

Long Duration Energy Storage Systems for a Cleaner Future



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Participants in the Solicitation. ESS, ACON and their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from ACON's shareholders in connection with the proposed transaction. A list of the names of such directors, executive officers, other members of management, and employees, and information regarding their interests in the business combination will be contained in ACON's filings with the SEC, and such information and names of ESS's directors and executive officers will also be in the Registration Statement on Form S-4 to be filed with the SEC by ACON, which will include the proxy statement/prospectus) and other relevant documents when they are filed with the SEC.



Transaction Overview



Category Catalyst in Long Duration Energy Storage Solutions

ESS

• Founded in 2011 to enable the stable, decentralized and decarbonized power grid of the future

- Offering Size ACON S2 (NASDAQ: STWO): a special purpose acquisition company
 - \$250 million cash in trust
 - PIPE size of \$250 million

Valuation

- \$1,072 million pro forma enterprise value
- Attractive value, high-growth, genuinely sustainable business

Capital Structure

- ESS shareholders rolling 100% of equity
- \$465 million net proceeds (assuming no redemptions)
- Fully funded to projected cash flow profitability

ESS' Key Investors and Partners













Leadership





Craig Evans President & Founder



Eric Dresselhuys (March 2021)



Julia Song CTO & Founder



Amir Moftakhar CFO

ACONS2



Adam Kriger CFO & Director



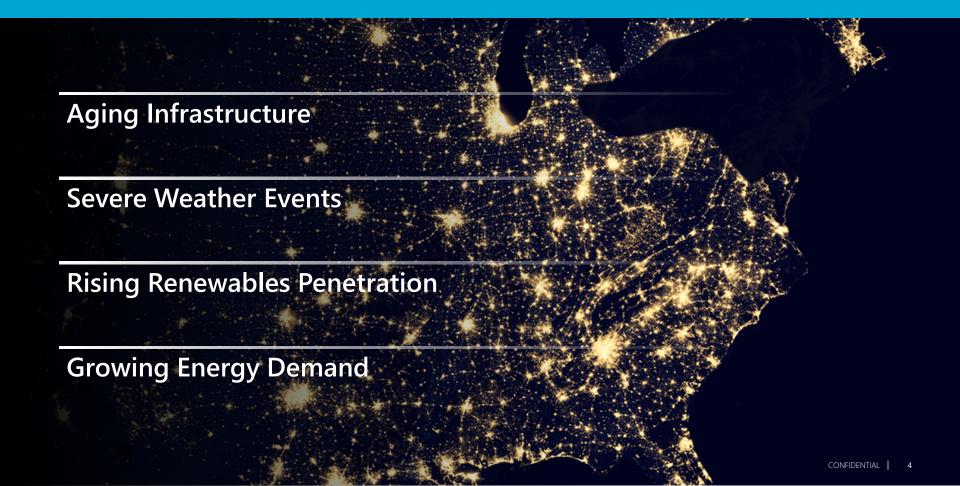
John Roush CFO & Chairman



ACON Advisor

We Must Reimagine the Grid

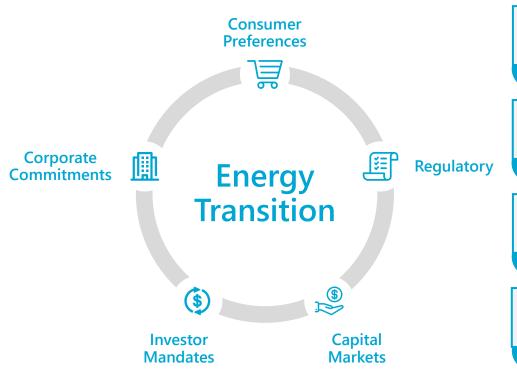




Energy Transition is Building Momentum



Stakeholders are aligned to accelerate the energy transition towards a more sustainable future



"Anybody who has the breakthrough on battery storage is going to have the key to the future"

John Kerry (U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate)

"It's a question of when, not if, the global economy will shift way from fossil fuels"

Bloomberg

"Renewables should supply 90% of all energy needs...fossil fuel usage would fall by 75%"

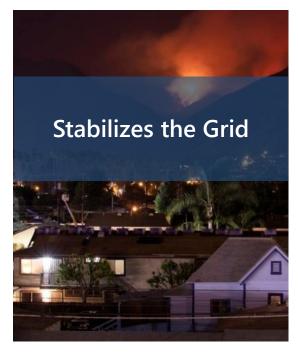
IRENA

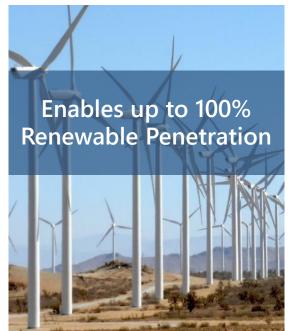
"Transmission and energy storage certainly have critical roles to play, with broader interconnection and high voltage transmission corridors to build regional resilience"

