

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
27 February 2020 (27.02.2020)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2020/039204 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
H02J 3/32 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2019/052369

(22) International Filing Date:
23 August 2019 (23.08.2019)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
1813875.0 24 August 2018 (24.08.2018) GB

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP,
KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(54) Title: BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

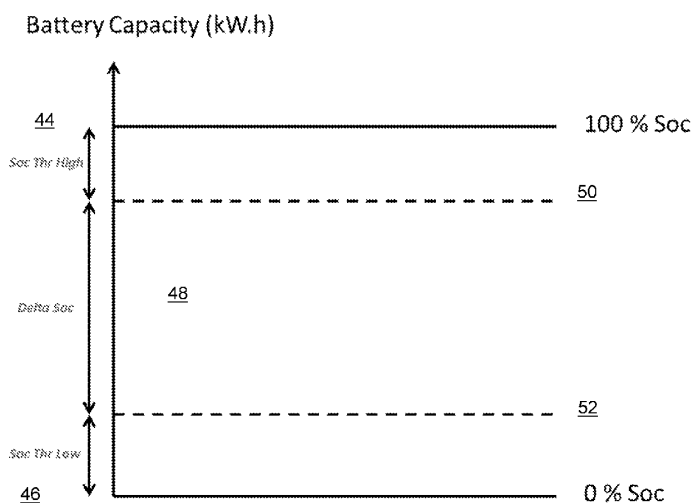


Figure 3b

(57) Abstract: A battery energy storage system for use in providing balancing services to an electrical power distribution network is set to monitor the state of charge (SoC) of a storage battery (26). If the SoC is within an optimal range (48), the balancing service is provided solely by charging and discharging the battery. If the battery SoC falls below a predetermined low threshold (52), a first non-battery asset is operated to increase power supplied to the network. Similarly, if the battery SoC rises above a predetermined high threshold (50), a second non-battery asset is operated to provide the balancing service. With this arrangement, requirements on the energy storage capacity of the battery are reduced. For the system to meet balancing service regulatory requirements, the battery need only remain capable of charging or discharging beyond each threshold (50, 52) for a period of time that covers that taken for the respective asset to reach operational capacity.

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WO 2020/039204 A1

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*