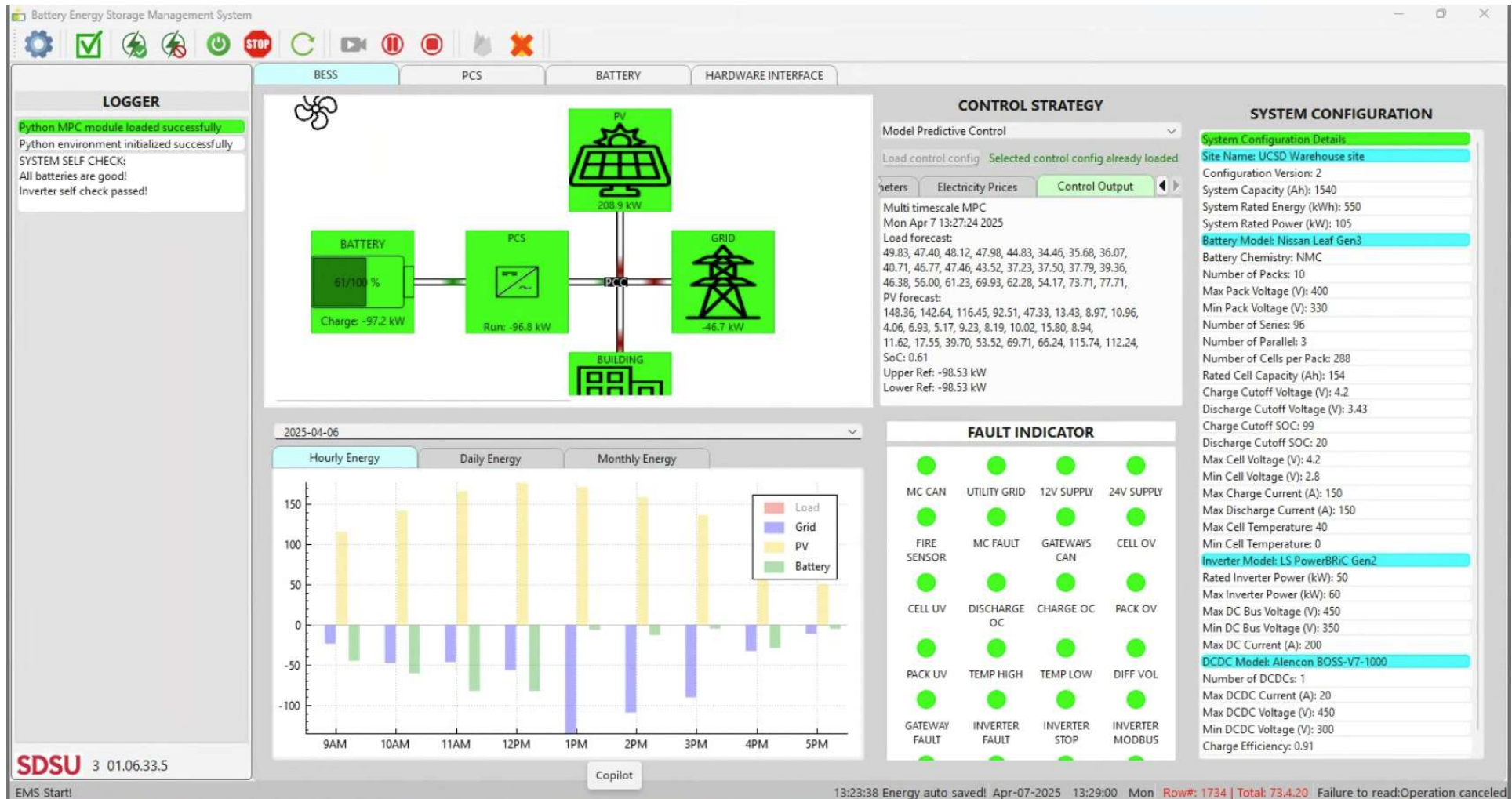
# BMS Gateway Design and Manufacturing



- The BMS-Gateway is designed to work between each Nissan Leaf Gen 3 battery pack and the main controller of the BESS.
- Fourteen BMS-Gateway were produced and will be used in the pilot test and laboratory test.



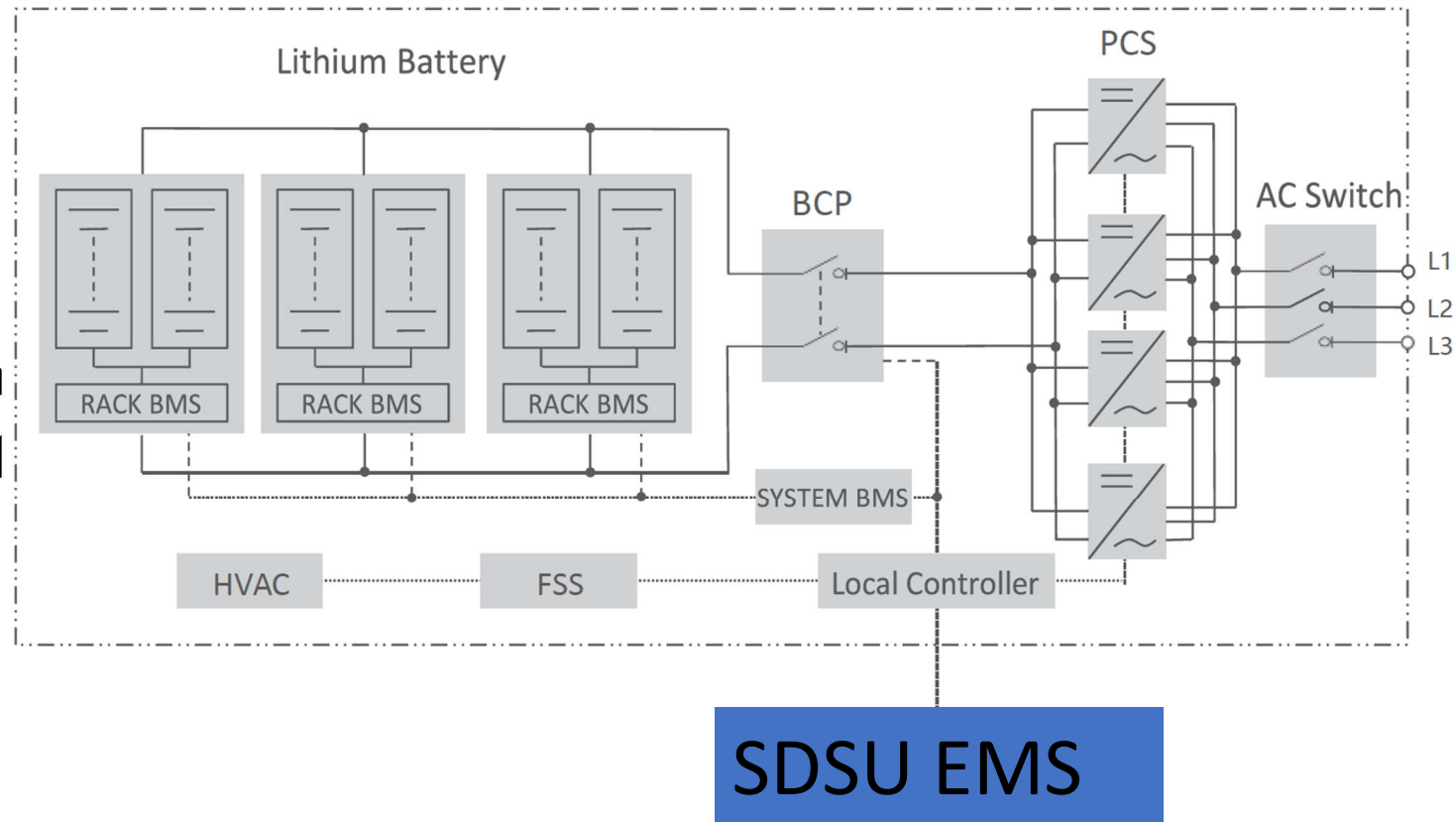
# Modular Energy Management System



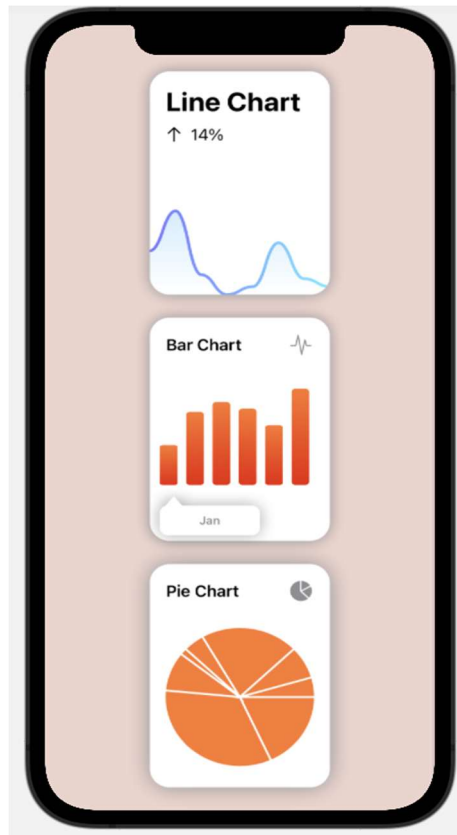
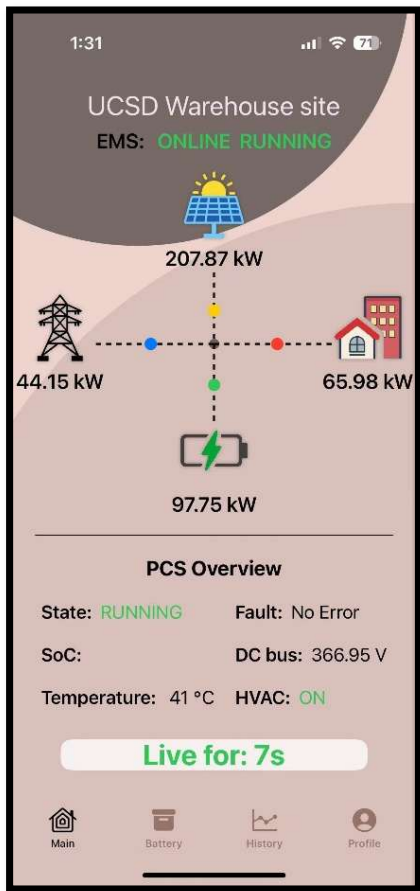
SDSU The goal of MEMS: minimize the electricity bill and extending life of battery