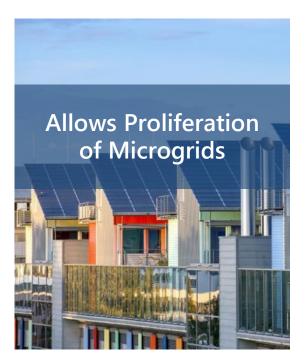
Nuclear Innovation Alliance

ESS is a Game Changer in Long Duration Energy Storage









ESS: A Category Defining Investment Opportunity



- 1 Large and Fast-Growing TAM: ~\$56bn by 2027 growing at a 33% CAGR¹
 - 2 Simple Yet Revolutionary Technology: Iron, salt and water; strong patent portfolio
 - 3 Compelling Value Proposition: Highest performance, lowest cost² and most sustainable
 - 4 Low Risk Expansion Plan: Field proven³ technology with low-cost manufacturing build out
 - 5 \$7bn of Identified Opportunities4: \$300m+ SoftBank Energy framework agreement through 2026
- 6 Premier Management Team: Founders and inventors supported by an experienced team
 - Guidehouse Insights, 'Market Data: Utility-Scale Energy Storage Market Update', 3Q 2020; Guidehouse Insights, 'Market Data: Energy Storage for Microgrids and Remote Power Systems', 2Q 2020; and Navigant Research, 'Distributed Energy Storage Overview', 4Q 2019.
- Management Estimates of levelized cost of storage (LCOS) among long duration Storage Systems.
 Based on our Generation I products, which are no longer deployed.
 - Our \$7.0 billion pipeline of visible potential opportunities for 2021 through 2027 was determined based on named projects with customers ESS has spoken to and signed non-disclosure agreements with in order to discuss the projects. We have assumed project volumes of eight, 10 and 12-hour energy storage durations and pricing based on our current 2021 pricing for our products. Actual pricing will be project specific. Our pipeline includes both Energy Warehouse and Energy Center projects and global opportunities. There is no assurance that we will enter into all of the markets that we have projected in our pipeline.

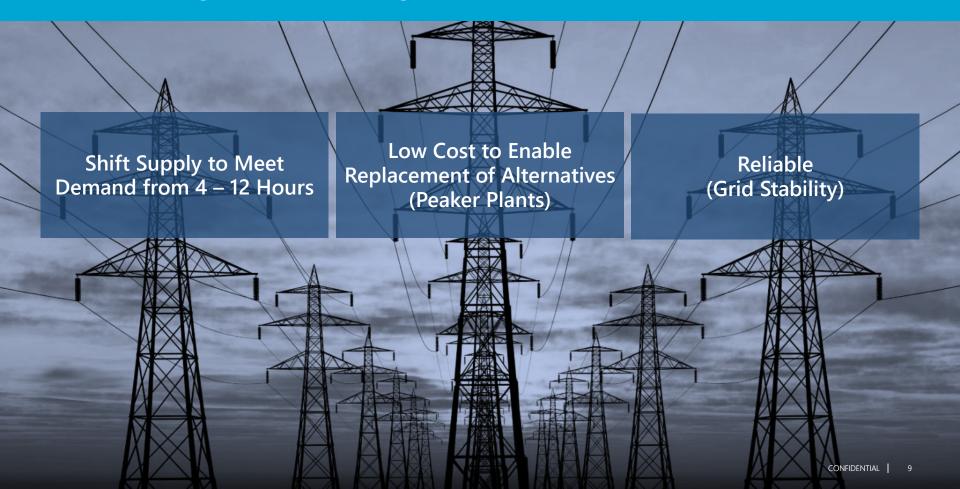


Market Opportunity



What Is Long Duration Storage?





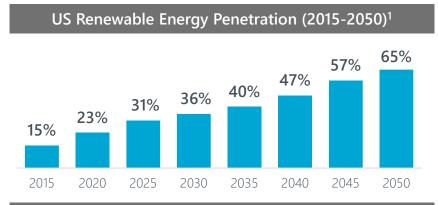
ESS Transforms the Value Proposition for Long Duration Storage



