

The logo for SAFT, consisting of the word "SAFT" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with a thick red horizontal bar underneath it.A satellite with blue solar panels is shown in space, orbiting the Earth. The Earth's surface is visible, showing the Americas. A bright sun is visible in the background on the right side.

## VL10ES Cell and Battery Qualification Update

*Dr. Chengsong Ma, Dr. Yannick Borthomieu, Dr. Vanessa Armel*

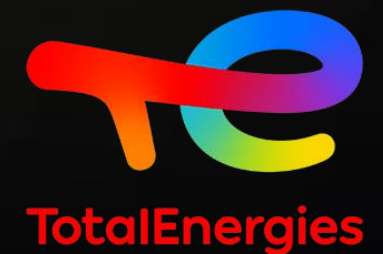
A banner for the Space Power Workshop. It features a background of a starry space scene with solar panels in the foreground. The text is white and black.

### **Space Power Workshop**

*Rapid and agile power systems: Developing new norms  
for an evolving and contested space environment*

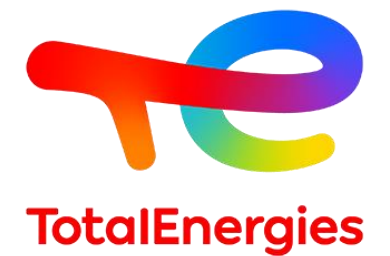
April 23–25, 2024

Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach, Torrance, CA

The TotalEnergies logo, featuring a stylized '10' with a rainbow gradient and the word "TotalEnergies" in red below it.

# Summary

1. Products Roadmap
2. Cell development
3. Battery Performances
4. Conclusions





# Saft Satellite Technology Road-Map



# Corporate Cell Chemistry Roadmap

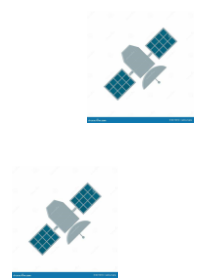
## Advanced and Beyond Li-ion



Saft is adding a **new range of technologies** to its **portfolio**, reflecting the current market needs in **cylindrical, prismatic** or **pouch** format for both **power and energy applications**

### ➤ Short and Medium Term

- **NMC/Gr+Si** for **high energy** applications : Specialty markets and high demanding applications
- **LMFP** for **safety** critical applications : Transport applications
- **LTO** for **high power cycling** applications with **very low Energy** : Transport and reduced recharge time applications



### ➤ Long Term

- Saft is investing in key disruptive technologies : Solid State Batteries with **Li metal** based anode technologies
  - **Solid state batteries** : **>400 Wh/kg, 1100Wh/L** -> Energy density, safety, lower cost/Wh
  - **Advanced Li-S** : **>500 Wh/kg, 900 Wh/L** -> High Specific energy



# Saft Li-ion in orbit heritage and reliability

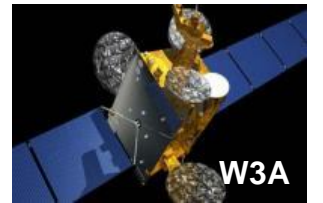


## **383 satellites in-orbit with Li-ion (GEO, MEO & LEO) : 364 operational**

More than 2,92 Billion of cell hours in orbit with **no failure or deviations**

Total over 4,1 MWh in-orbit with 680 batteries and more than 48 800 cells in orbit

- **211 GEO satellites** Launched + 1 Moon Mission :  
2003 : Smart 1 has been able to reach Moon orbit thanks to ion thrusters' engines powered with Li-Ion battery  
**1<sup>st</sup> GEO Telecommunication satellite W3A launched 20 years ago** (March 2004) with VES140 batteries
- **5 MEO satellite** flying with VES technology:
- **167 LEO satellites including :**  
80 first Iridium Next satellites with VES16 batteries



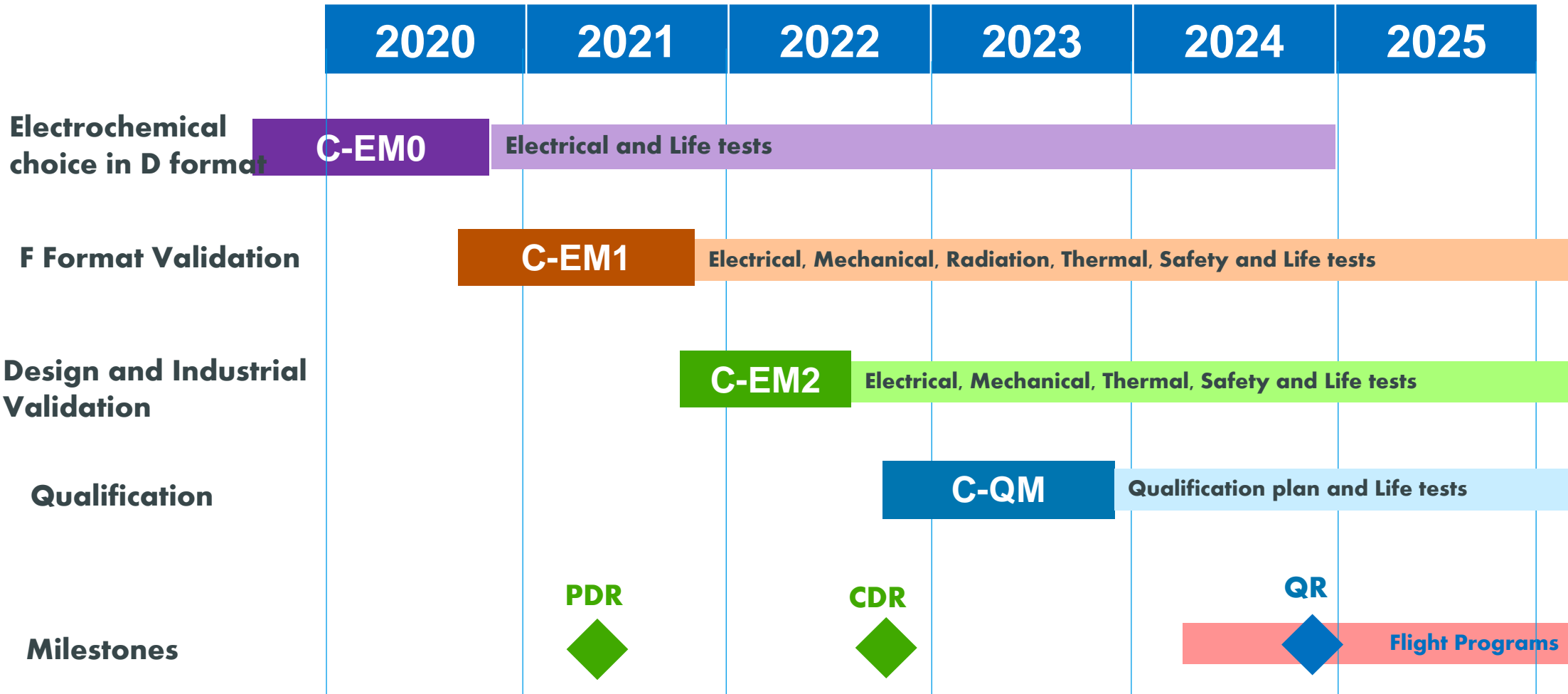




**saft**

# VL10ES Cell Development

# VL10ES Cell Development Plan



# VL10ES Cell Qualification Matrix



## VL10ES cell qualification Plan

Electrical	Mechanical	Thermal	Life Tests	Safety
Dch vs T°	Vibration	T/V	LEO real time	Overcharge
Dch vs C rates	Shock	Dissipation	GEO semi-accelerated (EOR, PPS ,U cycles)	Over discharge / Reversal
Dch vs EOCV	T/V Cycling	Thermal Capacity	GEO accelerated	Ext. short
Dch vs Power rates	Leak Rate	Thermoneutral potential	Storage vs T° & SOC	Over temperature
Impedance, Ri	DPA		100% DoD	Nail / Pin Test
EMF vs SOC			Radiation Test	UN Transportation
			DPA	Exposure 60°C – 24 Hours