# New ESS with our EMS

- 556kWh
- 250kW
- 480V
- SunGrow System
- Samsung SDI Mega
- 3.68 V / 100 Ah cell



# Phone App for Realtime Monitoring



## iPhone APP

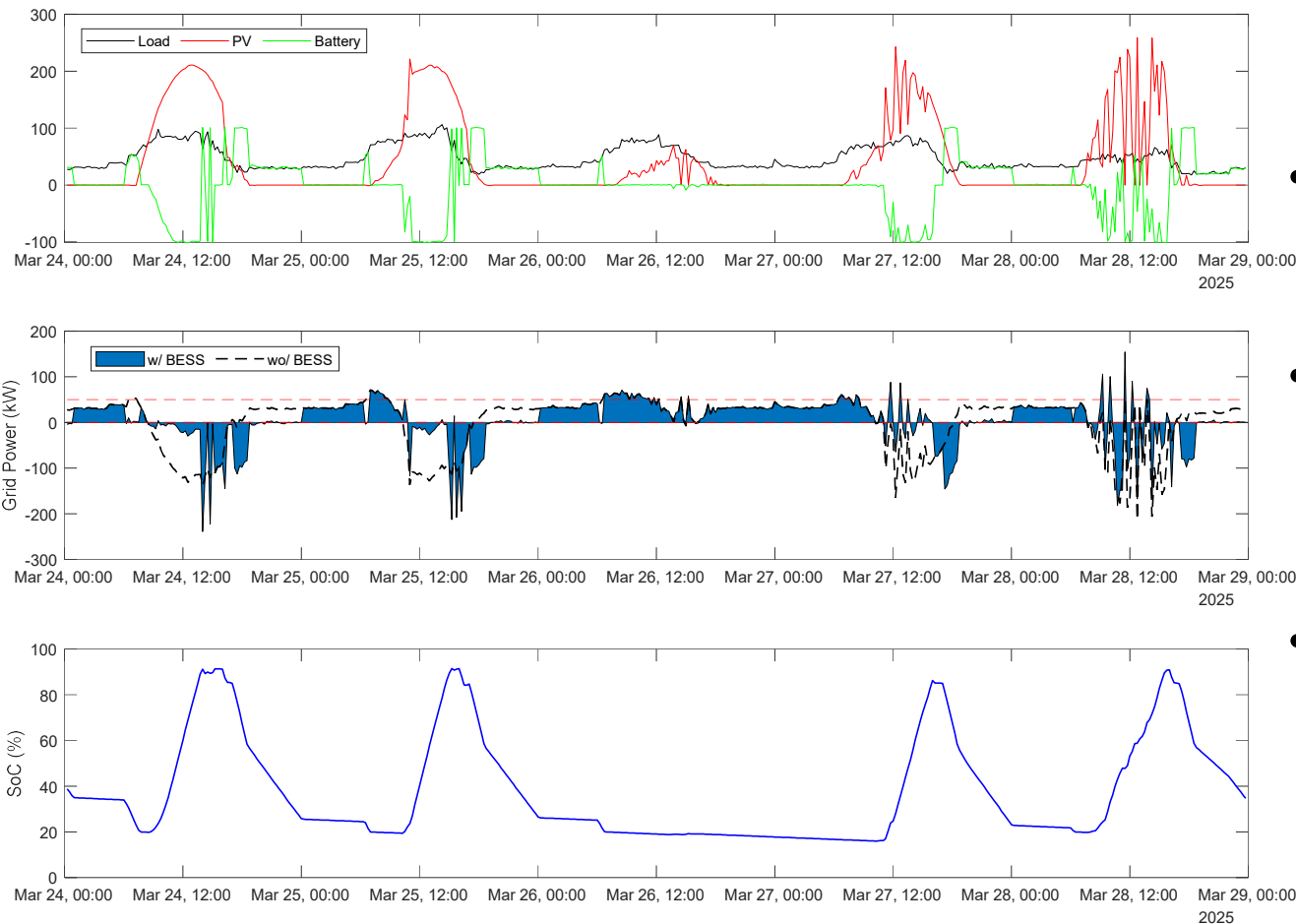
### Coded using Swift and Xcode for IOS Functions:

- Switch time period to see present and past amount of power stored/delivered
- Realtime data and status display
- Analysis: Present the histogram of power generated
- Emergency button: Turn off the system in an emergency.
- Core users (control functions) and viewers

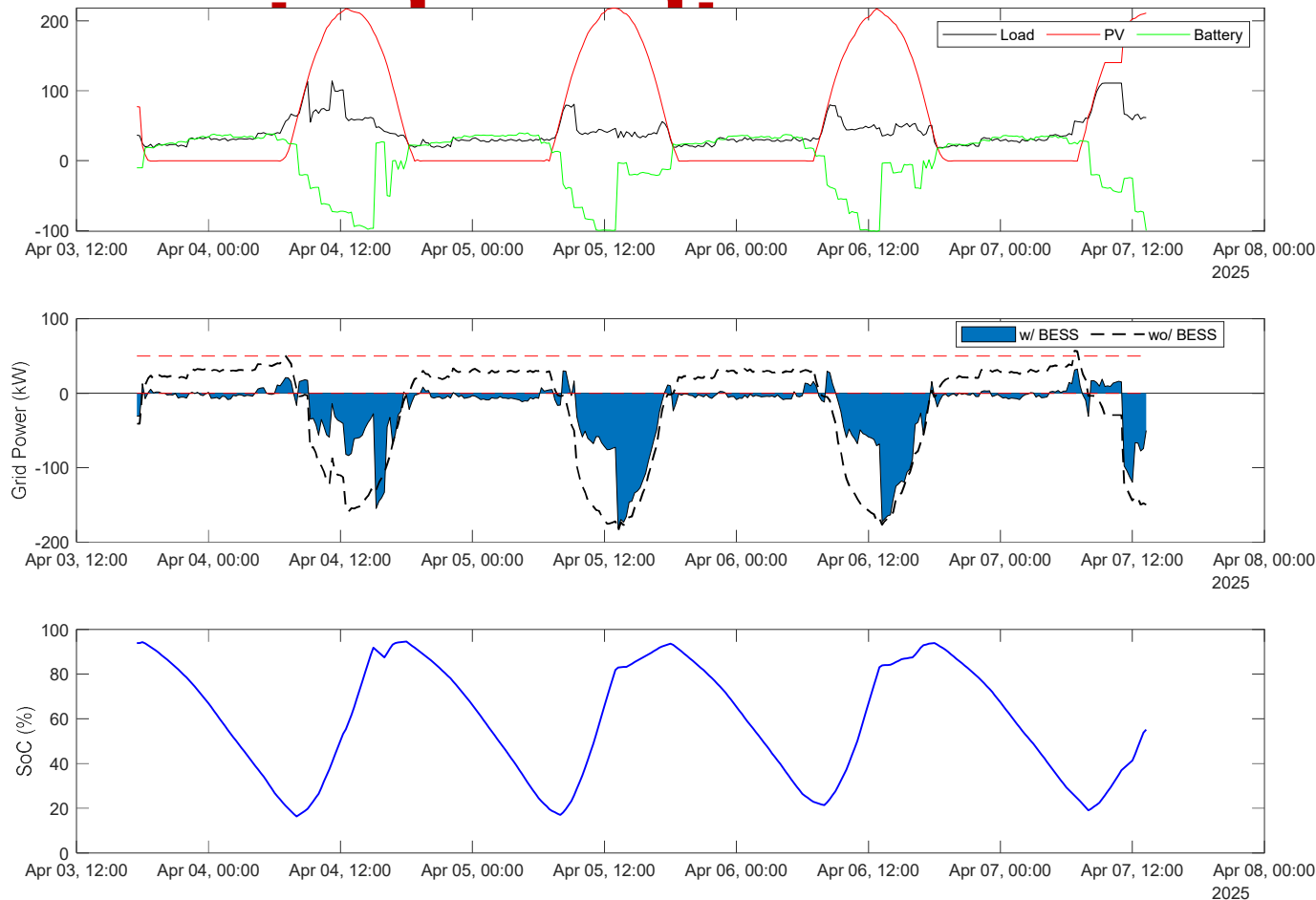


# Lyapunov control results

- Lyapunov control tends to charge the battery at maximum power when there is excess PV generation
- Discharges it to the load during the early evening at maximum power.
- As a result, it often drains the batteries around midnight, making them unavailable to support the load further.
- This issue arises because Lyapunov control does not forecast load and PV generation over a long timescale.