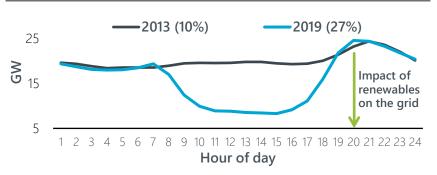
What Customers Demand		⊗ ESS [™]	How ESS Transforms the Grid			
U	Longer Duration	Up to 12 hoursFlexibility allows multiple revenue streams	 Can replace coal and natural gas with solar and wind power Greater resiliency to unexpected events 			
\$	Low Cost	 Lower LCOS than other technologies in the market Incremental cost of storage <\$20/kWh 	 Step function improvement in economics of storage Enables multiple use cases 			
♥	Power On Demand	 <1 second response time >20,000 cycle life – \$0 marginal cost per cycle 	■ Improved grid resiliency and flexibility			
•	Safety and Reliability	 Non-flammable, non-toxic, no explosion risk Munich RE insures technology risk 	 Can deploy in a wide range of geographies and climates Customers can be confident in a long-term solution 			
Ø	Sustainability	 Easily sourced materials; recyclable components "Plug and play" with 25-year operating life 	 Environmentally sustainable Accelerates clean energy transition 			

Stabilize the Grid and Accelerate Renewables





California Duck Curve and % Renewable Penetration^{1,2}



Renewable intermittency creates a massive problem for the grid, particularly >25% penetration

- Carbon-free is the goal
- Intermittency and curtailment are barriers
- 4-hour storage does not efficiently bridge the duck curve
- Longer duration solutions enable peaker plant replacements

BloombergNEF

Fortify the Grid for Climate Change





Climate change will result in more unpredictable weather events including extreme temperatures, hurricanes and wildfires¹

Texas Freeze

ESS batteries operate efficiently in extreme hot and cold weather and still maintain grid stability

Texas was seconds away from complete grid failure, which could have taken months to bring back online

California Fires

ESS batteries are safe for people and the environment: non-flammable and non-toxic

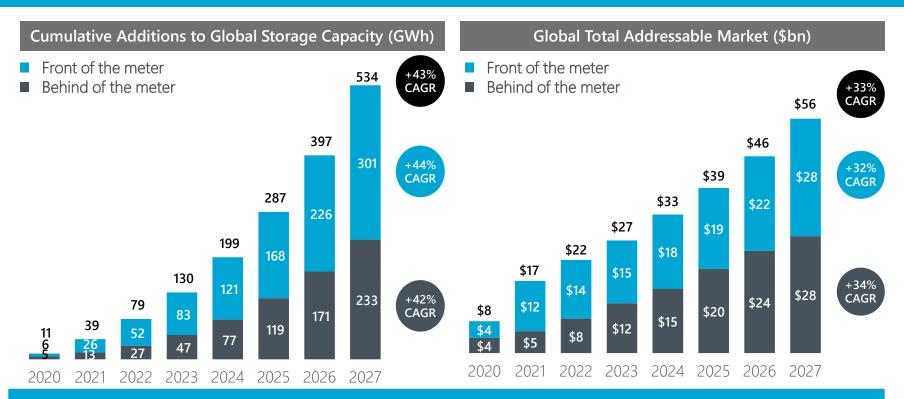
Microgrids

ESS enables independence



Strong and Growing Demand for Energy Storage

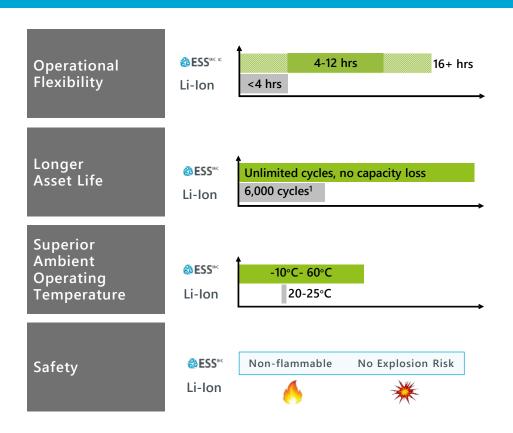




ESS has observed even greater demand from customers than these current analyst estimates

ESS Wins on Performance





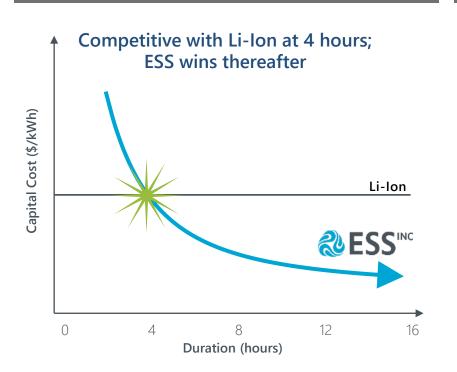
Compelling Performance

- Can cycle when needed with no impact to asset life
- ✓ Operates at peak efficiency independent of outside environment
- ✓ No heating/cooling systems needed
- ✓ Safe for deployment to urban areas or harsh and pristine environments