In orange color : Tests still running on QM cells



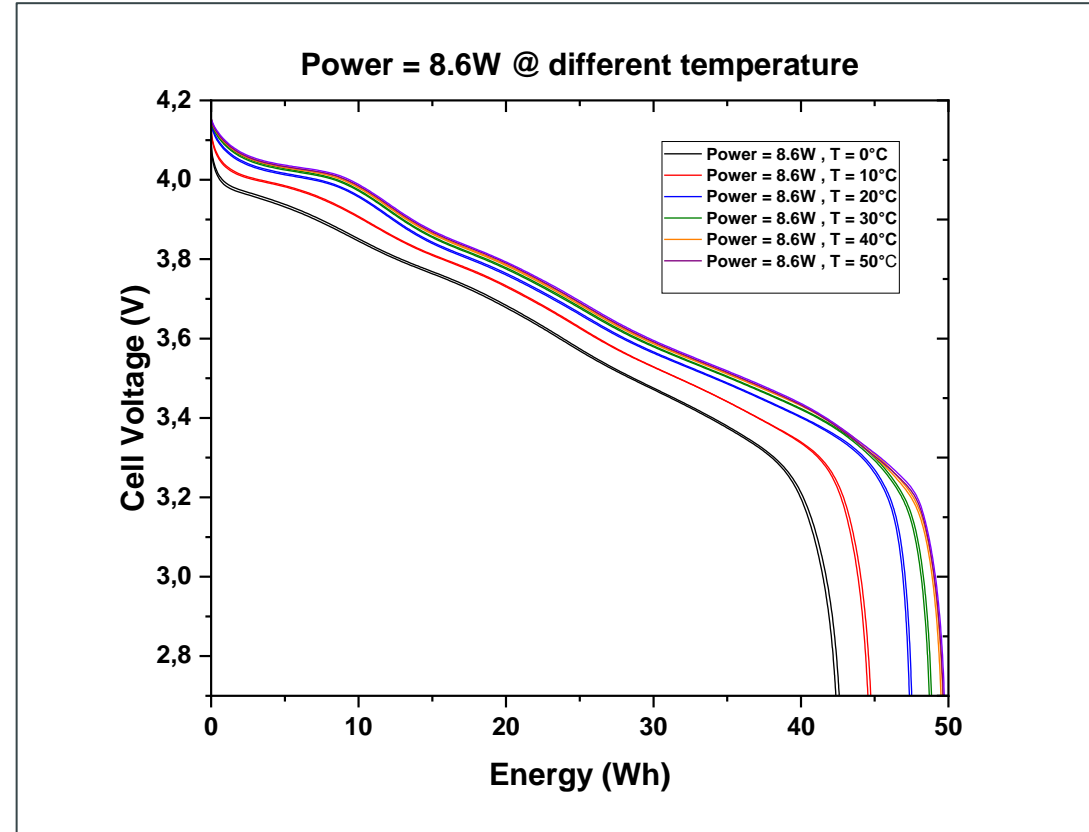
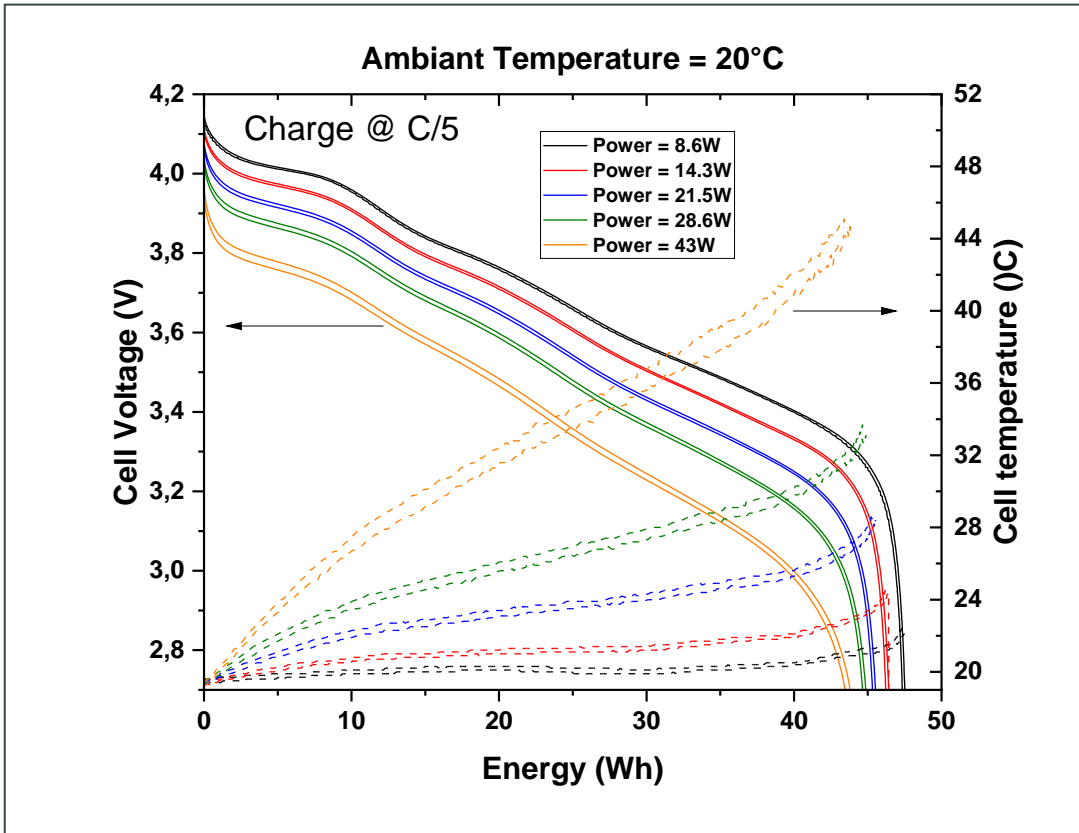