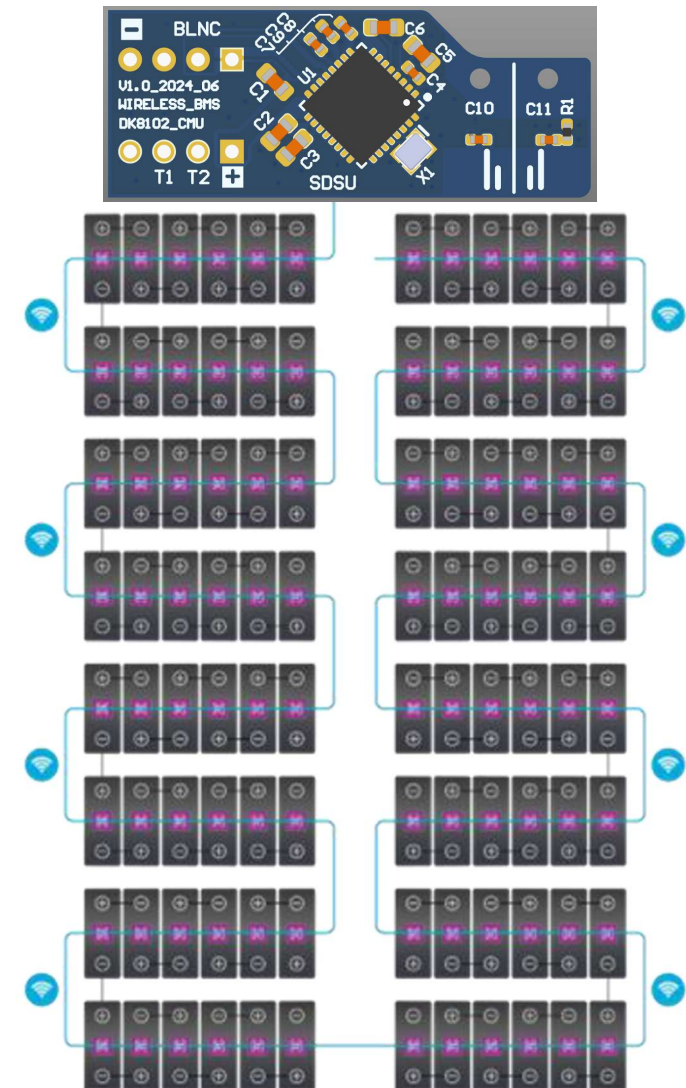
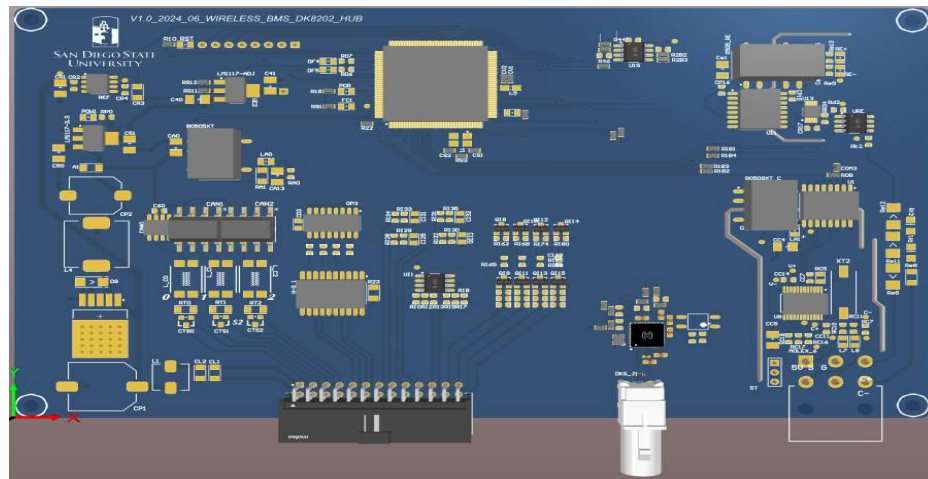
# Multi-timescale model predictive



- Multi-timescale MPC predicts load and PV generation for the next 24 hours
- Allowing it to schedule battery power optimally and avoid early battery depletion.
- Multi-timescale MPC demonstrates better performance in reducing grid power usage, lowering both energy charges and demand charges.

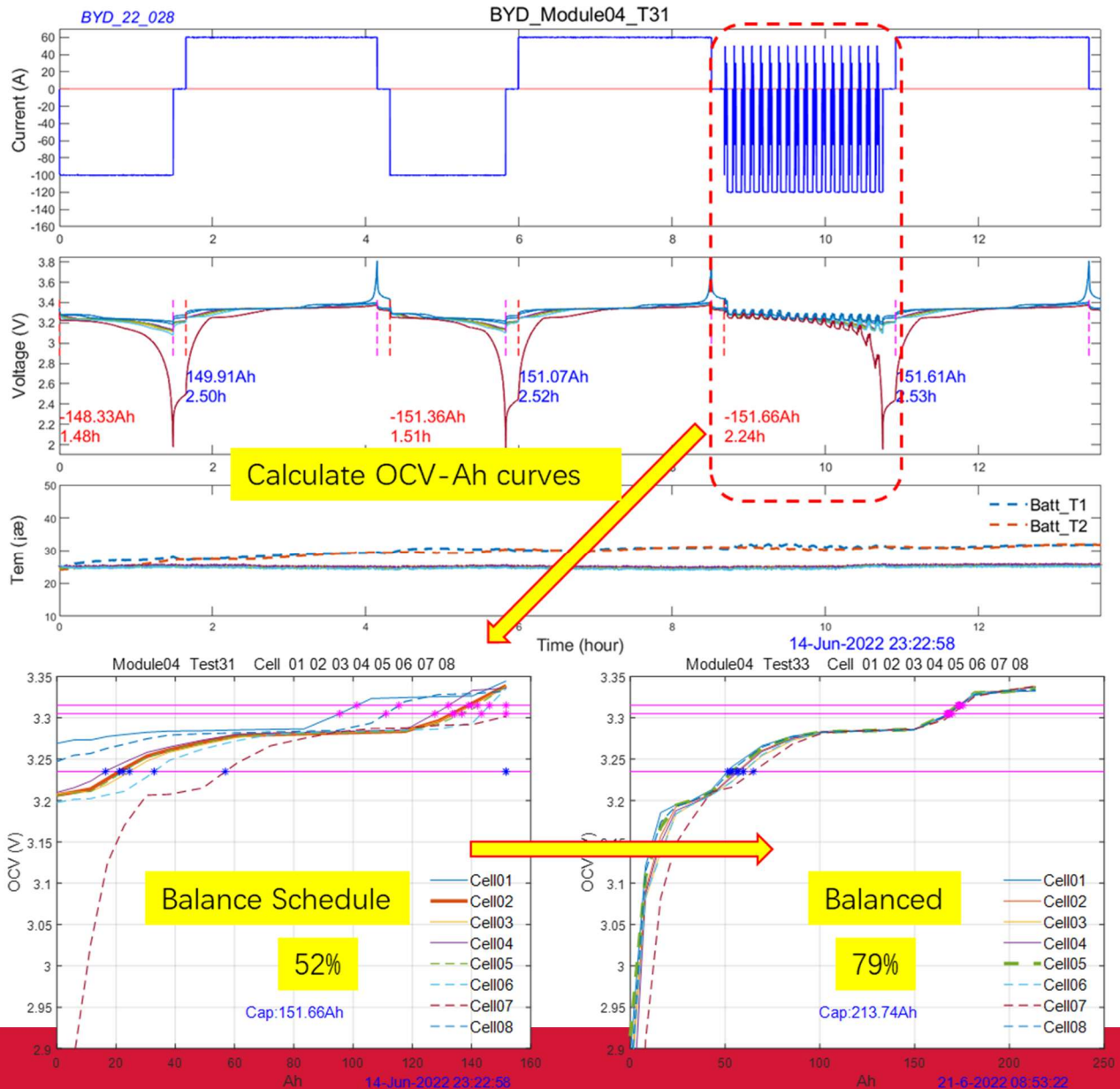


# Wireless BMS



# The Effect of Balancing

- **BYD battery module's capacity recovered from 52% to 79% after balancing**
- First, the OCV-Ah curves of the 8 cells of BYD module4 are calculated based on the dynamic test cycle.
- The relevant distance of the high-ramp of OCV-Ah curves can be calculated, and the balance schedule is defined based on the relevant distance data.
- Each battery cell will be charge or discharged using a defined Ah value, therefore, the high-ramp of the OCV-Ah curves can be overlapped, and consequently the battery is balanced.