ESS Wins on Cost



Illustrative Cost Comparison Versus Li-Ion



How ESS' Technology Delivers Superior Economics¹



LCOS at 4 hours vs. 12 hours²



ESS Wins on Sustainability



Sustainability Focus Areas



ESSINC

Responsibly Sourced Materials

Raw ingredients of iron, salt and water are earth-abundant

Global Warming Potential (GWP)

67% lower CO₂ emissions than Li-Ion¹

Recyclability

Contains no toxic materials and requires no special permits for disposal²

ESS is a Category Defining Technology for Long Duration Storage



	ESS INC	Li-lon	Li Metal	Vanadium, Zinc Bromine	Sodium Sulfur	Compressed Air	Pumped Hydro
Low cost at 4 – 12 hours	2						
Field proven ¹	2						
Earth abundant materials	2						
Unlimited cycling	2						
Zero capacity fade	2						
Wide operational temperature range	R						
Environmentally sustainable	(R)						
No fire/ explosion risk	R						

ESS Technology is Proven and Insured



Munich RE

Investment-Grade Warranty

10-year extended warranty covering battery modules

Investment-Grade Project Insurance

Warranty continuity insurance provides additional surety to customers and financiers

"The ability to ensure battery performance is a key piece of the puzzle in decarbonizing our energy sector."

-Peter Röder, Member of the Board of Management, Munich RE

Aon

One Beacon

Surety and Corporate Bonding

Growing project surety capacity

EXIM

US Export-Import Bank Qualified

Pre-qualified financing available for overseas buyers



Customer in California

Use Case

- Microgrid solutions required to mitigate Public Safety Power Shutdown impacts
- Li-lon solutions disqualified due to wildfire risk

Why ESS Won

- Energy Warehouse[™] deployed
- Best-in-class safety record
- Participates in CAISO
- Provides local utility grid support during non-PSPS months

Customer in Patagonia

Use Case

- Remote grid served by RoR hydro + diesel gensets
- Storage systems required to minimize genset usage

Why ESS Won

- 300 kW/2 MWh Energy Warehouse[™] deployed
- Client abandoned Li-ion RfP after recognizing ESS' 3x greater peaker replacement capability
- \$3.1M incremental savings over Li-Ion
- Avoids 12 years of diesel genset emissions





Technology Overview



Technological Breakthrough, Field Proven and Shipping Now



Iron Flow first conceived in 1970s

But "dirty" electrolyte caused rapid degradation

Technological breakthrough – Proton Pump eliminates power fade and limits on cycle life

Field proven¹; S200 shipping now

R&D roadmap for additional breakthroughs to extend technology advantage

Technological Success Proven Over Time

2011

Company formed

Developed lab scale battery





2014

Demonstrated 10,000+ operating cycles in the lab

2017

Gen I EW product line launched



2020

Installed S200 automated assembly line

Energy Center™ product line launched



2012

Awarded ARPA-e grant for development of Iron based battery

2015

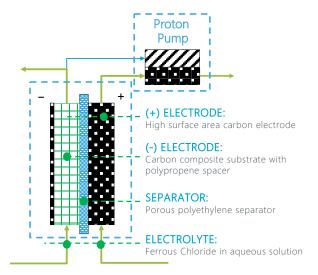
First commercial deployment

2019

S200 commercial battery module launched



Innovative Technology



Robust Intellectual Property Portfolio



ESS Critical Technology (+) Electrode **Power Module** Electrode Current Collector Proton Pump Pressure Plate Conductive **Porous** Separator Separator Electrolyte = Patent 0 protected

ESS IP Portfolio



125+ Patents Granted and in Pipeline Pending Applications



Undisclosed Number of Trade Secrets and Identified Patents



World-leading Iron Flow expertise, and roadmap to additional breakthroughs and advantages



~57% Employees Have an Engineering Background¹

As of March 25, 2021.



Business Overview



Strong Team Positioned to Grow the Business



Management Team



United Technologies



















Silver Spring 7





Sempra Energy unity"



RANDY LEWIS Vice President Quality





Senior Vice President

Business Development













SEW

COX



Board of Directors

MICHAEL NIGGLI Chairman, San Diego Gas



























SHIRLEY SPEAKMAN Board Member, Cycle Capital

CYCLE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT









One Technology – Two Products of Different Scale







Energy Warehouse™

- Behind the meter solution.
- 50kW 90kW configurable range
- First commercial deployment in 2015
- Generation II launched in 2020.
- Containerized design for turnkey delivery
- Fast to build and commission

Energy Center[™]

- Front of the meter solution
- Customizable configuration range
- Customer trials starting in 2021
- "Battery in a Building" platform
- Modular design for utility-class