# BOL Electrical Performances QM cells : Constant Power Discharge versus Temperature



Energy evolution vs Power at 20°C

Energy evolution at constant Power vs Temperature

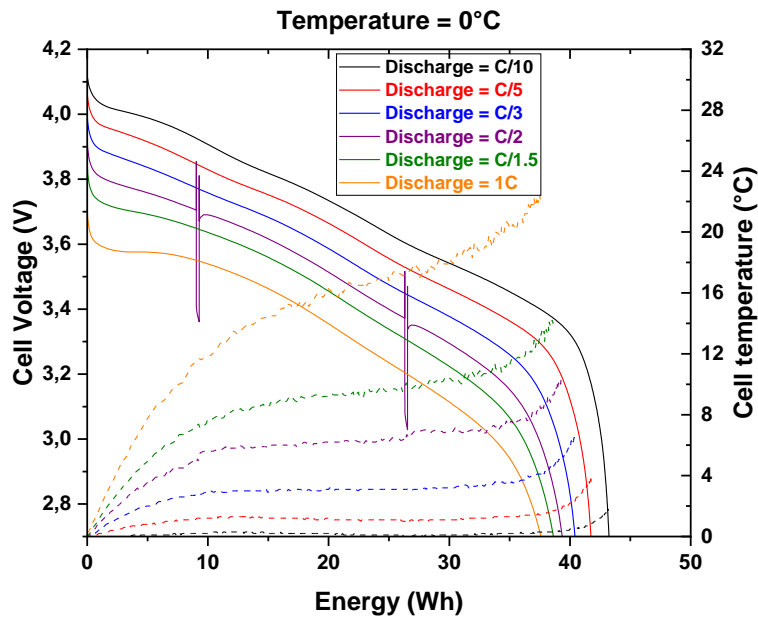


- Increasing discharge power leads to cell polarization together with a decrease in available energy and an increase in cell temperature.

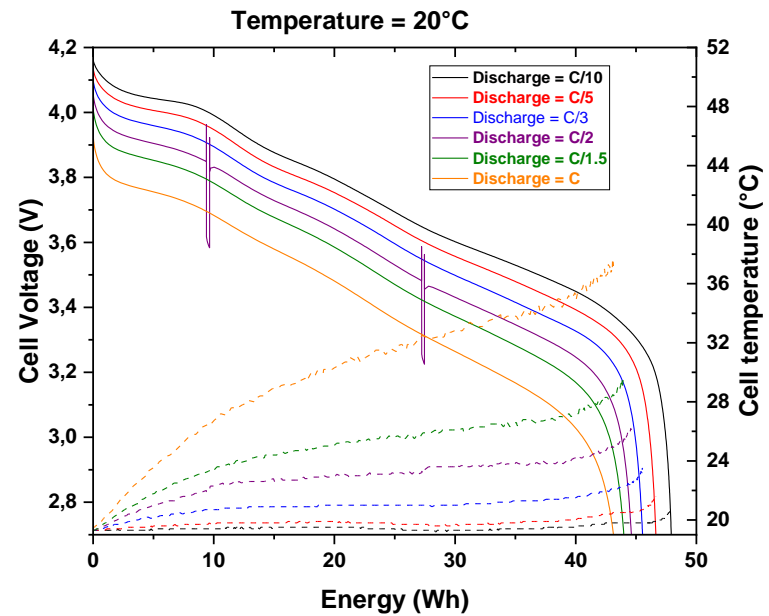
# BOL Electrical Performances QM Cells : Discharge Current versus Temperature



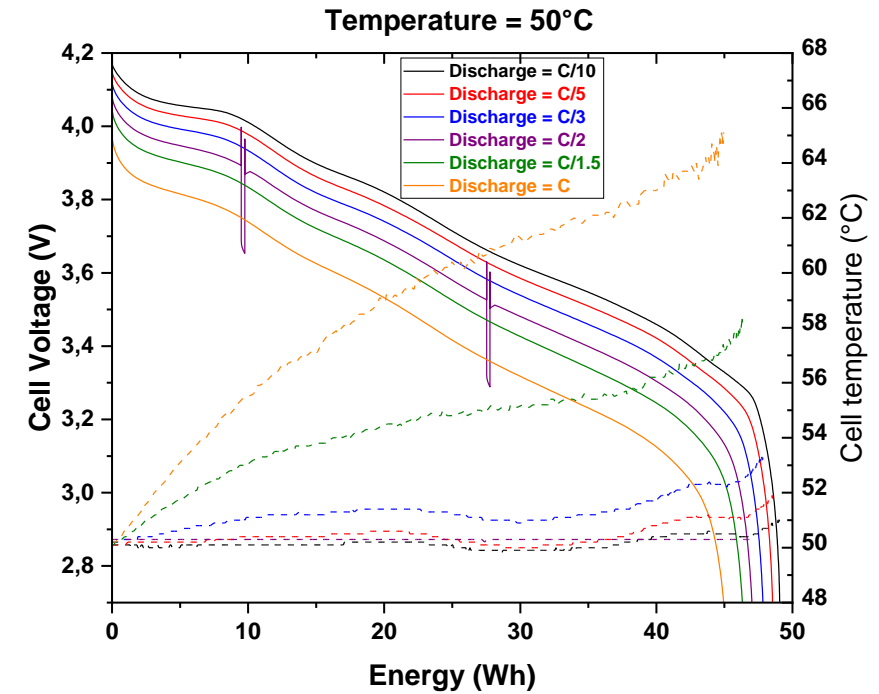
Energy evolution vs discharge rate at 0°C