# Standards

- **For end users/producers**

- NFPA 1, Fire Code (Also applicable: California Fire Code 2019)
- NFPA 855 – Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems
- NFPA 70 – National Electric Code (NEC)
- UL 9540 – Energy Storage Systems and Equipment

- **For producers**

- UL 9540A – Standard for Test Method for Evaluating Thermal Runaway Fire Propagation in Battery Energy Storage Systems
- UL 1974 - Creating a Safe Second Life for Electric Vehicle Batteries

- **For suppliers**

- UL 1642 – UL Standard for Safety Lithium Batteries
- UL 1741, Inverters, Converters, Controllers, and Interconnection System Equipment for DES
- UL 1973 – Standard for Batteries for Use in Stationary, Vehicle Auxiliary Power and LER
- IEC 62619 – Requirements for Secondary Cells and Batteries for use in Industrial Applications
- IEC 62933, Electrical Energy Storage (ESS) Systems



# Conclusions

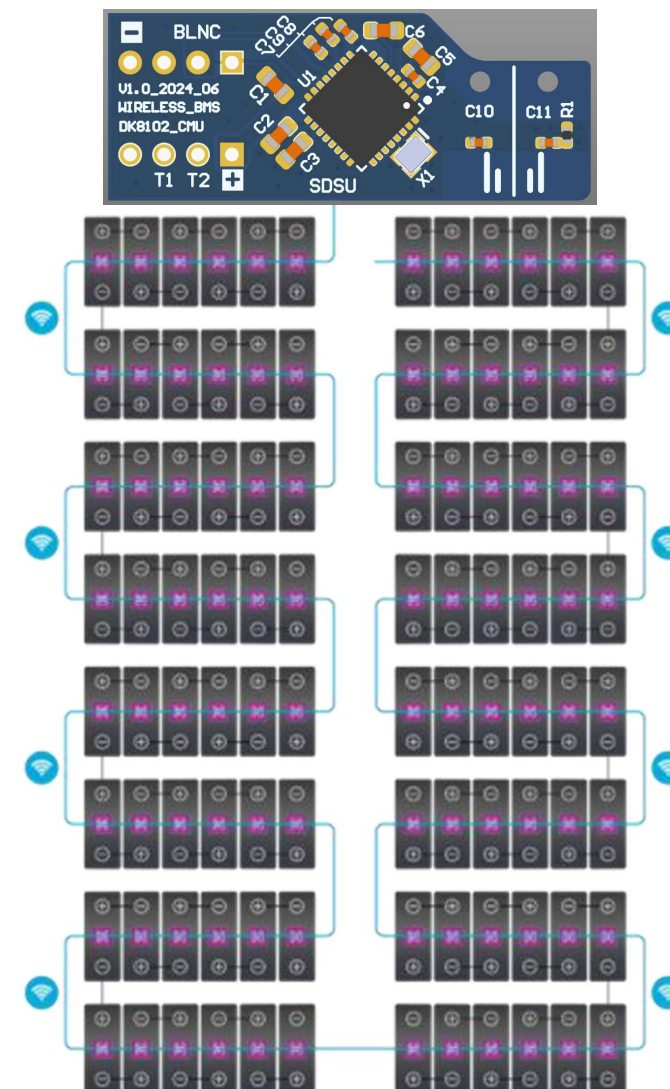
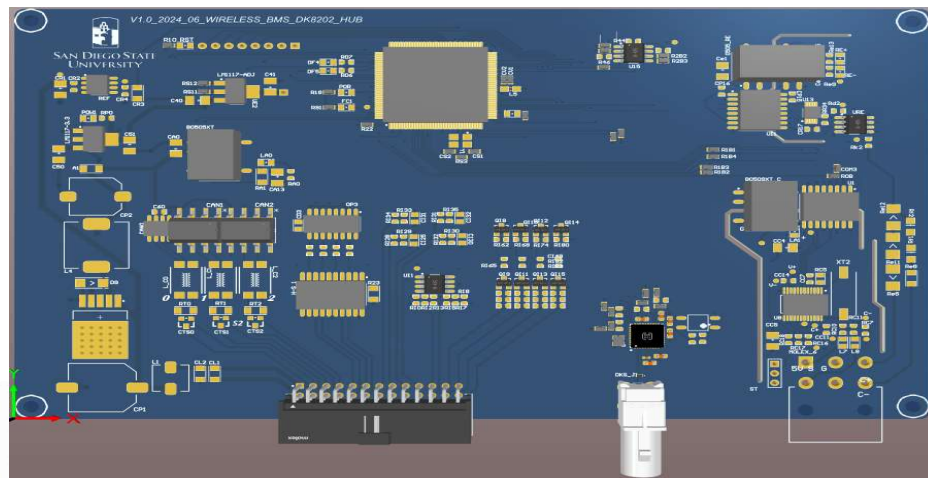
- **EV batteries will start to retire and will be in volume soon**
- **Second-life use can extend the life and reduce environmental impact**
- **Logistics (removing, testing, sorting, storage, transportation, etc.) can be bottlenecks**
- **Safety is another major concern; policy, incentives, and regulations must be in place very soon**
- **To maintain long life in second-life applications**
  - Balance the cells of LFP battery systems
  - Retire at or before knee point for NMC batteries
  - Temperature: 10- 30°C
  - DOD range: 10 – 85%
  - Discharge rate:  $< 0.25C$



# Other Research Activities at SDSU



# Wireless BMS

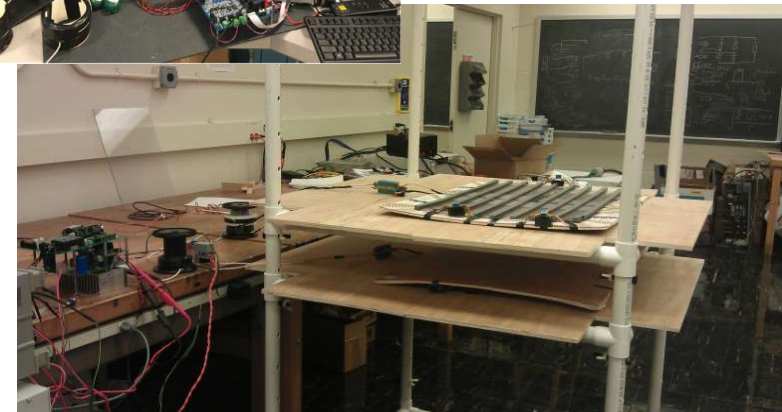
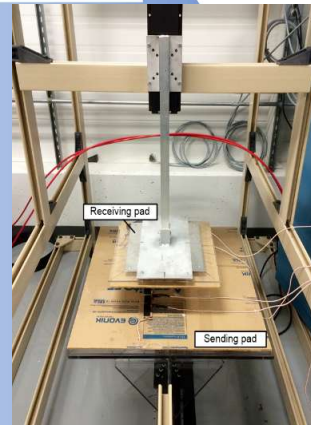
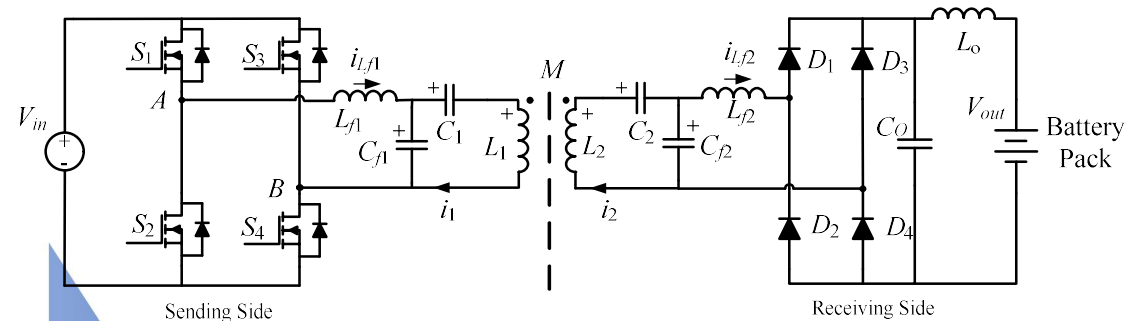


# Wireless Charging

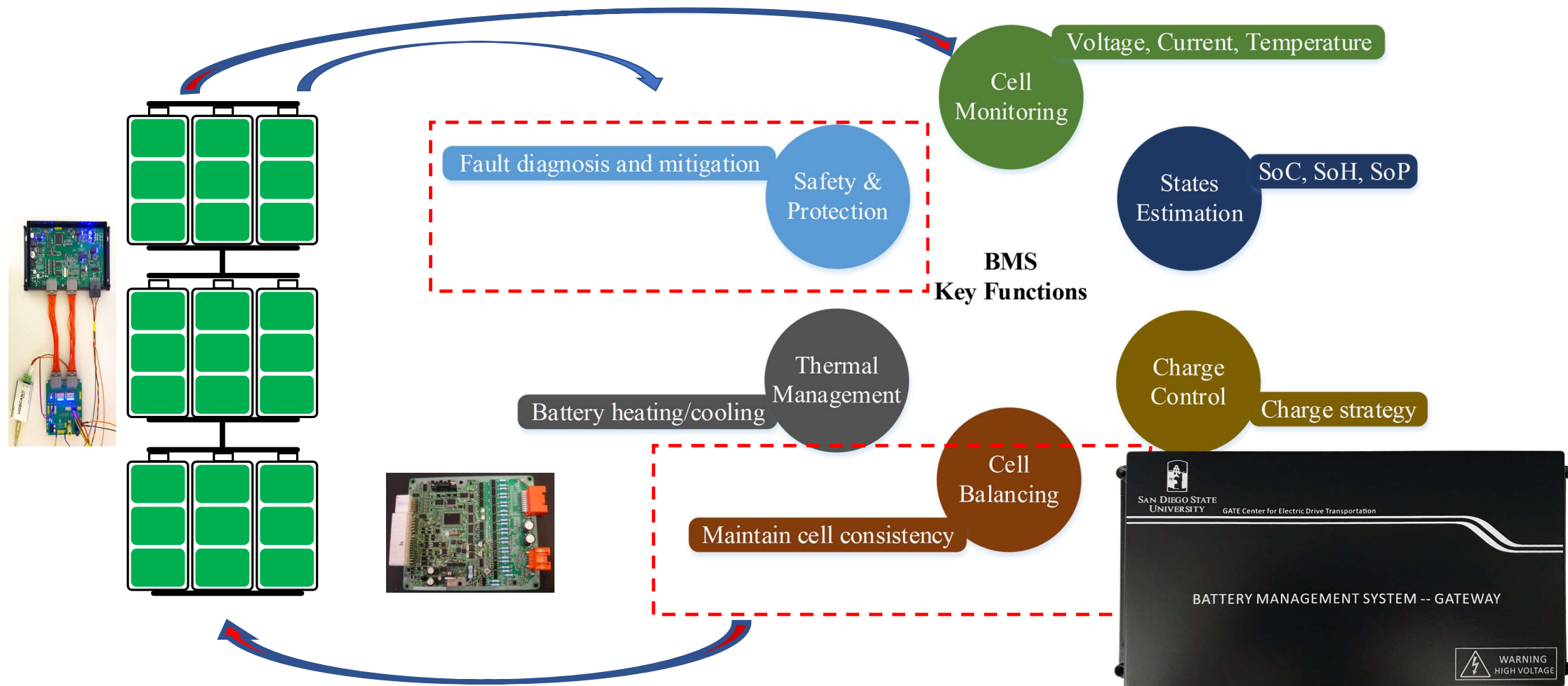
**Electric safety is of concern:  
electric shock due to rain, etc.**