Validated by a Blue-Chip Customer Base











Demand **Drivers**

- Peaker replacements
- T&D upgrade deferrals
- Wildfire resiliency
- Distributed energy services products

- Peaker replacements
- Resource adequacy & grid reliability
- 24/7 power supply
- Microgrids

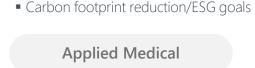
ConEdison

Energy



SoftBank Group

SWORD STONE



Select Customers / **Use Cases**

San Diego Gas & Electric

Engie

ČEZ Group

Duke Energy

Naturgy

Grupo **SAESA** Starwood Energy

Enel

SUNRISE ENERGY

Pacto Energia

Honeywell

Energy cost savings

■ RE integration

Operational resiliency

Idimax

Marathon



Select Pipeline

PacifiCorp

Strategy to Scale Globally



ESS' ability to grow is supported by

- ✓ Relationships in Europe and Asia-Pacific
- Automated manufacturing process

✓ Supply chain of readily sourced components and raw materials



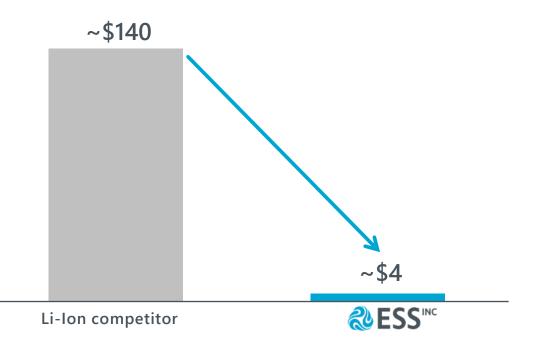
Manufacturing Capacity (MWh)

97% Less Capital Required – Ready to Scale Globally



Simple, Low-cost Production in the USA

\$in millions/GWh of Battery Module Production Capacity



Simple, automated ESS manufacturing line



Expensive, complex Li-Ion battery manufacturing line



Capital Investment Will Enable Rapid Expansion





Expand Sales Footprint

Hire new sales team members and expand production footprint into Europe and Australia

Strengthen Balance Sheet

Supports credit requirements to convert large projects in pipeline

Further Extend Technology Advantage

Higher performance electrolyte to enable an 85% reduction in cost per megawatt hour by 2025



Financial Forecast

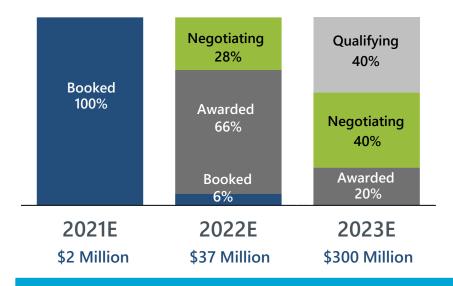


High Quality Pipeline





Global Identified Opportunities



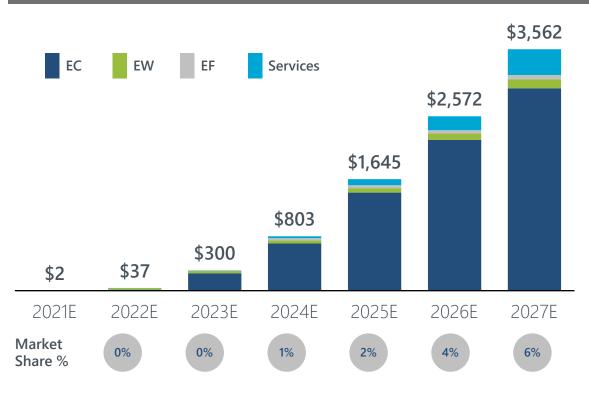


\$7+ Billion Pipeline for Continued Growth in Outer Years

ESS' Robust Revenue Growth



Projected Revenue by Product Offering (\$in millions)



- Growth accelerates as Energy Center deployments start in 2023
- Forecast driven by identified pipeline of near-term opportunities
- ESS expansion into Australia (2023) and Europe (2024) supports continued growth
- Energy Franchise lease and Services revenue streams become bigger contributors as ESS expands

ESS Delivers Compelling Profitability





\$1,332 \$950 \$508

\$217

2024E

27%

2025E

31%

2026E

37%

2027E

37%

\$47

2023E

16%

(\$13)

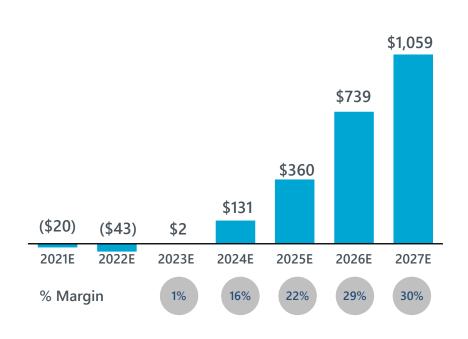
2022E

(\$2)

