

SOFTBANK CEMENT BLOCK ENERGY STORAGE



Can solar energy be stored in concrete blocks? This could be easily solved if we found a way to store solar energy. In October of 2019, we brought you news of a Swiss startup, Energy Vault, that had one such solution for clean energy storage in the form of huge concrete blocks. At the time, the firm had received \$110 million in investments from SoftBank.



Why did Energy Vault receive \$110 million from SoftBank? This year, the company received a substantial investment from SoftBank, a Japanese holding company. Energy Vault received \$110 million in investments from SoftBank just this past August. The investment will keep the Swiss company moving forward in their unique approach to storing renewable energy: through stacked concrete blocks.



How does a concrete block work? Solar or wind energy is siphoned into one of these tower blocks, and then AI informs the concrete blocks to rise up. Following this, the blocks are then "returned to the ground, and the kinetic energy generated from the falling brick is turned back into electricity," as per the company's own description. Energy Vault concrete block.



What is energy storage and how does it work? The process is similar to a pumped-storage hydropower plant (HPP), with water substituted with concrete blocks and gravity doing the rest. The energy storage technology has been invented by a Swiss-based startup called Energy Vault, which recently received a USD 110 million investment from Softbank Group. Why storage?



What is a heavy block? ???Heavy??? blocks in this case means 35 tons (70,000 pounds or 31,751 kg). The blocks are made of a composite material that uses soil and locally-sourced waste, which can include anything from concrete debris and coal ash to decommissioned wind turbine blades (talk about coming full circle).

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This 1 billion watts of electricity storage will greatly help to provide renewable energy to power grid in the western United States, and will be compressed air energy storage, flow batteries, solid ???



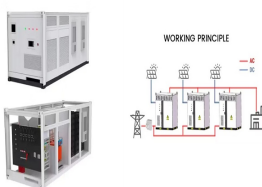
Illustration of the battery concept. Photo: Energy Vault. Energy Vault's battery does this by stacking concrete blocks into an organized potential-energy-rich tower. The battery is charged by using excess electricity to power ???



In 2020, Energy Vault had the first commercial scale deployment of its energy storage system, and launched the new EVx platform this past April. So my 500,000,000kg block is about 200,000m³ or 58x58x58 metres. One kg of concrete has embodied energy of ???



Energy Vault says the towers will have a storage capacity up to 80 megawatt-hours, and be able to continuously discharge 4 to 8 megawatts for 8 to 16 hours. The technology is best suited for long-duration storage with very fast ???



Lifting the block stores energy in the form of gravitational potential energy, So it will come as no surprise that Softbank is investing \$110 million in a storage startup called Energy Vault. What may be more surprising is the ???

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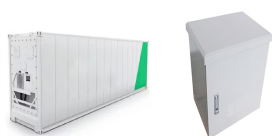
Most storage startups stress-test batteries in a lab, but Energy Vault stress-tests recipes for block materials to make sure they can hold the weight of blocks stacked one on the other. The company hopes to keep costs down by ???



Therefore, if the energy can be stored in Energy Vault for months, years or perhaps indefinitely, it is an invaluable solution for the utility companies. With SoftBank's new investment, Energy Vault hopes to build a full-scale ???



The availability, versatility, and scalability of these carbon-cement supercapacitors opens a horizon for the design of multifunctional structures that leverage high energy storage capacity, high



MIT engineers created a carbon-cement supercapacitor that can store large amounts of energy. Made of just cement, water, and carbon black, the device could form the basis for inexpensive systems that store intermittently ???



In the long-ago days of 2019, buzzy startup Energy Vault raised a record amount of capital to produce a fundamentally new climate technology: a specialized crane that stores clean energy by stacking heavy blocks. But the ???

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The idea of using concrete for energy storage has been there for quite sometime at the conceptual level. In 2021, a team at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg demonstrated the concept using carbon fiber mesh ???



Within a year, Energy Vault raised a \$ 110 million investment from SoftBank's Vision Fund, the largest equity investment in a grid storage hardware company at the time (a record currently held by the recent \$ 450 million raise ???



This is the Energy Vault project, which we present here. The technology proposed by Energy Vault. Energy Vault offers two types of product: long-term storage using concrete blocks and ???

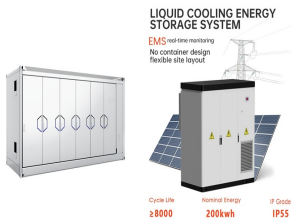


That 1 gigawatt storage would go a long way toward providing renewable power to the Western U.S. power grid and is going to be based on compressed air energy storage, large flow batteries, solid



Swiss start-up Energy Vault is providing a solution by storing extra energy as potential energy in concrete blocks. Their innovative energy storage technology consists of a combination of 35 tons solid concrete blocks and a ???

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So it will come as no surprise that Softbank is investing \$110 million in a storage startup called Energy Vault. What may be more surprising is the method they're choosing for storage: lifting giant blocks of cement with a ???



Energy Vault's model involves a 400-foot tall crane with custom-built blocks of concrete, each weighing about 12 tons. The system attracted global attention when it received \$110 million in funding from the Japanese investing firm SoftBank. ???