**Charge station, plug and cable  
can be easily damaged, stolen**

**Charge/swap station takes a lot  
of space and affect the views**



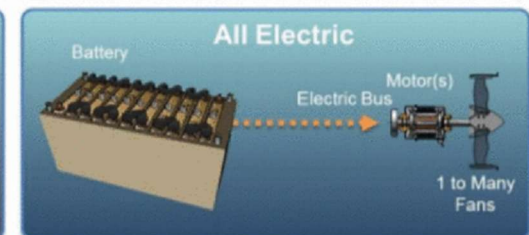
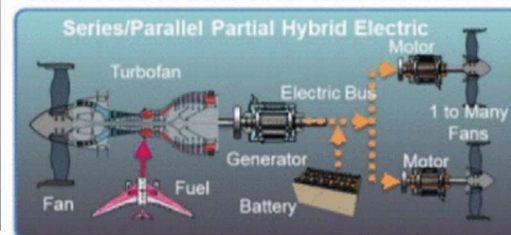
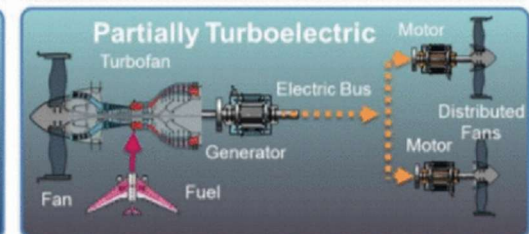
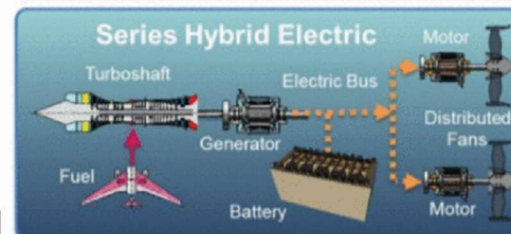
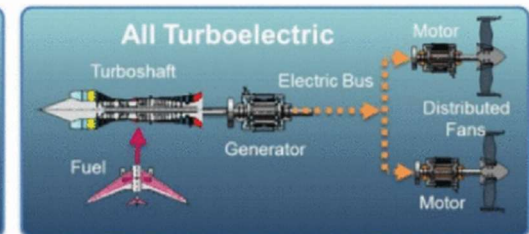
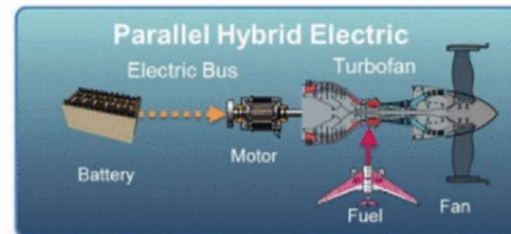
# Battery Management Systems



**SDSU** Projects are funded by the DOE, Ford, Chrysler, Golden Bus, Snovatech, Gotion, DTE

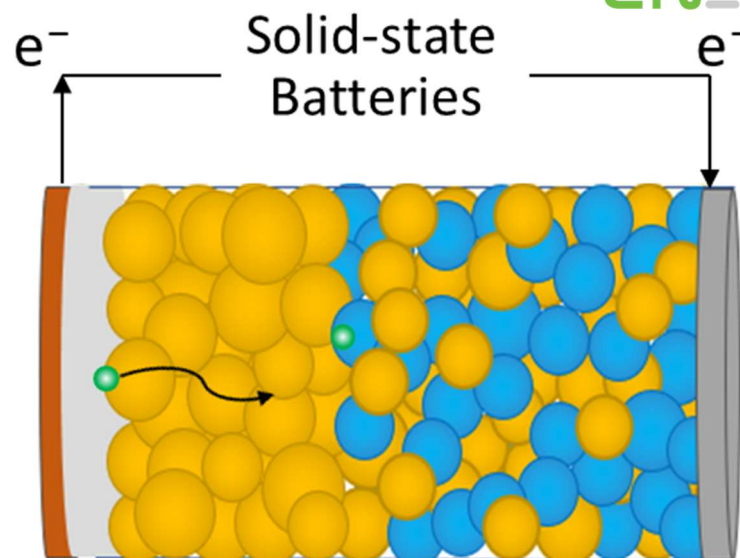
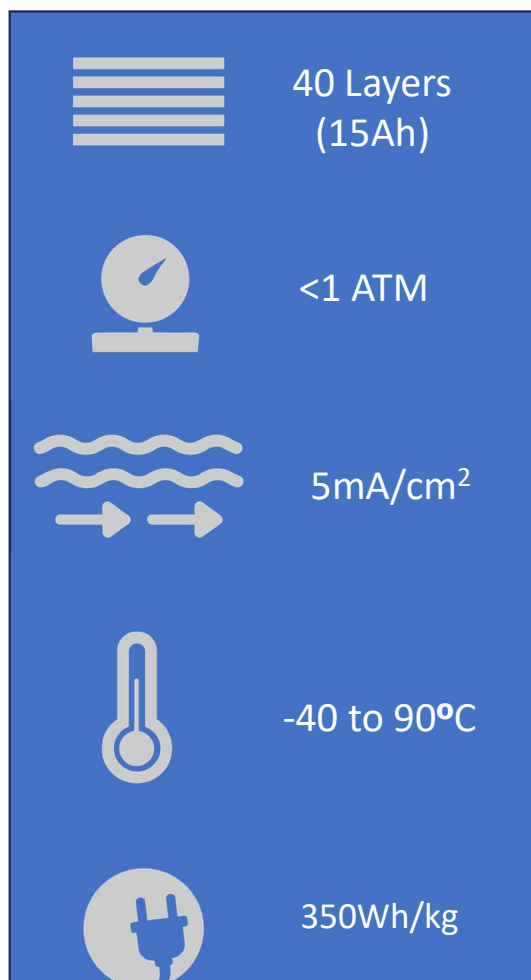
# Electric and hybrid airplanes and ships

- 59% GHG emissions of the transportation sector
- EVTOL seems to be ready;
- Long haul large body electric airplane needs breakthrough in energy storage



# Solid State Batteries

SOLID  
ENERGIES



cobalt-free, easily sourceable materials

**FLEXIBLE**

flexible solid electrolyte with extreme low temperature performance

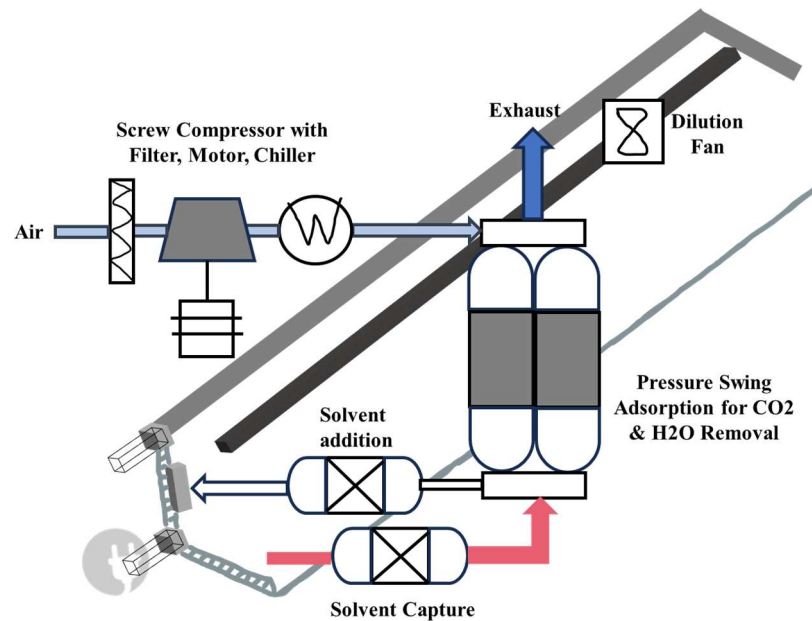
**Proven Scalability**

industry-leading  
16Ah, 3.8 V  
50-layer pouch cells

- High Safety, not fire hazardous
- Wide operating temperature -40-90C
- High energy density >350Wh/kg
- Cheaper, 25% less cost