2021E

% Margin

Projected EBITDA (\$in millions)



Potential Upside to Business Plan





New US federal and state policies on infrastructure, decarbonization and national security



Emerging mandates in EU and Asia-Pacific on decarbonization and storage



Demand impact of USTDA, Power Africa, UNDP and World Bank targets



Further economies of scale and technology enhancements



Additional revenue streams (e.g., Storage as a Service, Warranty)



Valuation Overview



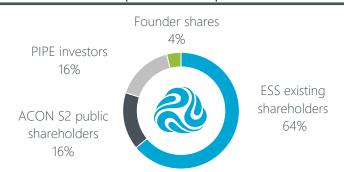
Detailed Transaction Overview



Transaction Overview

- Pro forma enterprise value of \$1,072 million (0.7x 2025E Revenue)
- \$465 million cash proceeds inclusive of \$250 million PIPE proceeds and transaction expenses assuming zero redemptions¹
- Pro forma net cash of \$493 million^{1,2}
- Inclusive of \$28 million existing net cash on balance sheet²
- ESS shareholders are rolling 100% of equity ownership

Pro Forma Ownership @ \$10.00 per share^{1,2,3}



Illustrative Pro Forma Valuation and Sources & Uses

(\$ in millions, except per share data; shares in millions)

Total Enterprise Value Summary	,		
Pro forma shares outstanding			156.:
(x) ESS share price			\$10.00
Pro Forma Equity Value			\$1,565
(-) Current cash ²			(28)
(-) Net proceeds ¹			(465)
Pro Forma Enterprise Value			\$1,072
Valuation Multiples	Metric	_	Multiple
EV / 2025E Revenue	\$1,645		0.7x
EV / 2025E EBITDA	\$360		3.0x
Sources	\$	%	Shares
Rollover equity	1,003	64%	100.3
ACON S2 cash in trust	250	16%	25.0
PIPE investment 1	250	16%	25.0
Founder Shares	63	4%	6.3
Total sources	\$1,565	100%	156.5
Uses	\$	%	
Rollover equity	1,003	64%	
Cash to balance sheet	465	30%	
Founder shares	63	4%	
Estimated fees and expenses	35	2%	
Total uses	\$1,565	100%	

Note Figures may not sum due to rounding.

SB Energy Global Holdings Limited and Breakthrough Energy Ventures, LLC, existing equity investors in ESS, have indicated an interest in investing an aggregate of \$51.5 million in the offering. These existing investors are expected to agree to reduce the amount of their existing option to invest in the C-2 raise to an aggregate of \$16 million, which amount would be invested (if such option is exercised) immediately prior to the closing of the offering. In exchange for this agreement, such investors would receive warrants to purchase an aggregate of 14,364,222 shares of ESS Series C-2 preferred stock at an exercise price of \$0.001 per share, which warrants would automatically be net-exercised immediately prior to the closing of the offering or terminate unexercised if the offering does not close.

2 Pro forma 12/31/2020 net cash assumes funding of an aggregate of \$27.5 million in the C-2 raise, of which \$11.5 million has been funded and \$16 million is expected to be funded by SB Energy Global Holdings Limited and Breakthrough Energy Ventures, LLC, as described in the footnote above. Net cash also includes \$1.5 million of restricted cash.

Selected Public Comparable Universe



Battery Storage



Renewable Technologies







Bloomenergy











solaredge

Supporting Characteristics

✓ Growth stage battery companies

Considerations

- Primarily lithium-ion technologies
- Focused on short-duration or EV end markets

Supporting Characteristics

✓ Technology with longduration storage applications

Considerations

- Not reliant on battery technology
- Significantly less efficient

Supporting Characteristics

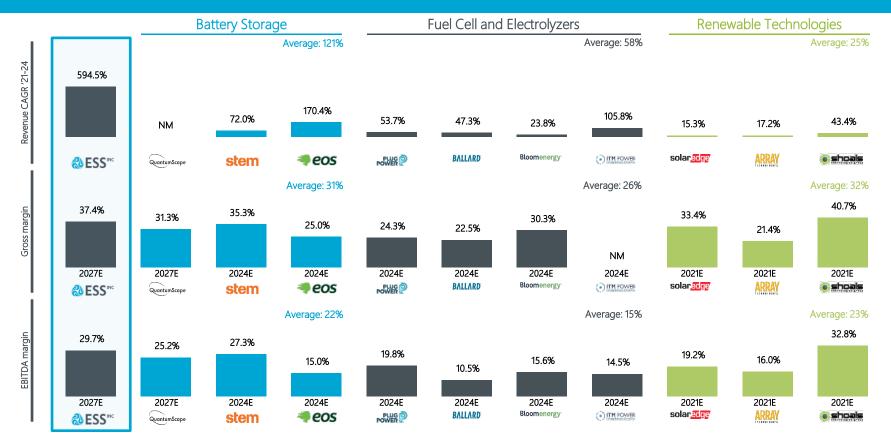
✓ Growth is tied directly to significantly increasing renewable penetration

