



# Energy Storage Summit London 2019: Where Innovation Met Industry Transformation

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### The Stage for Energy Revolution

When the Energy Storage Summit 2019 opened its doors in London, it wasn't just another conference - it became the launchpad for technologies that would redefine grid flexibility. 800+ decision-makers from 45 countries crammed into the conference halls, their badges dangling like golden tickets to the future of power management.

### Key Themes That Shaped Conversations

The 2019 edition operated like a technological crystal ball, revealing three critical industry shifts:

- The lithium-ion domino effect - Prices had fallen 85% since 2010, suddenly making utility-scale projects financially viable

- Software eats the grid - Machine learning algorithms for battery optimization drew more investors than hardware exhibits

- Second-life battery boom - Automakers and energy firms formed unlikely alliances to repurpose EV batteries

### Game-Changing Product Launches

While Tesla's Megapack dominated headlines, the real showstopper was Fluence's StackedIQ - an AI-driven storage system that could predict grid congestion patterns with 94% accuracy. Meanwhile, startup Modvion quietly demonstrated wooden wind turbine towers that would later slash installation costs by 40%.

### Policy Debates That Still Echo Today

The "Great Ancillary Services Showdown" panel saw heated exchanges between UK regulators and German engineers. The Brits pushed for 1-hour response time standards, while continental experts argued: "You can't regulate physics!" This tension directly influenced the EU's 2022 Dynamic Grid Response Framework.

### Numbers That Made Investors Sweat

- Global storage deployments projected to hit 158GW by 2024 (they actually reached 172GW)

- UK's T-1 capacity auction cleared at GBP6/kW - 300% higher than 2018

- Corporate PPAs for storage jumped 67% year-over-year

### The Coffee Break That Changed Grid Architecture

In what's now industry legend, a chance meeting between National Grid engineers and Tesla's product team sparked the "Virtual Transmission" concept. This became reality in 2022 when 400MWh batteries replaced traditional infrastructure in Cornwall, saving GBP200 million in upgrade costs.



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## Emerging Tech That Flopped (Thankfully)

Not every 2019 prediction aged well. The much-hyped "hydrogen hybrid systems" turned out to be the Segway of energy storage - technically impressive but commercially awkward. And let's not forget the blockchain-based energy trading platforms that vanished faster than conference buffet shrimp.

## Where Are The 2019 Players Now?

Six years later, the 2019 cohort shows Darwinian evolution at work:

- 3 startups became unicorns (Zenobe, Flexitricity, Habitat Energy)

- 7 traditional utilities acquired storage specialists

- Every major oil company present now has a storage division

As we approach Energy Storage Summit 2025, industry veterans still refer back to 2019's breakthroughs. The lessons learned? Storage isn't just about electrons - it's about reimagining entire energy ecosystems. And maybe avoiding blockchain solutions for grid management.

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