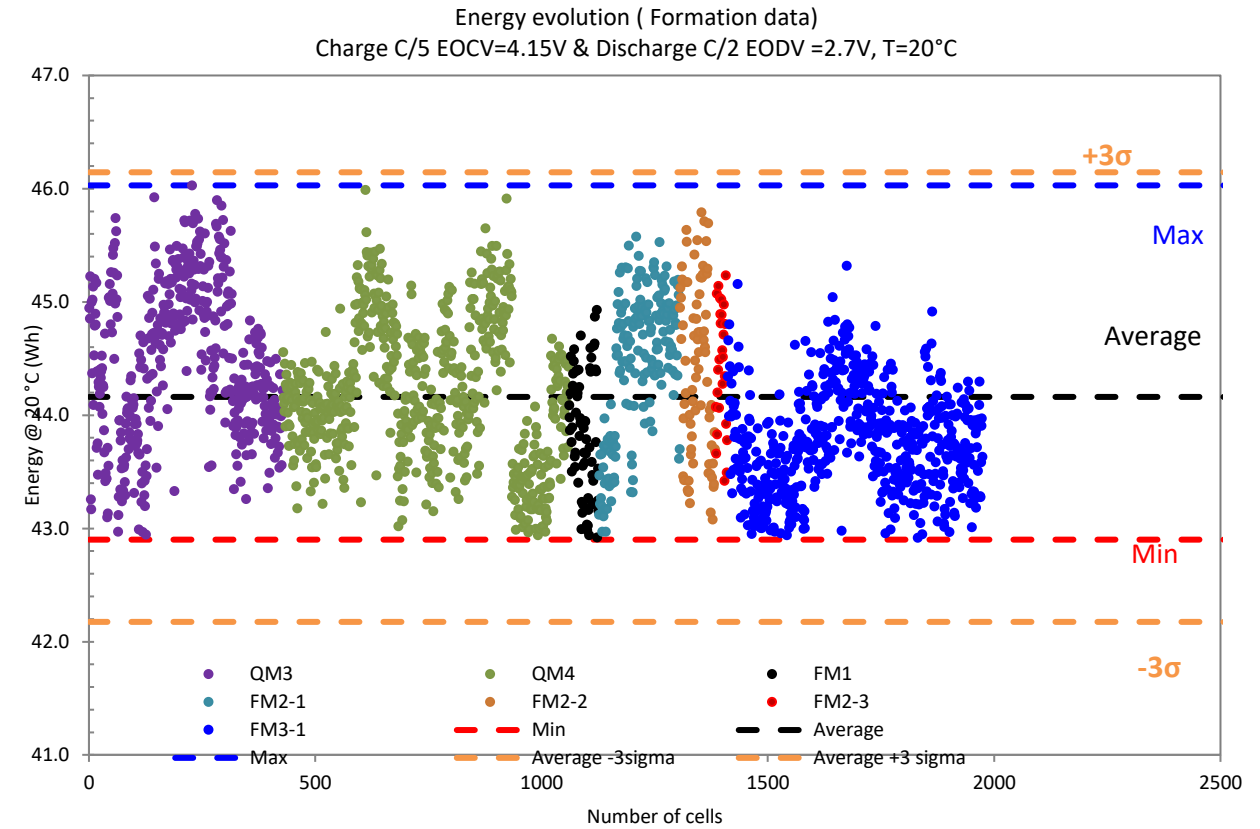
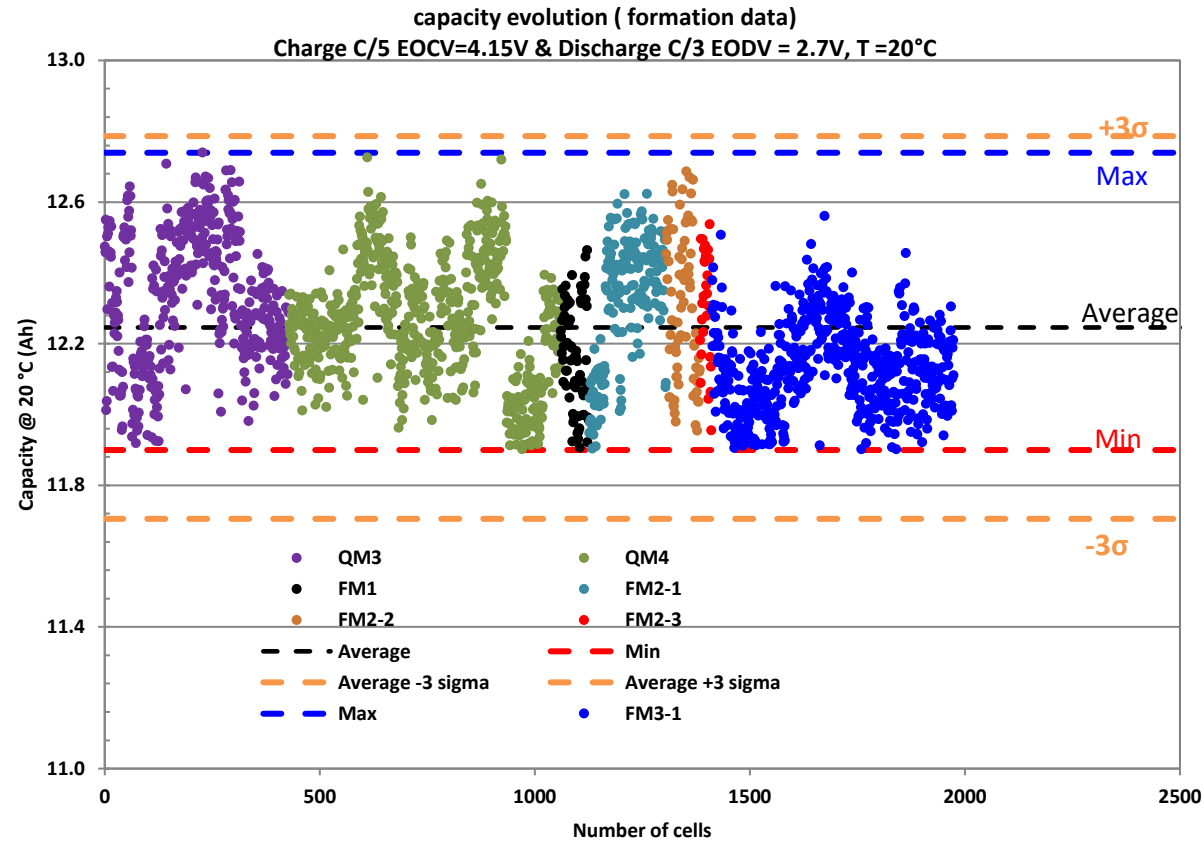
Energy evolution vs discharge rate at 20°C



Energy evolution vs discharge rate at 50°C



# Electrical formation characteristics QM/FM batches



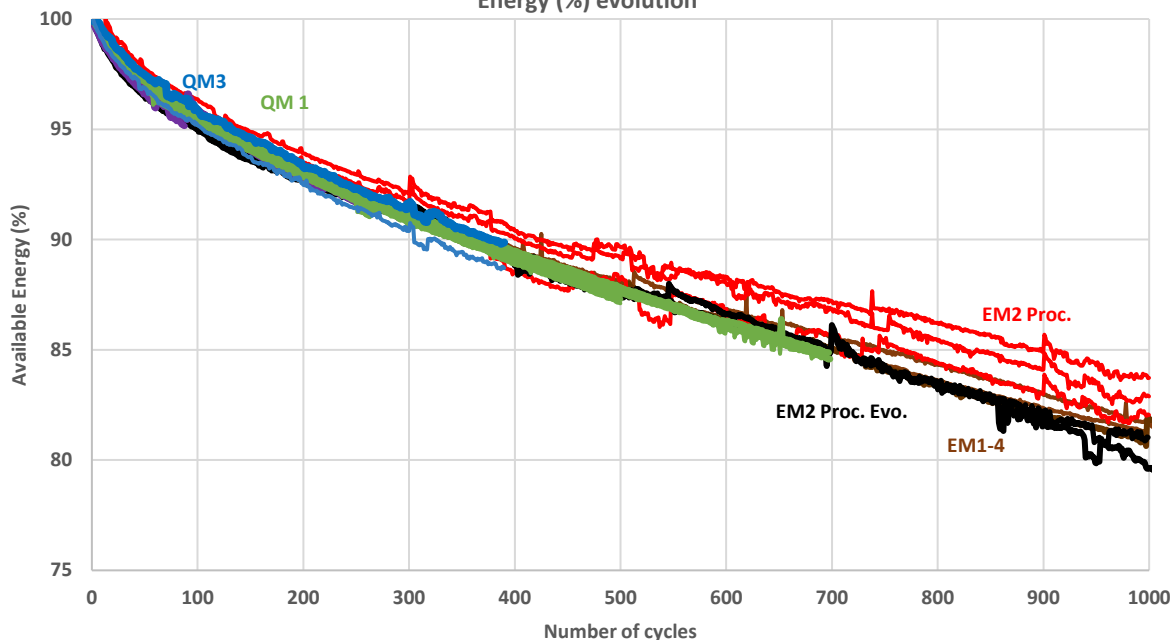
More than 2,000 cells built for QM and FM.



