
Future Energy eNews

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To iri@starpower.net <iri@starpower.net>



Future Energy eNews



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Greetings!

We are happy to let you know that we are entering a bonus time of the year for IRI. If you are kind enough to [join as an IRI Member after October 1st](#), it is our tradition to reward you with an extension of your membership for the next FULL YEAR, with quarterly mailings. Joining now also gives you a year-end gift two years in a row!

Story #1 is a great fulfillment of our vision: a personal travel vehicle that stays away from ANY fillup station (gas, petrol, or e-charging) and available in the US in 2025. A solar-electric car whose the price is right for those on a limited budget and a limited top speed of 25 mph. The [Squad Mobility website](#) says that even in the Netherlands it charges with the sunshine sufficiently for daily errands. The short video is also gratifying.

Story #2 is a fulfillment of the series of reprints on the emergence of sodium-ion batteries to replace the volatile and expensive lithium-ion ones. With a 20-year lifespan and the world's largest soda ash reserve, this product and the [Peak Energy company](#) look like they are headed for growth, making grid electricity more stable and less expensive.

Story #3 is more of a vision of the future for the big data center companies that need enormous amounts of energy by Google.com. While there is some factual information about their "secret" investments in nuclear fusion and the incremental improvements that investment has brought about, the claim that "Microsoft controls infinite power" may be questionable. One conclusion we can agree on is their statement that the "USDOE's Milestone-Based Fusion Development Program is crucial for industry validation."

Story #4 is a breakthrough for women, especially those diving into the East China Sea, while they are studied by a team from Scotland and can stay under longer than any other humans that have been studied, even with an average age of 70. Chronicles of female divers in this part of Asia date back 3,000 years. The team found

that their oxygen levels also remained stable. The women dove repeatedly for two to 10 hours each day and spent an average of 56 percent of the time beneath the surface — more underwater time than many aquatic mammals, including beavers, polar bears and sea otters, the researchers say.

Storyt #5 is an exciting new development by a US company called Active Membranes with advanced reverse osmosis membranes for desalination. With less than 3% of the world's water coming from fresh water resources and the UN warning about upcoming water scarcity, many of those countries have access to salt water so this technology will help them survive. The company states: "Desalination to meet these crisis it needs to become economically and environmentally sustainable at any scale."

Thomas Valone, PhD,
Editor

1) Squad unveils a \$6,250 solar microcar — It sips light and makes hydrogen look ancient



The Pulse September 2025

The Dutch company Squad Mobility has unveiled a new project for a small car that runs on sunlight – and the best thing is that you can use and leave it wherever you want. As streets are crowded with cars, motorcycles, buses, and trucks, some people opt to either commute using the underground metro stations or by bicycles. But, what if you

could do the same thing with cars? Well, that's exactly what Squad thought about when creating the car that you can either buy for personal use, or do like the Europeans and left on the street for people to use .

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2) The US's first grid-scale sodium-ion battery is now online

Electrek, September 2025

Peak Energy just switched on a 3.5 MWh sodium-ion battery, the largest sodium-ion energy storage project developed in the US. The system is the first of its kind at grid scale, and may eventually be a game-changer for delivering affordable energy in the US. Sodium-ion batteries work well in hot or cold weather without auxiliary cooling systems. That makes them cheaper and easier to maintain, especially for utility-scale projects. They also use more abundant materials. The US holds the world's largest soda ash reserves, a key sodium-ion ingredient, and the whole raw material supply chain can be sourced domestically or from allied countries.



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3) Tech Titans Secure Fusion Reactors Through Secret Deals That Obliterate Traditional Utilities And Transform Your Energy Forever



Google.com, September 2025

Nuclear fusion, long considered the holy grail of clean energy, is gaining unprecedented momentum as Big Tech companies funnel significant investments into its development, spurred by the growing power demands of data centers and artificial intelligence.

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4) Female Divers Spend more time Underwater than any other humans



Science News September 2025

The Haenyeo women who dive deep into the East China Sea to harvest sea urchins and shellfish spend the most time underwater of any humans ever studied — one to five hours a day, researchers report August 18 in *Current Biology*. “It’s as close as you get to studying a mermaid,” says Chris McKnight, a marine mammal biologist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

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5) Innovative Membrane Tech for Clean Water

Tech Briefs.com September 2025

New membrane technology developed by California-based company Active Membranes that increases the efficiency of brackish and wastewater treatment. Water scarcity has been referred to as the silent existential crisis of our time. Our planet has very little fresh water — and is running out of it quickly. Yet no one seems to be talking about it. “Our goal is to make desalination cost-effective, less complex, and easier to adopt so that every community, big or small, can afford and sustainably benefit from it,” said Arian Edalat, Co-Founder and CEO, Active Membranes.



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