## Lavo fuel cell



Lavo fuel cell

The system costs \$30,000 and is approximately 1.7 by 1.2 metres and 40 centimeters thick. It stores solar energy in patented metal hydride "vessels" developed by the University of New South Wales and can power a normal home for around two and a half days when the sun is not shining.

The technology, which took 15 months to create with financing from the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre of the federal government, can be used in residential, commercial, and industrial environments.

Mr. Markgraaff stated that the company has received deposits on domestic unit orders totaling \$65 million from customers in 40 countries, but that these orders were dwarfed by orders from energy corporations.

"We have orders worth over a billion dollars in the power sector," he stated. "This is obviously a top goal for us to implement on solar farms. We have contractual obligations to do so."

Darren Jones, technical director of LAVO, stated that Hunter enterprises such as Varley were "very well positioned" to construct larger "project-based" units for industry and energy utilities.

Representatives of the company informed the NSW Shadow Minister for Industry, Anoulack Chanthivong, the MP for Port Stephens, Kate Washington, and the MP for Newcastle, Tim Crakanthorp, that they had not yet determined where the residential units would be constructed on a commercial scale.

The company is advancing through a complicated approval process with state authorities and has installed prototypes of the "world's first" technology in five mainland jurisdictions.

Australian energy company Lavo is throwing down the gauntlet to Tesla's Powerwall with a home battery storage system that doesn't rely on conventional batteries at all, New Atlas reports -- opting for hydrogen as fuel instead.

Lavo's massive battery, which it's calling the Green Energy Storage System, is technically an electrolysis unit that can generate hydrogen from water, store it, and then turn it into electricity using a fuel cell, much like a hydrogen vehicle.

Thanks to its massive 40 kilowatt-hours capacity, Lavo's battery has nearly three times the capacity of Tesla's current-gen Powerwall 2. That's plenty of energy to power an average home for two days straight -- and a strident shot across the industry's bow.

Lavo says its system will last longer than lithium battery systems thanks to its reliance on hydrogen gas rather

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than the chemicals in a conventional battery. It&#x27;s also technically more environmentally friendly as it doesn&#x27;t use as many rare earth metals.

But then there's also the chance of fire or -- in the very worst case -- a Hindenburg-like explosion. Lavo says any leaks will disperse quickly, though, making it "inherently no more dangerous than other conventional fuels such as gasoline or natural gas," as the company writes in its FAQ.

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