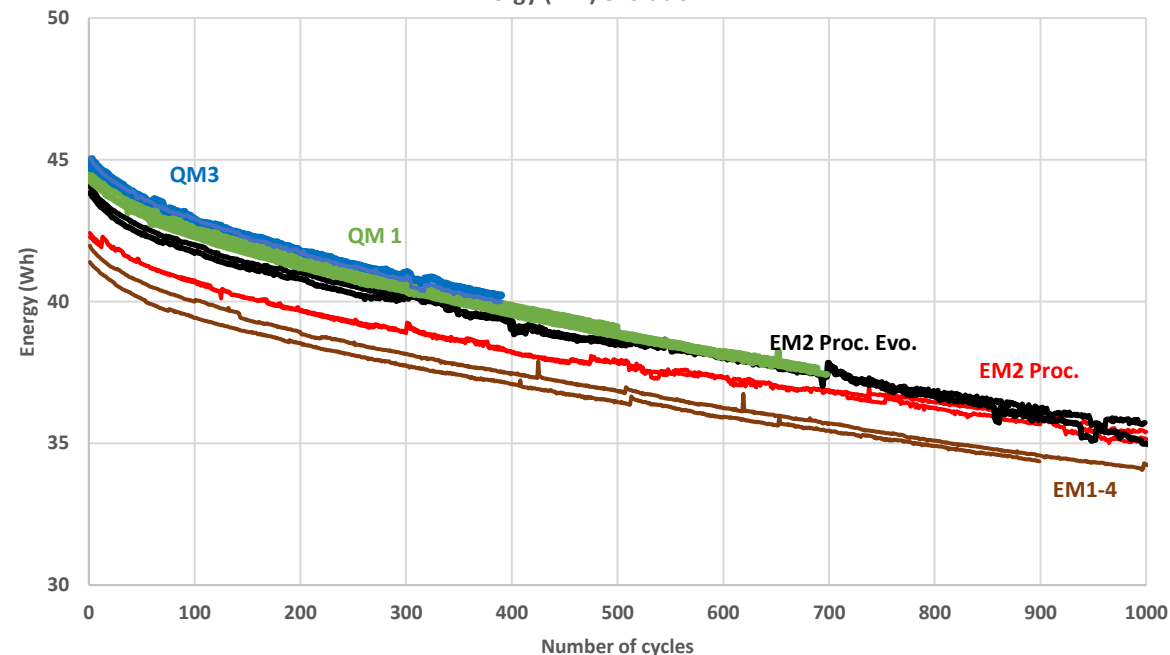
# Accelerated 100% DOD Cycling: Energy Evolution



VL10ES accelerated 100% DOD cycling test: EM1 & EM2  
Charge : C/3 EOCV = 4.15V & Discharge C/2 EODV = 2.7V  
Energy (%) evolution



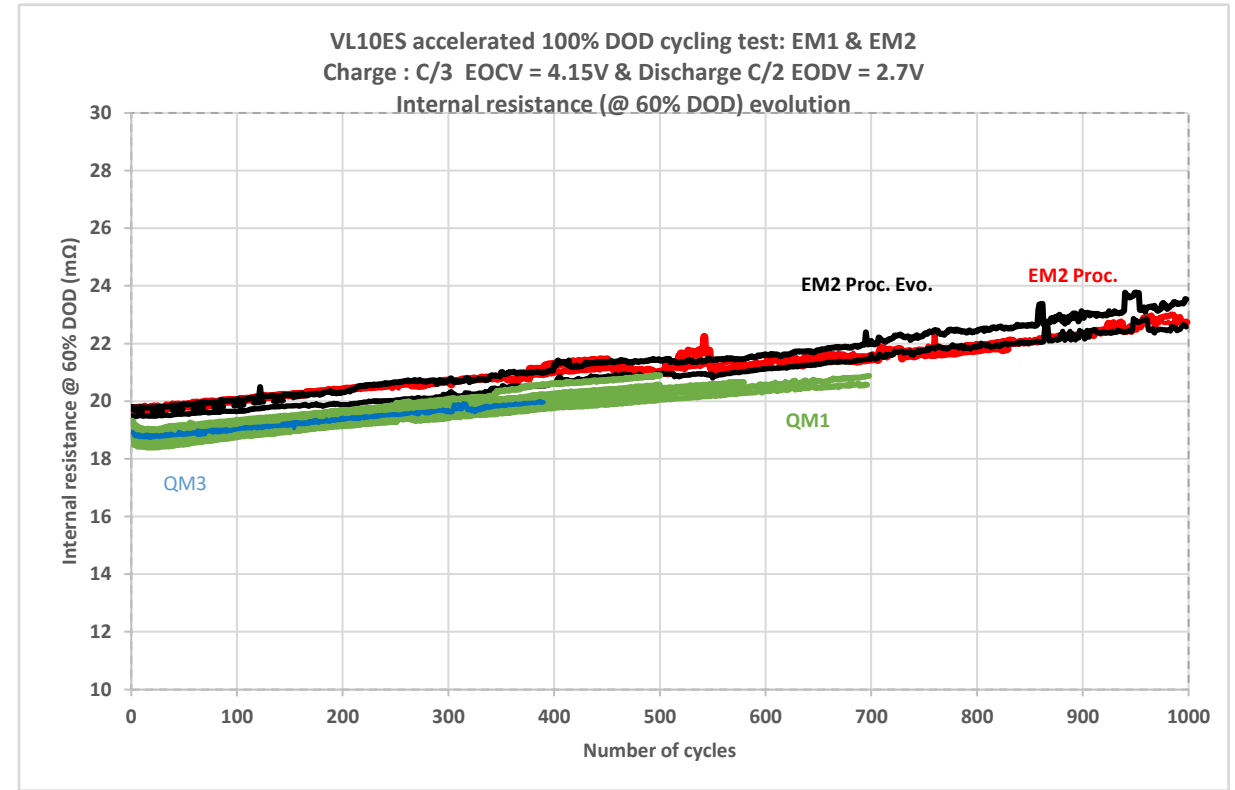
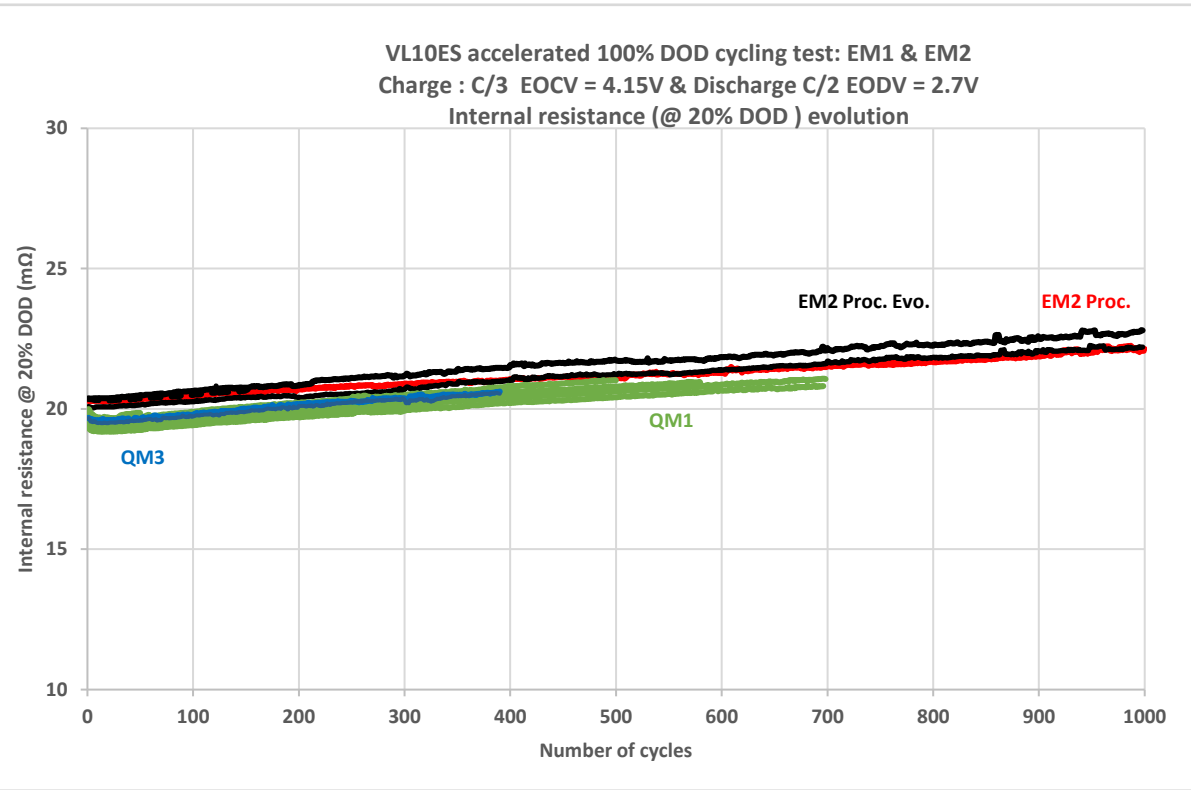
VL10ES accelerated 100% DOD cycling test: EM1 & EM2  
Charge : C/3 EOCV = 4.15V & Discharge C/2 EODV = 2.7V  
Energy (Wh) evolution



