



Lab-scale sorption energy storage

The system consists of: 1) Sorber beds, 2) Inlet/outlet heat transfer fluid, 3) Condenser, and 4) Custom-built capillary-assisted low-pressure evaporator. A heating network and low-temperature heat source (ambient) are also shown. The system is used for cyclic operation (35 min storage, 70 min storage, 105 min storage) and seasonal application.

Material	Composition	m _{ads} (kg)	k _{ads} (Wm ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	C _{p,ads} (MJm ⁻³ K ⁻¹)	
SG-CC	Silica gel + CaCl ₂ (SG-CC)	55% B150 silica gel 30% CaCl ₂ 15% PVA	1.302	0.098 ± 0.002	0.42 ± 0.06
SG-CC-G	Silica gel + CaCl ₂ + graphite flakes (20%) (SG-CC-G)	42% B150 silica gel 23% CaCl ₂ 15% PVA 20% graphite flakes	1.513	0.231 ± 0.006	0.45 ± 0.03

Hot Disk Thermal Constants Analyzer (TPS 2500 S) is used for characterization.

ESD (MJ kg⁻¹) and SP_{dch,ave} (W kg⁻¹) are compared for cold and heat storage. For heat storage, SG-CC-G (20%) shows higher ESD and SP compared to SG-CC. ESD_{heat} of 1.1 GJm⁻³ was achieved for the lab-scale silica gel+CaCl₂ storage. ESD_{heat} decreased from 1.03 for cyclic operation (no storage-time) to 0.43 MJkg⁻¹ for seasonal applications. Adding 20% graphite flakes to silica gel+CaCl₂ increased the initial specific power (SP) from 1.25 kWkg⁻¹ to 1.30 kWkg⁻¹ for the first 10 min. However, the averaged SP of the composite without graphite was higher due to its more active sorbent material.