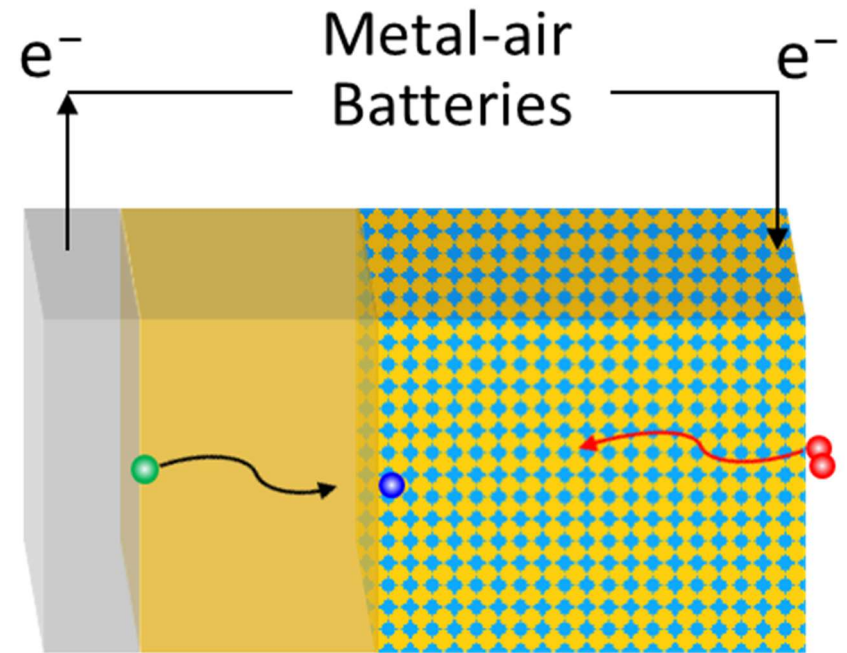


# Lithium Air Batteries



High energy density over  
1000 Wh/kg

**SOLID**  
**ENERGIES**

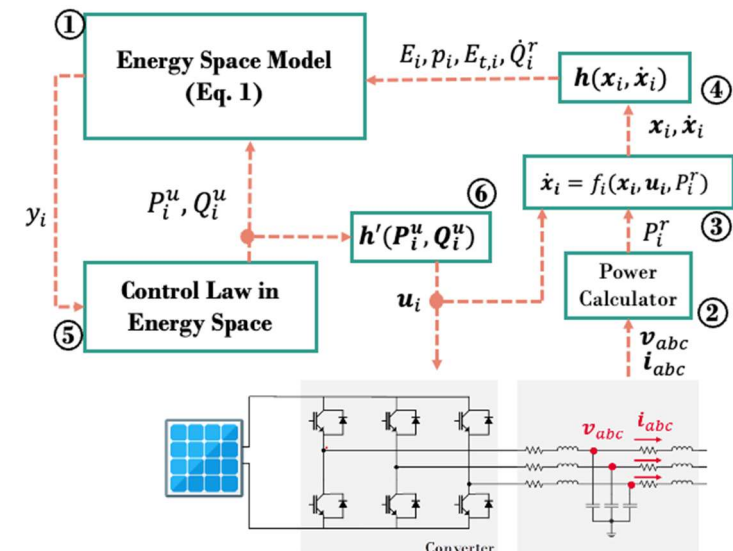
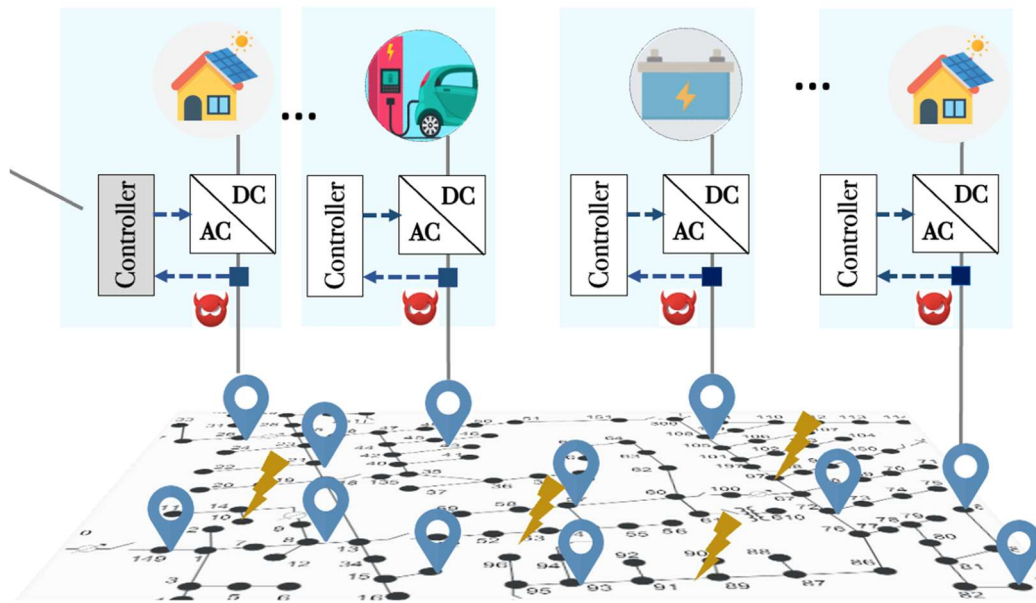


SDSU Funded by ARPA-e and in collaboration with Dr. Lingping Kong, SDSU, and SEI.



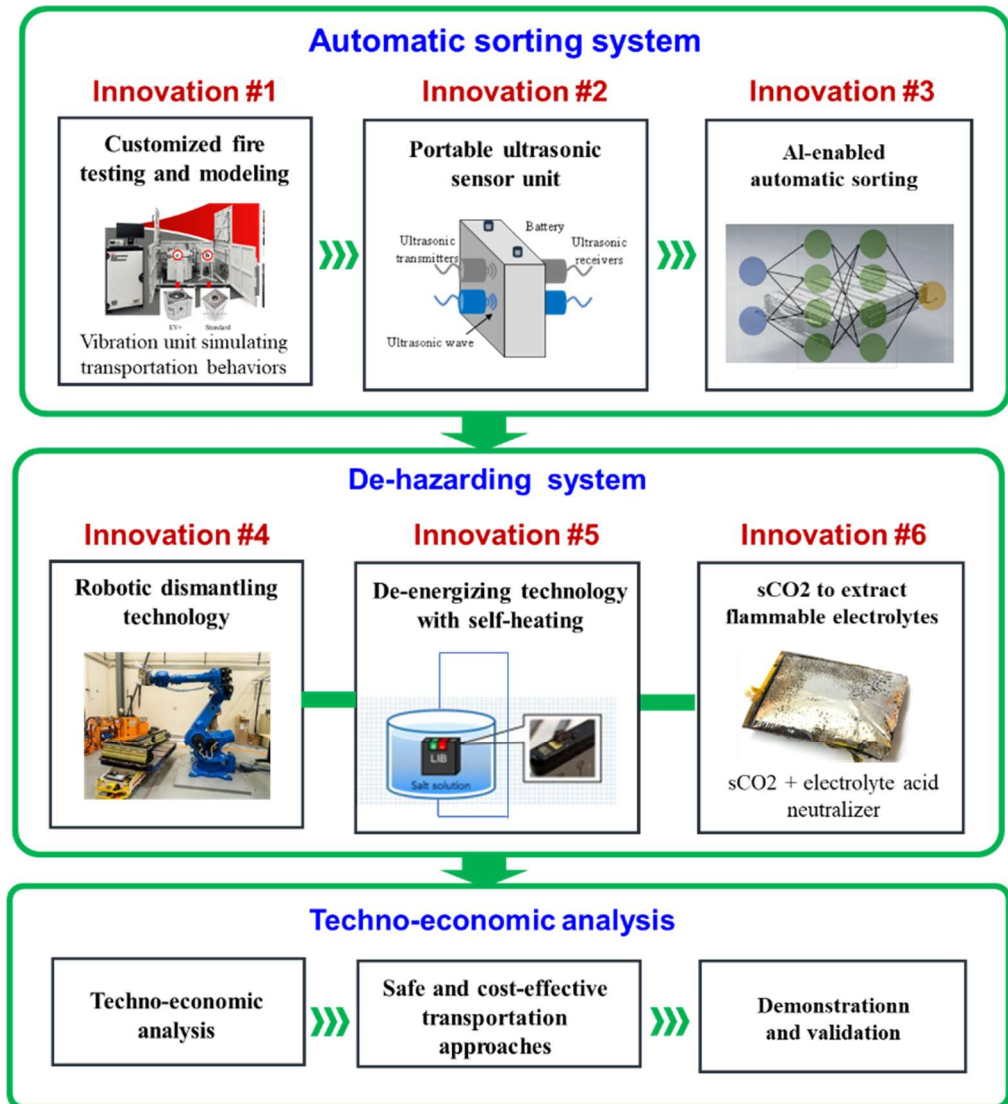
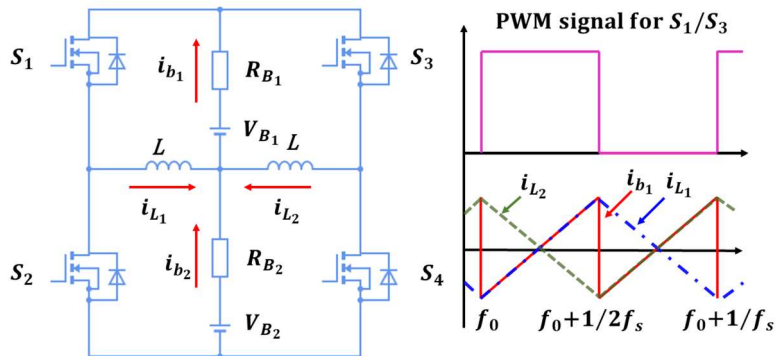
# Cyber Security of Power Systems

