

# Measuring the value of energy storage – a perspective

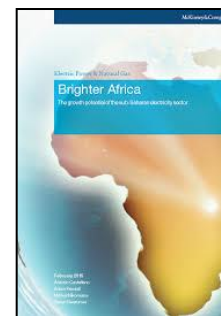


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# A brief introductions

A little about me...

- Co-Founder of Bushveld Energy, an energy storage solutions company, part of AIM-listed Bushveld group of companies that are developing an integrated vanadium platform in SA
- Focused on vanadium redox flow battery (VRFB) technology
  - Markets and develops projects across Africa
  - Establishing manufacturing of electrolyte and VRFBs in South Africa
- Previously at McKinsey & Company, working in Russia and across Africa, focusing on power sector (strategy and plant operations) and economic development



# Energy storage can sound complicated but evaluating value is still a function of cost and benefit

## Why does energy storage seem complicated

- It sounds like generation, but it is not; plus we just started to understand renewables...
- The amounts of applications for energy storage are immense, from homes to mini-grids to utility power station-sized installations
- The amount of different technologies and companies offering those technologies is overwhelming and changing rapidly



**Energy storage currently lacks standardisation** on terminology, performance evaluation or a history of best practices in its implementation

## Value, though is still a simple calculation

**Value of an energy storage installation**

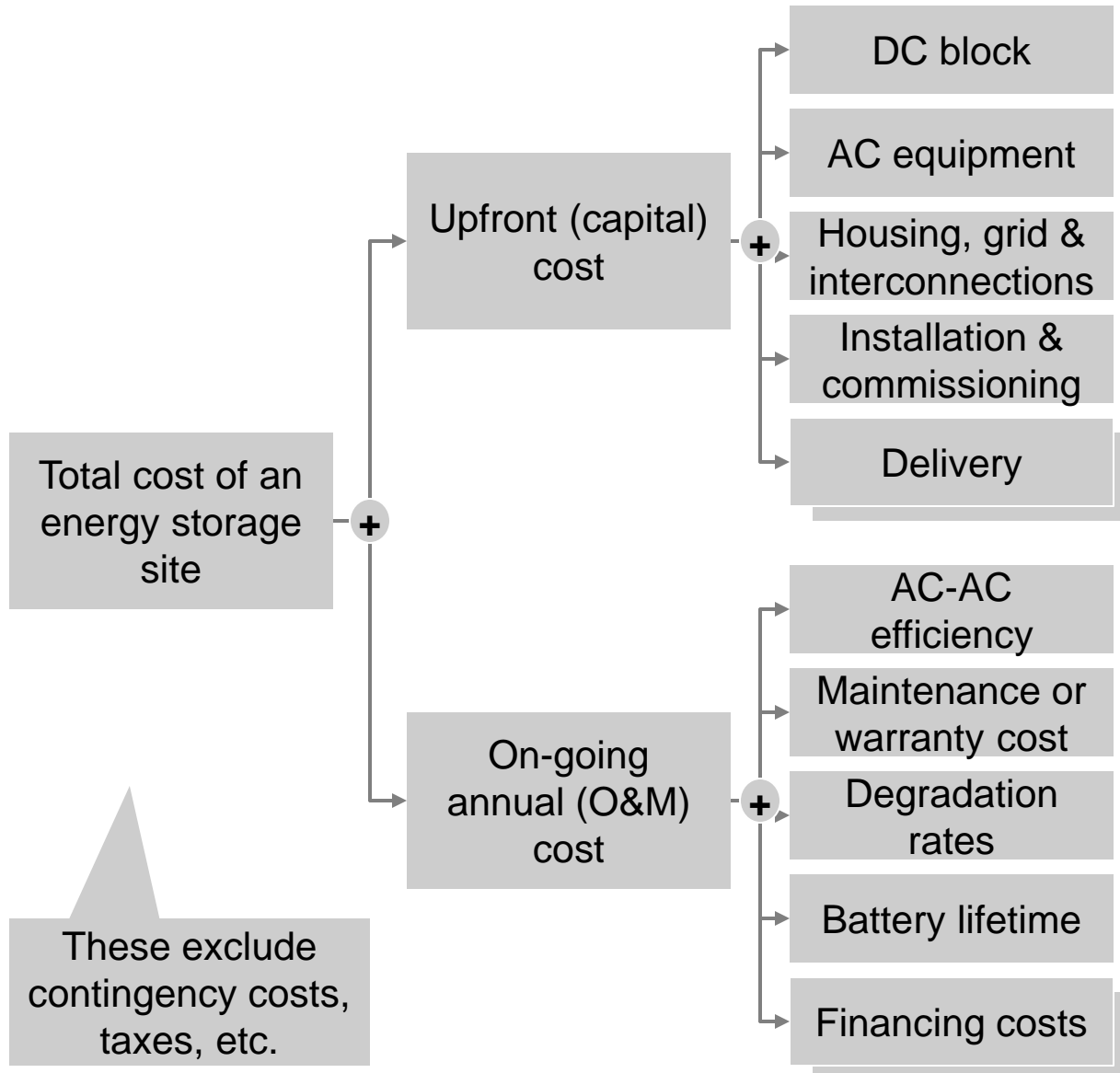
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**Benefit created from an energy storage installation site**