Considerations

Part of solar supply chain and not reliant on battery technology

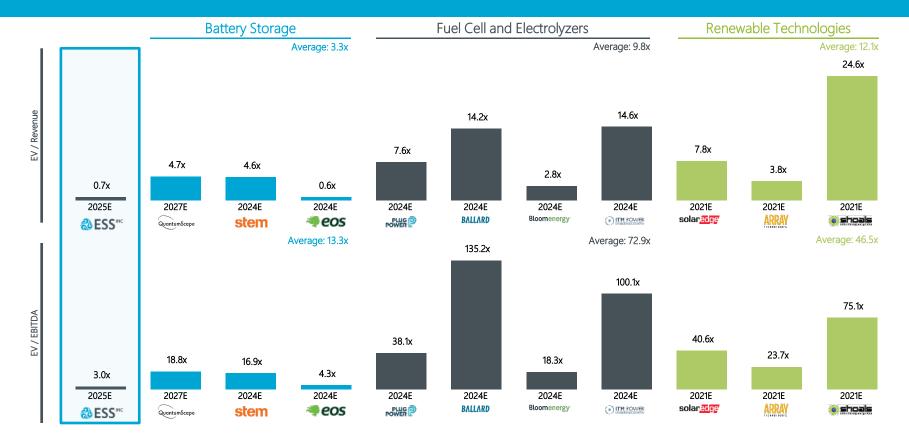
Selected Operational Benchmarking





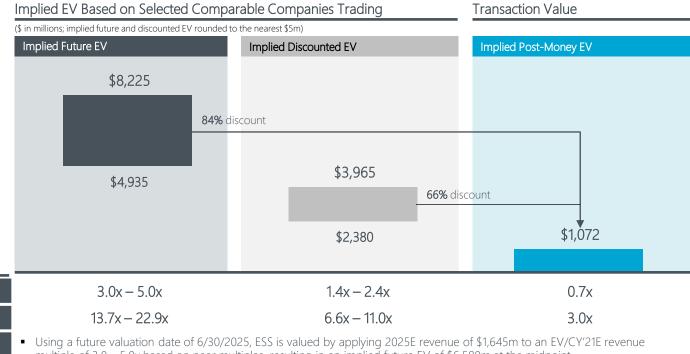
Selected Valuation Benchmarking





Transaction Priced at a Discount to Peer Multiples





- Implied Multiples EV/2025E Revenue
- EV/2025E EBITDA

Valuation Approach

- multiple of 3.0 5.0x based on peer multiples, resulting in an implied future EV of \$6,580m at the midpoint
- The implied future EV is then discounted at a 20% rate over a 4 year period to arrive at an implied present value of \$3,173m at the midpoint1
- Transaction priced at a substantial discount