- Resilience of power electronics (PE)-dominated power distribution systems is an increased concern
- There exists physical disturbances and/or cyberattacks
- Use unified, energy space-based modeling framework to identify disturbances, cyber attacks, and mitigate the risks







# Battery de-energizing system

- Before recycling, deeply discharge the battery to 0
- 50V to 480V AC, send back to the grid
- 50V to short circuit, heat up the battery and conduct deep discharge

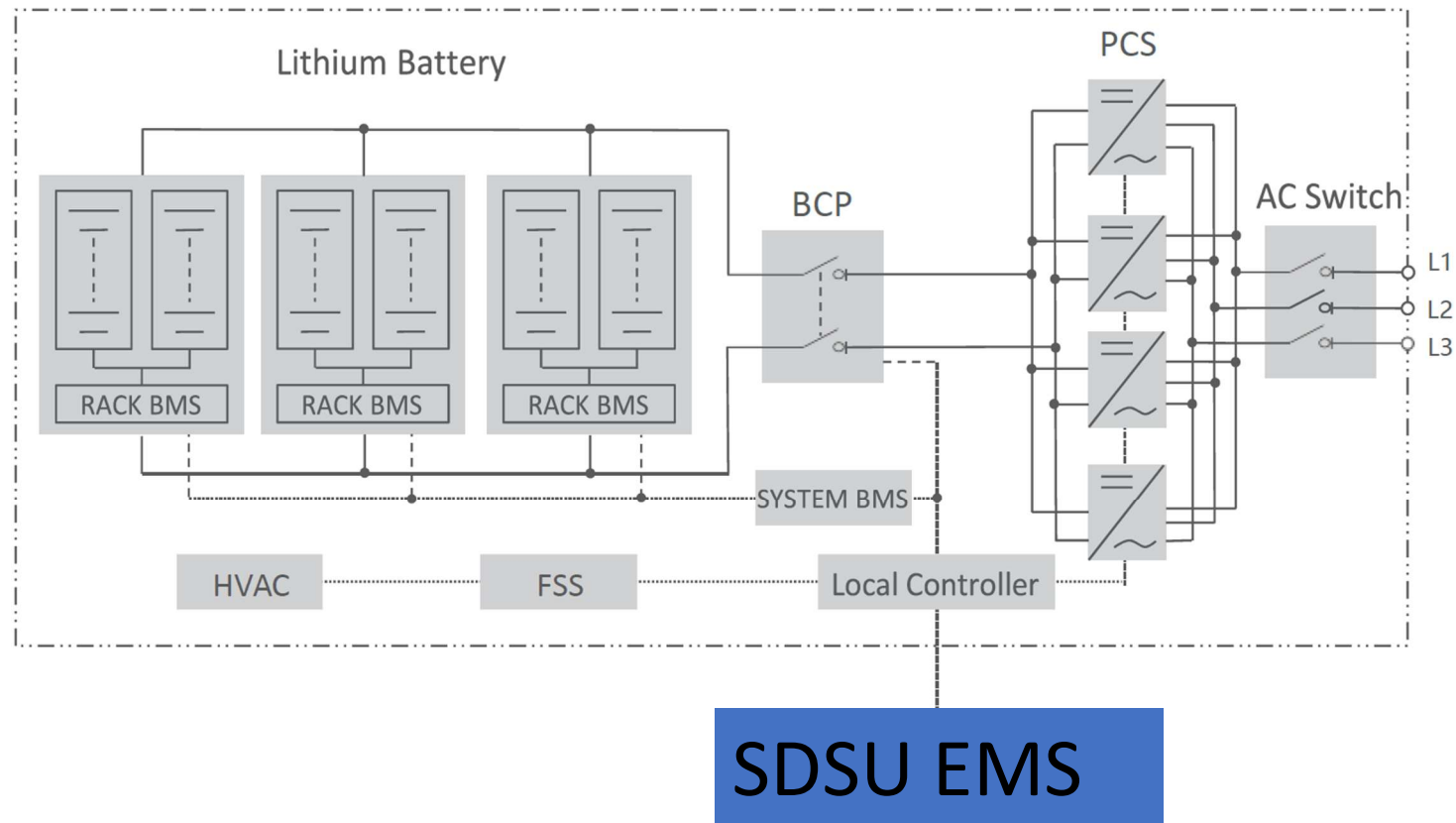


# Second-Life EV Battery Summary

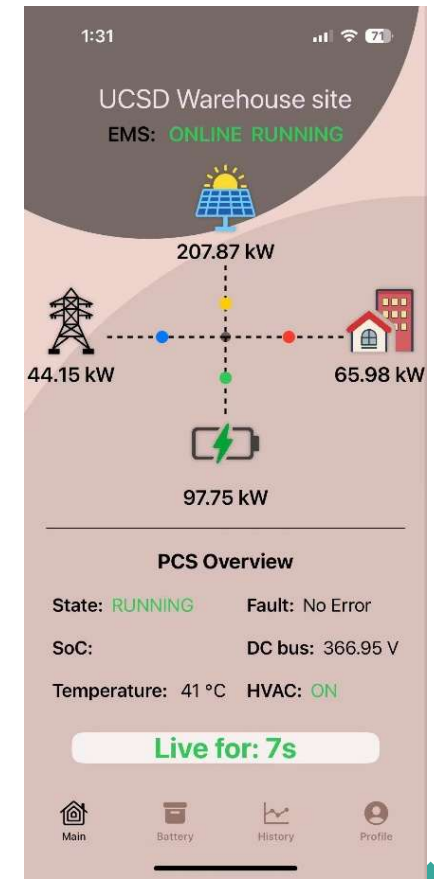
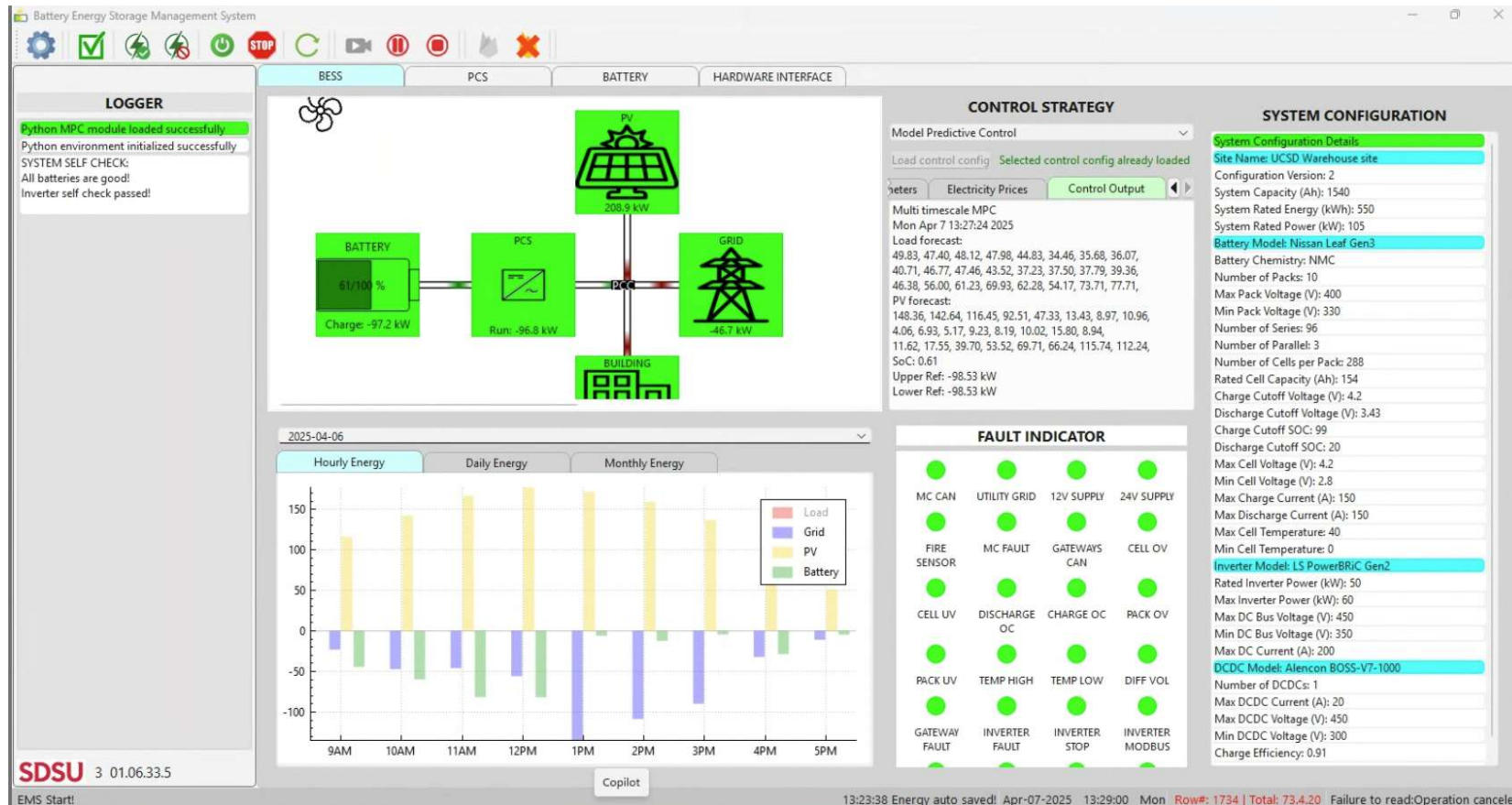
Step	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nissan Leaf Gen1 24 kWh LiMO2</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nissan Leaf Gen3 62 kWh LiNMC</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electric Forklift LFP 100Ah battery</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electric Bus LFP 270Ah battery</li> </ul>
1: Initial SOH	60%~67%	89~97%	Cell: 89% SOH Pack: 50%~60% SOH	Cell: 79% SOH Pack: 52% SOH
2: Balance State	< 5% minor	< 5% minor	30% serious	27% serious
3: Capacity degradation speed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast / Vehicle</li> <li>Slow / BESS</li> </ul>	20% / 1000 cycles 4% / 1000 cycles	20% / 1000 cycles 3.6~5.9% / 1000 cycles	9.3% / 1000 cycles 5.0% / 1000 cycles	Balance Issues exist
4: Aging Knee	No aging knee	Aging knee at 75% SOH (1500 cycles)	No aging knee	
5: Estimated 2 <sup>nd</sup> life	10~15 years 3000~5000 cycles 10 years / 3000 cycles high performance	10 years 3000 cycles 80% Dod <0.4C-rate	30 years 9000 cycles 100% Dod 0.5C charge/ 1C discharge	>10 years 3000 cycles Enhanced balance system is needed