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**Cost to the energy storage site**

# We can first start with the cost of an energy storage site, which consists of many factors



## Observations

- Will vary for power (watts) and energy (watt hours)
- Some firms quote for AC, others for DC
- What is “containerised”?
- Transformers, site controllers?
- Is this done by the OEM, EPC, developer, integrators, etc.?
- Highly site specific (and do not forget about time)
- All batteries lose energy and all have parasitical AC systems
- These costs are predictive
- How strong is the warranty?
- This includes, temperature, DoD, “rest periods,” etc.
- Can be measured in years or full cycles or both
- Loan repayment or internal rate of return (incl. taxes and incentives)

# Let us look at an example, from a flow battery from 2 years ago

2015 Uni.System™ (AC)	
Peak Power	600 kW <sub>AC</sub> over 2 hours
Nominal Rating	500 kW <sub>AC</sub> over 4 hours
Maximum Energy	2.2 MWh <sub>AC</sub> over 8 hours
Cycle and Design Life	Unlimited cycles over 20 year life
Available State-of-Charge	100%
Frequency Reg. Efficiency	75% <sub>AC</sub>
Peak Shaving Efficiency	70% <sub>AC</sub>
Response Time	<100 ms
Voltage Range	465-1000 V <sub>DC</sub>
Max. Current	1500 A <sub>DC</sub>
Footprint	820 ft <sup>2</sup> (41'W x 20'D x 9.5'H)
Ambient Temp.	-40°C to 50°C ( -40°F to 122°F)
Total Weight	170,000 kg
Self Discharge	Max energy loss <2%*

AC systems, means supplier is including the inverter, BMS, switchgear

This typically a limitation for solid state batteries

Some OEMs will oversize a system to show 100% DoD capability

If AC, it should include all parasitical systems (verify)

Will I need to budget in a step-up transformer?

Will I need extra cooling or heating at my site?

\*Self-discharge limited by electrolyte stacks; no discharge

What is missing? Recharge rate, disposal, site requirements...

# Evaluating the benefits of energy storage is more difficult and application specific; we'll look at three site types

1



A utility application, where distributed energy storage can add over a dozen values

2



A behind the meter, electricity consumer, where the benefits are driven by the tariff structure and grid power quality