- All the batches (EM's, QM's and FM's) have been tested in Wear-out using 100 % DOD profile :
  - Similar EOL energy for all batches
  - Limited impact of BOL energy



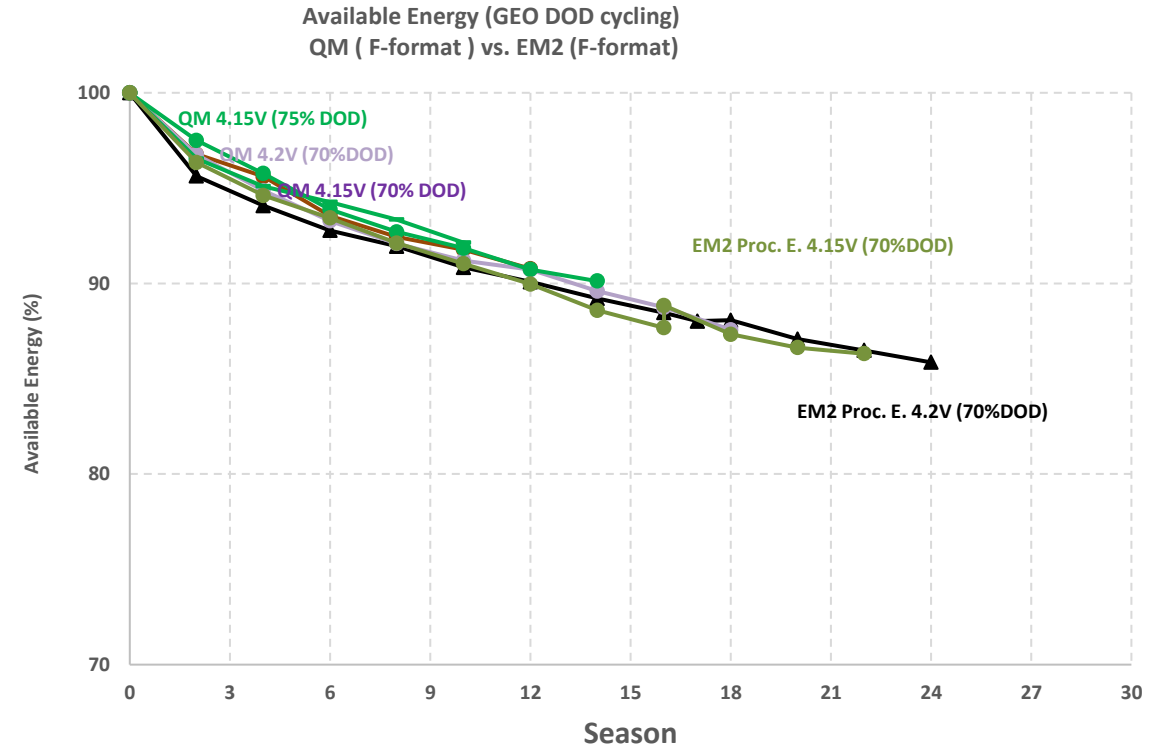
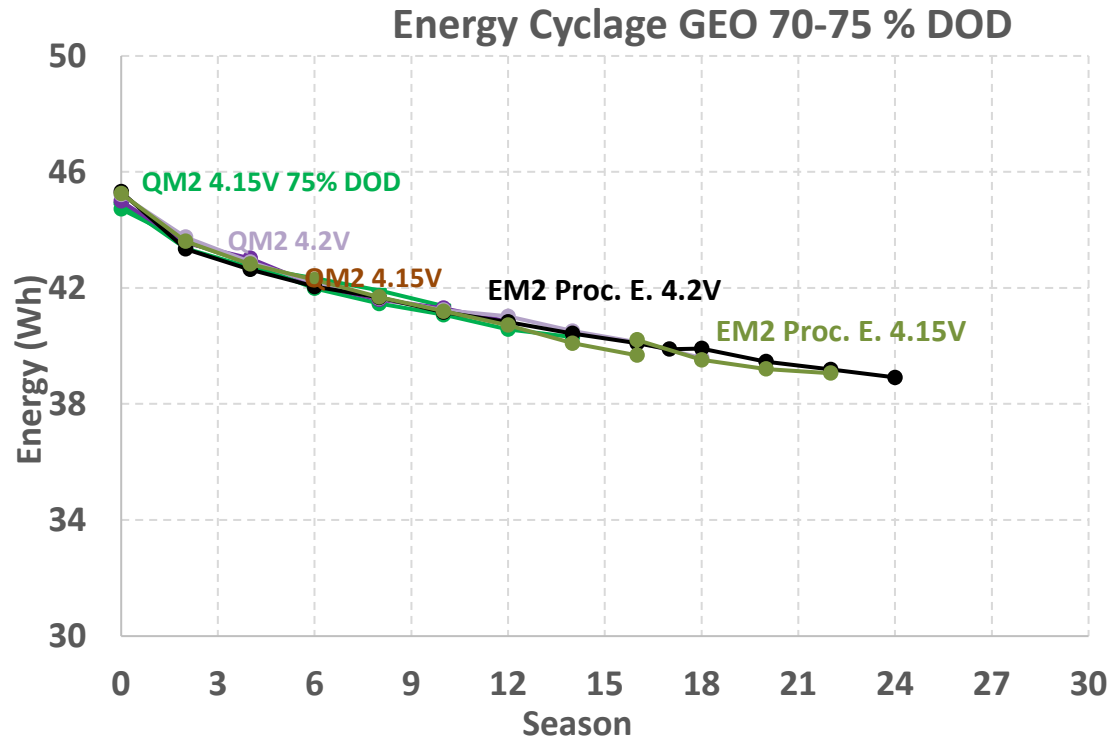
# Accelerated 100% DOD cycling : IR evolution



