

# Energy Storage Summit London 2018: Where Innovation Met Grid Resilience

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Remember when your phone battery died during that crucial Tube ride? The 2018 Energy Storage Summit in London proved the energy sector faces similar "low battery anxiety" - but with higher stakes. As 650+ professionals gathered at the etc.venues County Hall, the chatter wasn't about power banks, but about grid-scale solutions to keep cities humming.

### Three Lightning Strikes From the Conference Floor

The summit floor buzzed like a Tesla coil - here's what had everyone charged up:

#### 1. Batteries Grew Up (And Got a British Accent)

Zenobe Energy showcased the UK's first 10MW lithium titanate battery - think of it as the Paddington Bear of storage: polite, reliable, and impossible to overcharge

National Grid's "stacked revenue" models turned storage into a money-making matryoshka doll - frequency response and capacity market? Da!

#### 2. Software Ate the Energy World (Again)

Fluence's AI-driven bidding system demonstrated how storage plants could outthink traders. One algorithm reportedly asked for a raise during the live demo - okay, we made that up, but you get the spark.

#### 3. Brexit-Proof Tech Emerged

RedT's vanadium flow batteries promised 20-year lifespans - longer than most Westminster governments

Highview Power's cryogenic storage used liquid air - because if Brits can perfect tea storage, why not electrons?

### Coffee Break Revelations That Aged Like Fine Whisky

Between sips of ethically-sourced flat whites, three predictions emerged that still shape 2025's storage landscape:

"By 2025, every wind turbine will come with storage like fish comes with chips" - anonymous grid operator (who clearly missed lunch)

2018 Projection

2025 Reality Check

100MW = "Mega project"

Now just the appetizer in a 1GW main course

4-hour duration = Gold standard

8-hour systems dominate new tenders

The Panel That Started a Pub Debate

When ScottishPower's CEO quipped "Storage is the new peaker plant," gas lobbyists spilled their pints. The ensuing discussion covered:

How storage economics flipped faster than a Pancake Day spatula

Why "duck curves" became less about ornithology and more about sunsettng fossils

Case Study: Orkney Islands' Surprise Cameo

This archipelago's 2MW flywheel system stole the show. Imagine Viking longboats meeting space-age gyroscopes - storing wind energy so efficiently, locals joked about powering both their homes and their whisky stills.

Exhibition Floor Gold Nuggets

The real magic happened where espresso met electrons:

A thermal storage prototype using volcanic rock - because Britain's weather wasn't dramatic enough

Blockchain-based P2P trading demos that made energy feel like Pok?mon GO

VR simulations letting you "swim" through battery cells - the closest engineers get to a beach holiday

As the Thames glittered behind conference windows, one truth became clear: The energy transition isn't coming - it was already here, sipping lukewarm Chardonnay and swapping business cards. While 2018's

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storage stars have since been eclipsed by 2025's 300MW behemoths, this summit remains the moment storage shifted from "nice-to-have" to "keep-the-lights-on."

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