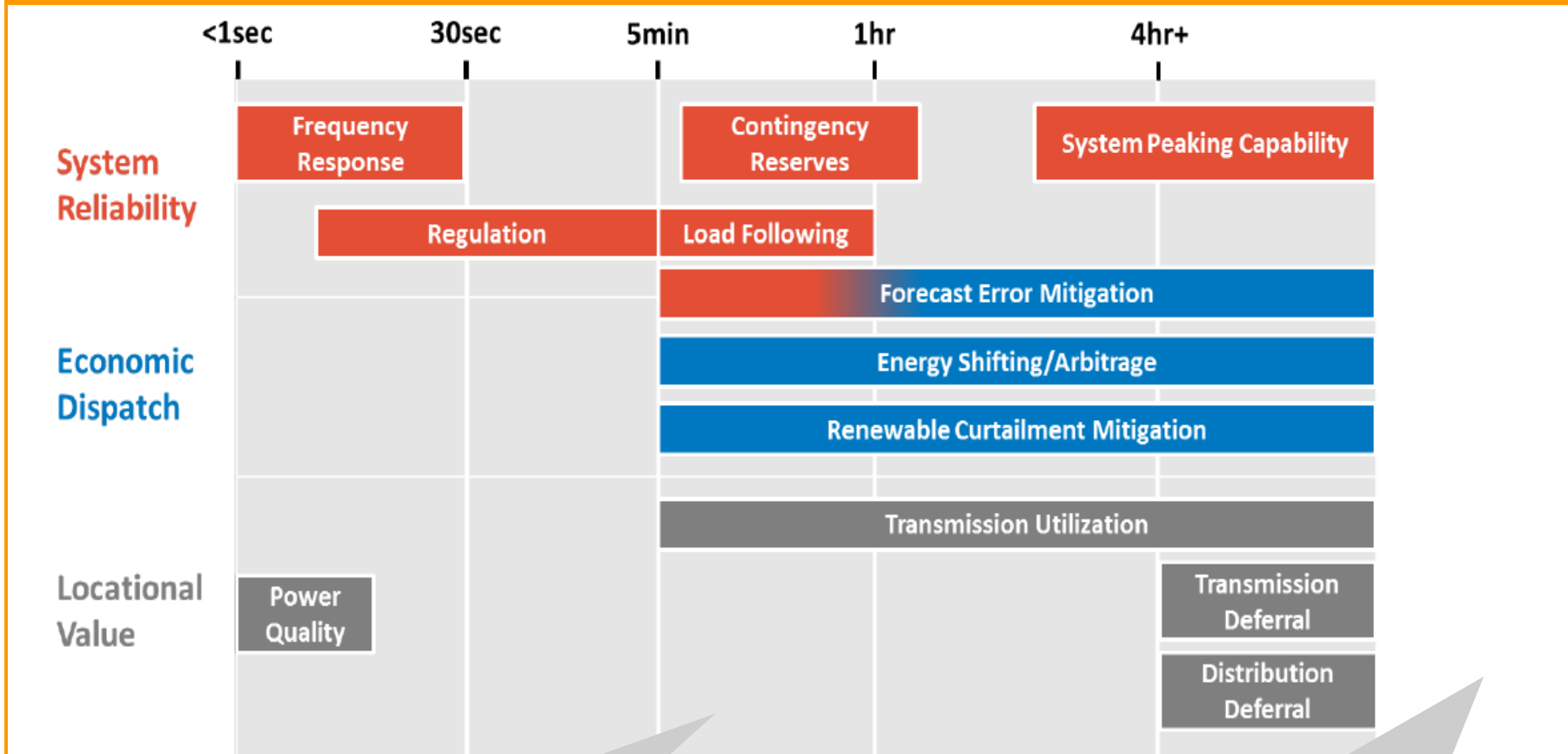
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Off-grid applications, where storage is part of a larger energy solution