- VL10ES is showing a good stability of internal resistance during cycling.
- 20 % and 60 % DOD internal resistance evolution is linear with less than **10 % increasing** after 1000 cycles

## Constant Internal Resistance (IR) Evolution with Cycling

# QM GEO Life Tests (70 and 75 % DOD) : Energy Trend



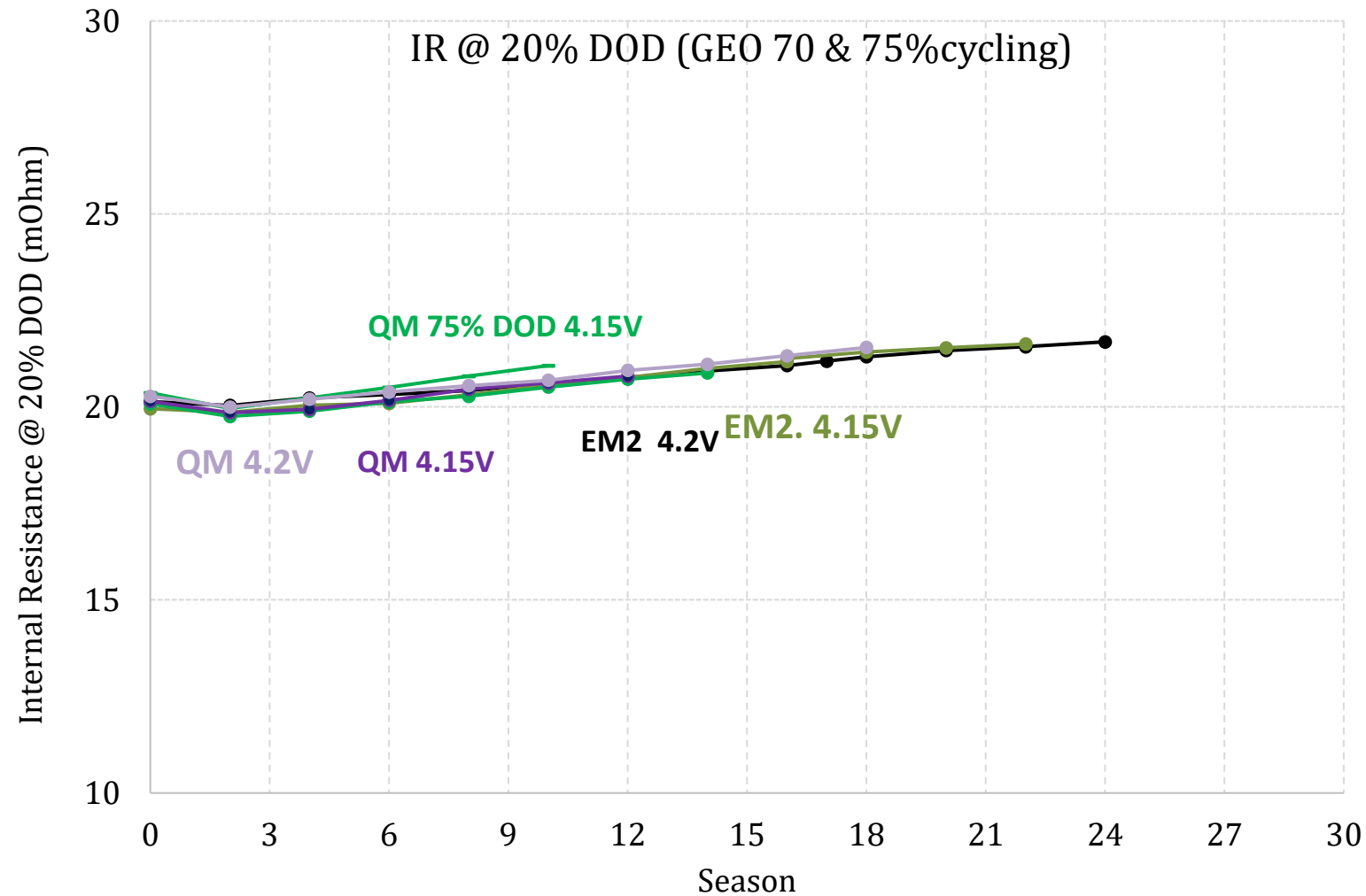
- Different GEO conditions tested :
  - EOR conditions : Electrical Orbit raising
  - 70% and 75 % DOD
  - EOCV from 4.15 and 4.2 V
  - With and without Electrical Propulsion system up to 2 cycles per day