# New ESS with our EMS

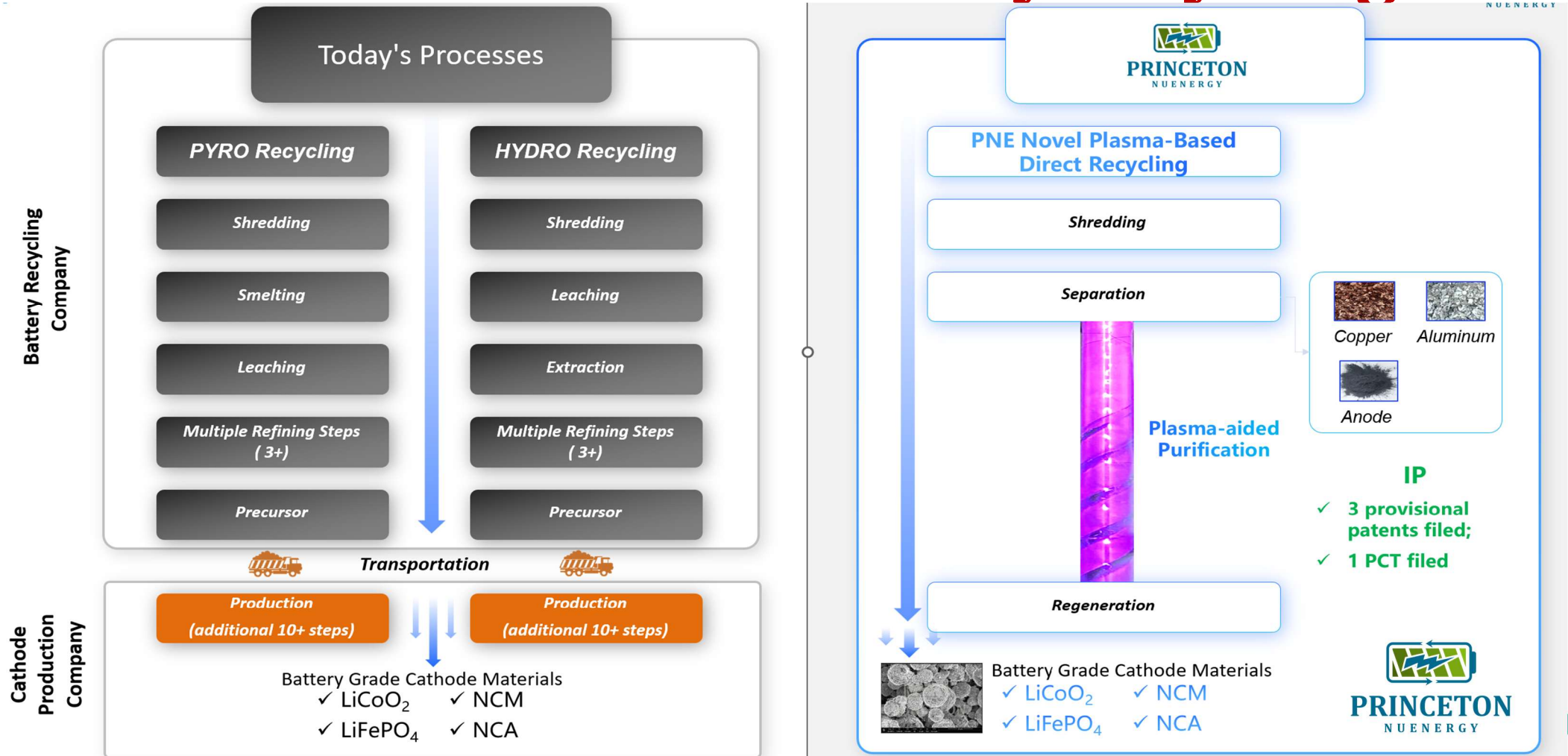
- 556kWh
- 250kW
- 480V
- SunGrow System
- Samsung SDI Mega E3
- 3.68 V / 100 Ah cells



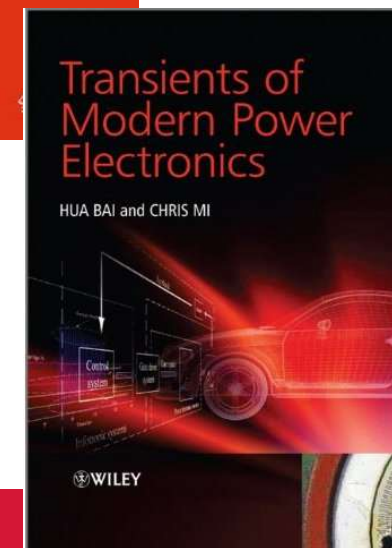
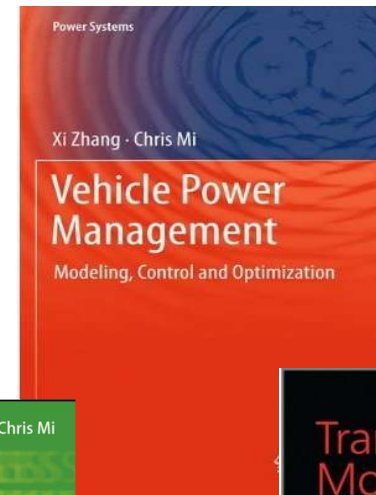
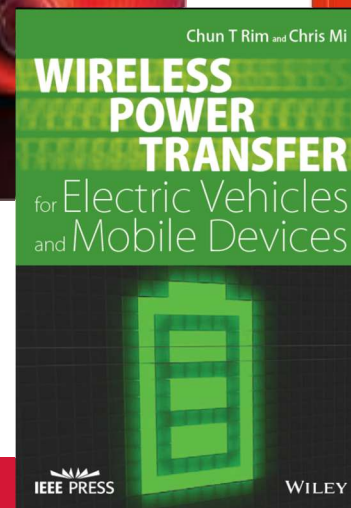
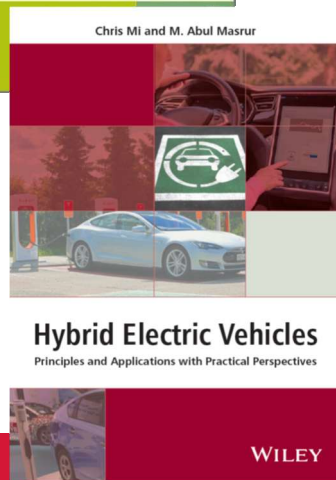
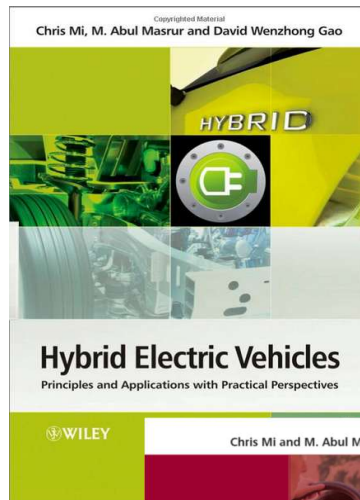
# Energy Management System (EMS)



# Plasma based direct battery recycling



**We are committed to conduct research to improve performance, efficiency and safety of electric vehicles**

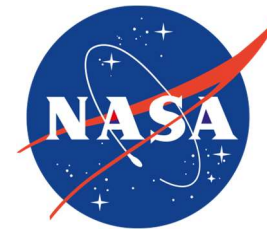


# Acknowledgement

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- National Science Foundation
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- Department of Energy
- Solid Energies



**Thank you!**