# 1. Utility energy storage has over a dozen benefits that could be realised by one system

## Utility scale energy storage use cases and their relevant time scales



Other benefits include

- Technical loss reduction
- Time shifting of losses
- System resiliency

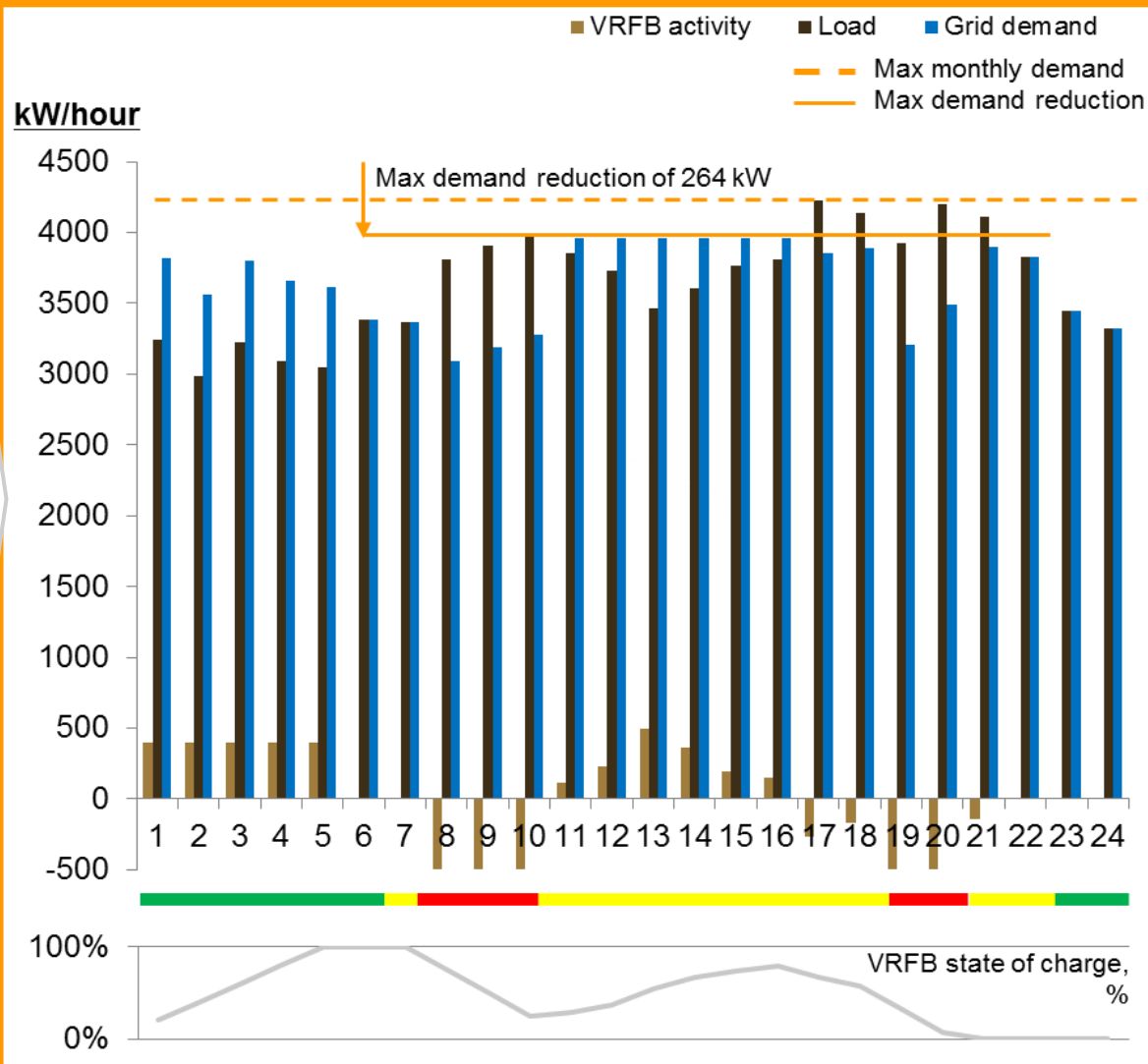
System reliability benefits are well known and quantified; utilities still analysing dispatch and locational value streams

## 2. In South Africa, we usually see up to five use cases for behind the meter energy storage

### Context to SA example

- Value streams include
  - Reduction of peak demand charge
  - Arbitrage / time shifting
  - Back-up power and uninterrupted power
  - Improved power quality
  - Higher utilisation of PV (e.g. weekends)
- Analysis is updated to reflect addition of both a 500kW / 2MWh VRFB to a large industrial load
- Sizing the battery system to the application and technology is essential (in this case, we can get 1.5 daily cycles; adding PV increases it to almost two)