Appendix



PF Summary Financials*



Values in 000s	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Revenue							
Product - EW Purchase & Lease	\$2,381	\$22,679	\$34,520	\$47,203	\$66,328	\$94,808	\$135,248
Product - EC Purchase	_	\$14,224	\$256,249	\$696,998	\$1,447,504	\$2,222,420	\$2,986,242
Product - EF Purchase	_	_	\$4,177	\$28,696	\$41,797	\$50,522	\$61,113
Service Agreement	\$15	\$314	\$5,535	\$29,808	\$88,884	\$203,964	\$379,833
Total Revenue	\$2,396	\$37,217	\$300,481	\$802,704	\$1,644,513	\$2,571,715	\$3,562,436
Market Share (%)	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	6%	6%
Cost of Goods Sold	\$4,560	\$50,424	\$253,087	\$585,929	\$1,136,469	\$1,622,129	\$2,229,953
Gross Profit	(\$2,163)	(\$13,207)	\$47,393	\$216,776	\$508,044	\$949,586	\$1,332,483
Gross Margin (%)	NM	NM	16%	27%	31%	37%	37%
Total Operating Expense	\$17,659	\$29,854	\$45,841	\$86,264	\$148,230	\$210,718	\$273,590
EBITDA	(\$19,822)	(\$43,062)	\$1,552	\$130,511	\$359,813	\$738,868	\$1,058,894
Margin (%)	NM	NM	1%	16%	22%	29%	30%
Depreciation	\$432	\$4,712	\$17,737	\$32,842	\$46,508	\$63,580	\$69,824
Interest Expense	_	\$59	\$287	\$414	\$530	\$656	\$817
Taxes (net of NOL)	_	-	_	-	\$56,715	\$141,673	\$207,533
Net Income (Loss)	(\$20,255)	(\$47,833)	(\$16,472)	\$97,255	\$256,061	\$532,959	\$780,720
	NM	NM	NM	12%	16%	21%	22%
CapEx							
Maintenance CapEx	(\$3,259)	(\$8,240)	(\$8,487)	(\$8,742)	(\$9,004)	(\$9,274)	(\$9,552)
Leased Equipment	_	(\$7,980)	(\$6,680)	(\$6,532)	(\$8,100)	(\$10,270)	(\$13,875)
Manfacturing Capacity Growth CapEx	(\$500)	(\$21,200)	(\$49,000)	(\$93,500)	(\$31,500)	(\$87,000)	(\$124,162)
Total CapEx	(\$3,759)	(\$37,420)	(\$64,167)	(\$108,774)	(\$48,604)	(\$106,544)	(\$147,589)
Portion of Revenue (%)	157%	101%	21%	14%	3%	4%	4%
EBITDA - CapEx	(\$23,581)	(\$80,482)	(\$62,615)	\$21,738	\$311,209	\$632,324	\$911,305
CFO - CapEx	(\$21,145)	(\$84,544)	(\$97,759)	(\$49,913)	\$151,619	\$409,416	\$664,954
Cash on Balance Sheet	\$470,816	\$390,967	\$296,708	\$249,857	\$405,087	\$818,909	\$1,489,775
Number of Units Sold	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Product - EW Purchase	27	179	200	252	376	552	824
Product - EW Lease	-	40	40	48	64	84	120
Product - EC Purchase 1	_	33	600	1,571	3,433	5,379	7,449

¹ Number of units sold refers to number of powertrains sold; Energy Centers are expected to contain multiple powertrains.

As a result of developments subsequent to the date these PF Summary Financials were prepared, ESS' management believes actual operating expenses for 2021 may be higher than previously projected by up to \$25.0 million. The expected increase in operating expenses for 2021 is the result of (i) higher general and administrative expenses related to public company readiness, (ii) expenses related to supply chain, parts and the launch of ESS' S200 batteries and (iii) higher research, development and ramp up activities. These additional expenses may continue to be incurred through 2022.

ACON S2 Overview



ACONS2 Strategic Sustainability



- ACON S2 Acquisition Corp. (NASDAQ: STWO)
- \$250mm IPO in September 2020
- Criteria: authentic sustainability leader, significant value creation potential, strong competitive position, at an inflection point, experienced team

Platform for Success

- ✓ Domain Expertise ✓ Public Markets
- ✓ Sustainability ✓ Governance
- ✓ Global Network
- ✓ Capital Formation

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- 25 years of investing, AUM of ~\$6B
- Over 70 investments since inception
- 31 active portfolio companies employing over 39,000 people across 32 countries



A Perfect Fit for the ACON S2 Mission

Energy Warehouse[™] **Overview**





Product Summary

- Behind the meter solution
- First commercial deployment in 2015
- Generation II launched in 2020
- Containerized design for turnkey delivery
- Fast to build and commission

	Current Specifications
Configurable Range:	50kW – 90kW (peak power)
Storage Duration:	4 – 12 hours
Usable Energy:	400kWh - 600kWh
Response Time:	<1 second
Module Cycle Life:	>20,000 cycles
Ambient Temperature:	-5°C to +50°C
Expected Life:	25 year service life
Warranty:	1 yr comprehensive, 10 yr warranty backstop from Munich Re available



Product Deployments



Stone Edge Farms 10 kW/60 kWh; 2015



USACE 60 kW/225 kWh; 2016



UCSD (CA) 50 kW /400 kWh; 2017



DNV-GL (TX) 50 kW /400 kWh; 2017



Camp Pendleton 50 kW /400 kWh: 2018



US Utility 50 kW /400 kWh; 2020

Energy Center[™] Overview





Current Specifications

Configurable Range:	Customizable
Storage Duration:	6 -12 hours
Usable Energy:	Customizable
Response Time:	<1 second
Module Cycle Life:	>20,000 cycles
Ambient Temperature:	-40°C to +50°C
Expected Life:	25 year service life
Warranty:	10-year battery module, extended warranty to 25 years available

Product Summary

- Customer trials starting in 2021
- "Battery in a Building" platform
- Front of the meter solution
 Modular design for utilityclass
 - Power capacities starting at 3MW

Building Blocks for Existing Products

Quad Pods



Power Train

