

REAL-TIME PRICING CONTROLLER OF AN ENERGY STORAGE MEDIUM

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus is provided for controlling an energy storage medium connected to an environmental control system that is providing environmental conditioning. The controller includes an energy pricing data structure for storing a real-time energy pricing profile indicative of energy rates corresponding to time-varying production costs of energy. The controller also includes a storage medium containing rules that approximate optimal control trajectories of an energy cost function that is dependent upon the real-time energy pricing profile, with the rules governing the operation of the energy storage medium. In addition, the controller has an engine for generating a storage medium control signal based upon the real-time energy pricing profile and the rules whereby the energy storage medium is controlled with the storage medium control signal in order to minimize energy costs associated with environmental control system.

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