### Site load profile, with grid and battery power supply



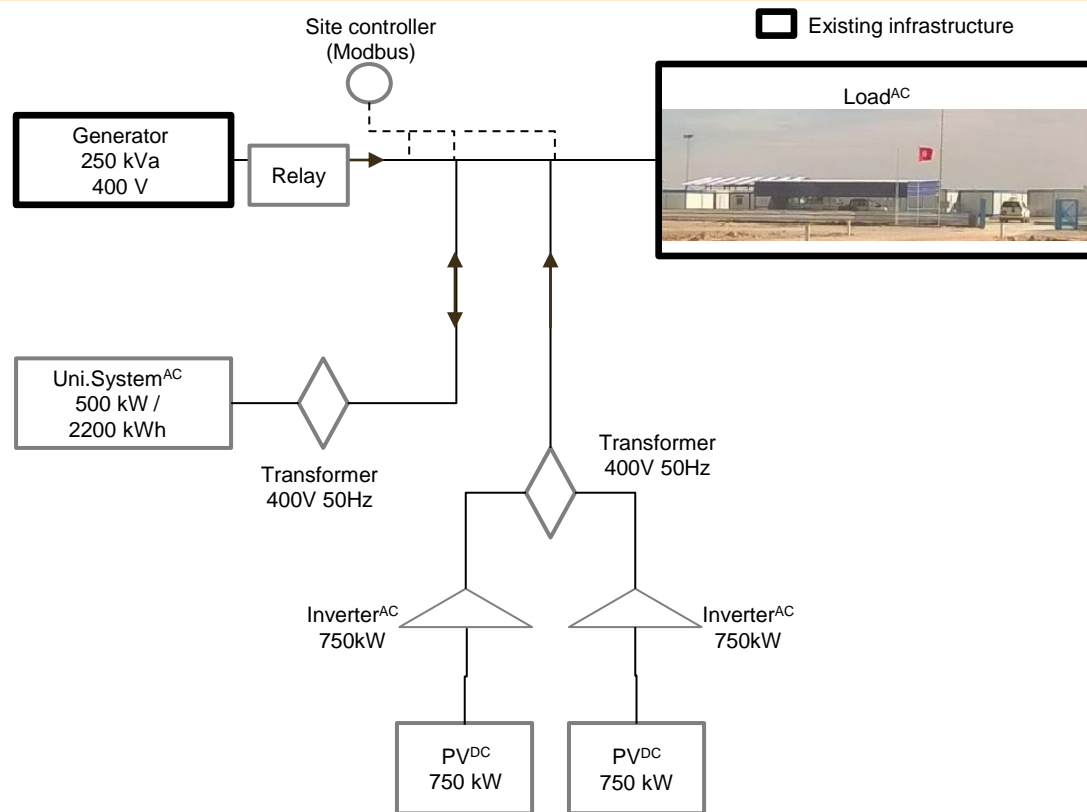


### 3. The off-grid case is the most straight forward, as it typically involves diesel or other liquid fuel displacement

#### Context to off-grid example

- In off-grid, storage acts to increase the amount of energy that can come from solar or wind, while decreasing diesel/HFO reliance (though not eliminating it)
- Calculation of the benefit involves combining the cost of the PV, storage and expected diesel usage to create an energy tariff (very similar to an IPP)
- Sizing the battery system and the PV installation are critical, especially optimising for the amount of diesel reliance

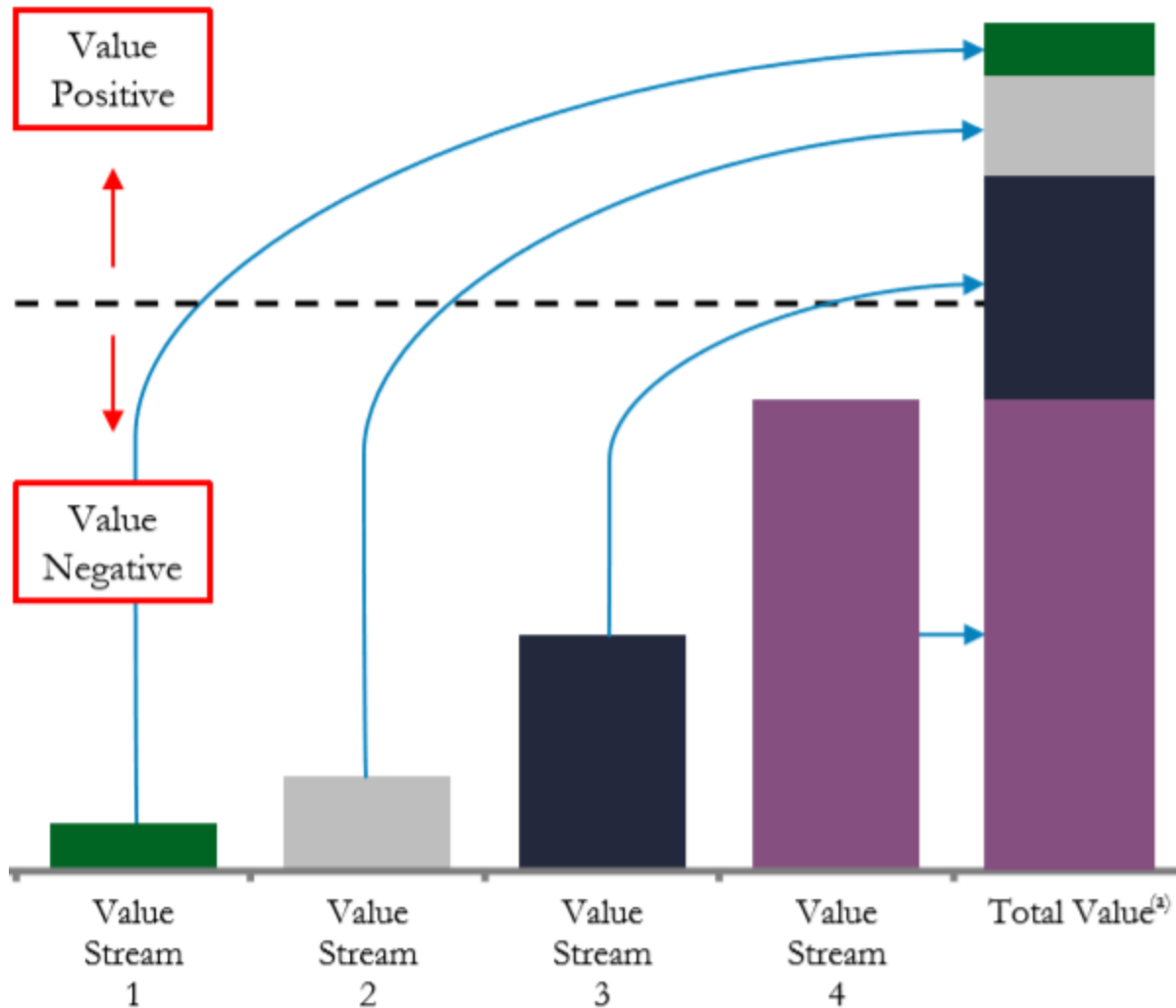
#### SLD of a technical configuration



Storage allows for larger PV sizing, of 6-7 times the load and 2-3 times the battery in terms of power

# Stacking is the means to aggregate multiple storage value streams

For multi-value stream sites, value “stacking” is the approach to quantify total value



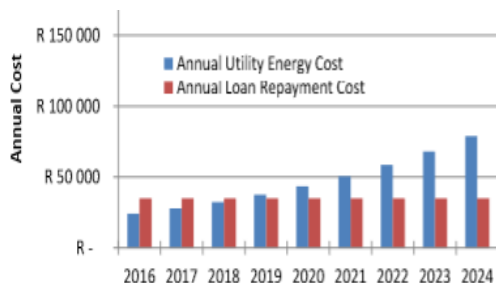
Although simple in theory, actual stacking requires significant analysis of questions such as:

- How many of the values can one system perform?
- To what degree can each value be captured (e.g. 50%, 80%)?
- How will multiple implications impact the battery’s cost (e.g. inverter, software) and lifetime (e.g. cycles, stage of charge)?
- How to value future cost increases?

# We have seen two methods to calculate the cost / benefit for specific sites and compare costs across technologies

1

## Years to cash repayment



### Method description

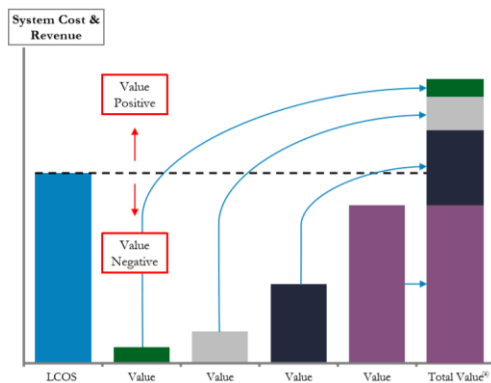
- Calculates the annual financial benefit from the system
- Estimates the number of years it will take for the project to recoup the investment / becomes “cash positive”

### Select pros & cons

- + Simple and can be done without discounting
- Must be site specific
- Not as accurate when doing fleet / portfolio or strategic analyses

2

## Levelised cost of energy stored



- Calculated on a “per kWh” basis (similar to LCOE for generation)
- Adds the total discounted costs of installing and operating over the lifetime of the project (years and/or cycles);
- Divides costs by the aggregate discounted energy stored during the project lifetime

- + More accurate and holistic, if assumptions are correct
- + Can be coupled with generation and transmission levelised costs
- End results often not driven by technical assumptions but financial (e.g. cost of capital)

## The 3 summary points in valuing energy storage

1. Although complicated, the value of energy storage **is quantifiable**
2. Costing of energy storage needs to incorporate **many different parameters** (not just upfront DC block cost or efficiency)
3. Measuring the benefit usually requires **stacking** multiple benefits / revenue streams

**Thank you  
for your attention**