Similar GEO fading for all batches





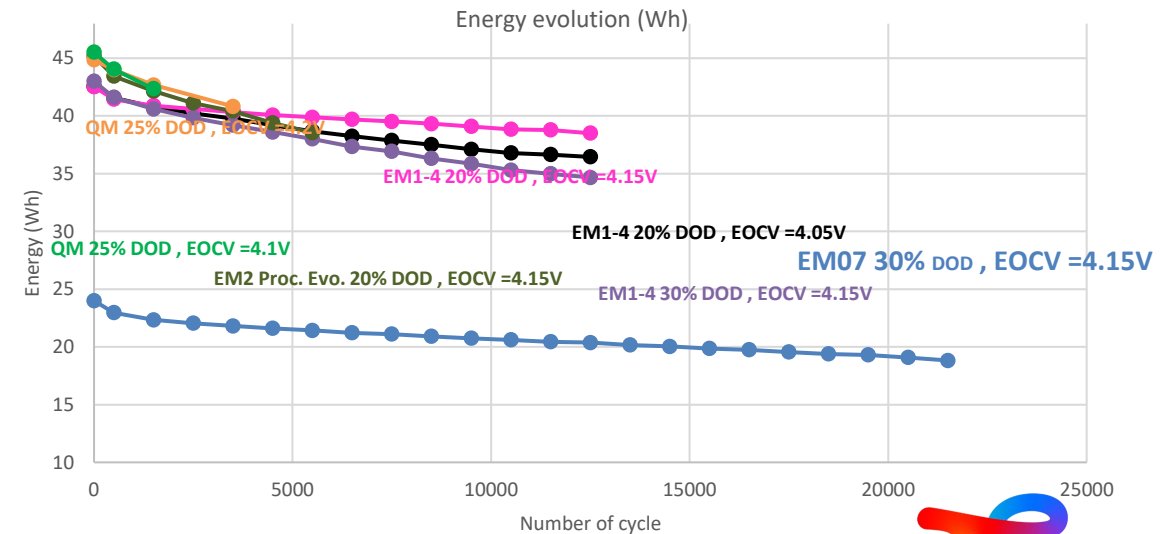
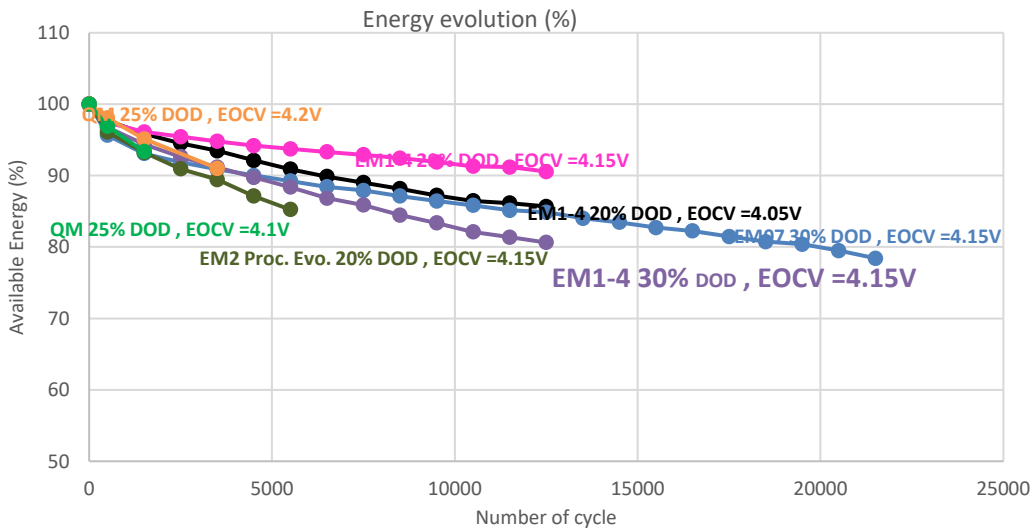
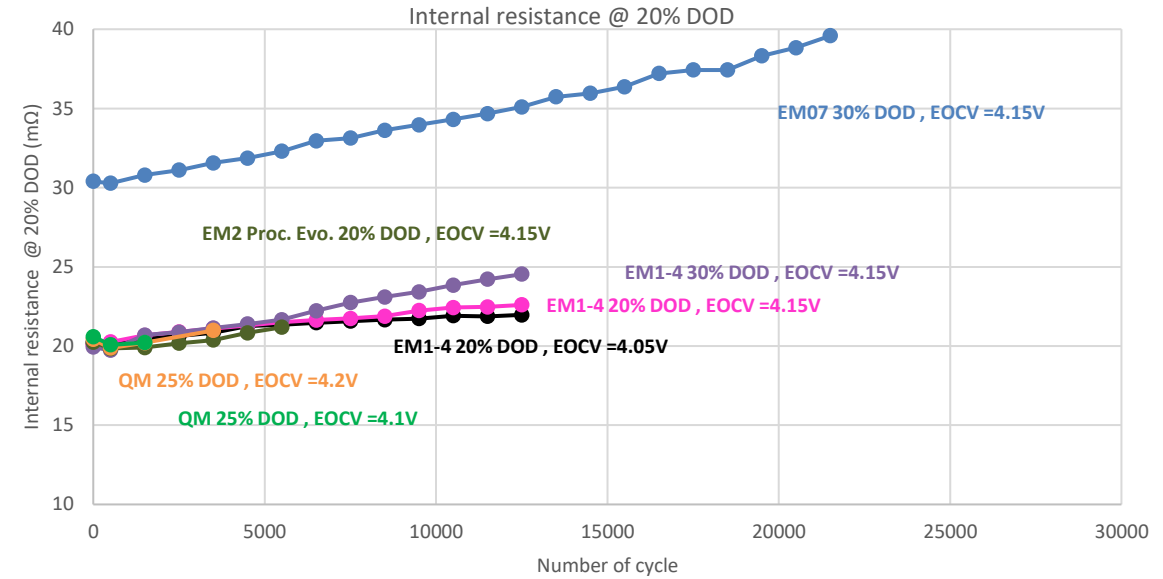
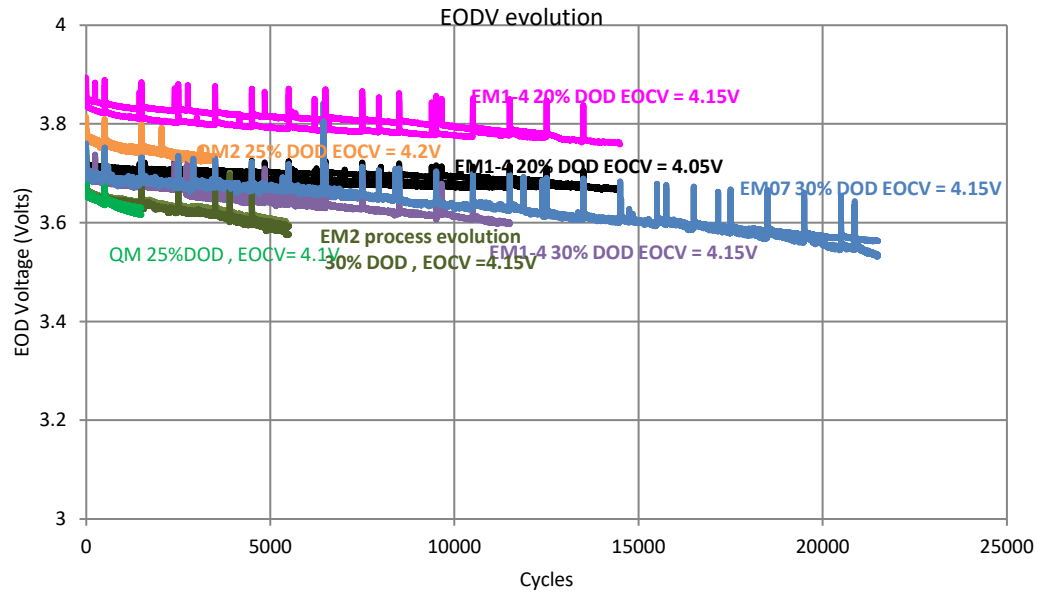
# QM2 versus EM2 Process Evolution : Internal Resistance Trend



Stable internal resistance evolution on QM cells



# Real Time LEO cycling : 20 to 30 % DOD @ 20°C



LEO cycling up to 22,000 cycles(4 years)



# VL10ES Innovative Battery Concept



To answer to modularity (SP / PSP), to limit the no-recurring cost, a battery concept based on one main 4S pack

## Independent block

With independent electrical, mechanical and thermal interface allowing easy replacement

## Modularity

Blocks are mechanically linked to each other like the pieces of a puzzle in order to reach larger S-P configuration

## Autonomous electronics

Each block is carrying its own autonomous electronics (4 Simplified Balancing System per block)

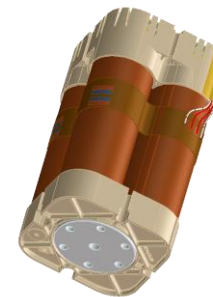
## Assembly innovation

Each block is attached to the panel through a unique central screw.

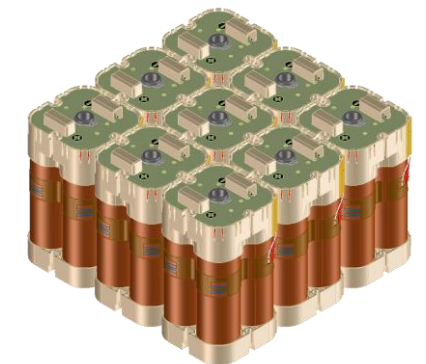


4S1P Block with SBS

4S1P block



12S3P Example



Individual Footprint  
(mechanical / Thermal)



# Battery Development plan



## EM's Test Plan **Successful**

- Batt-EM1 **8S5P**
- Batt-EM2 **12S4P**
- Batt-EM3 **12S3P**

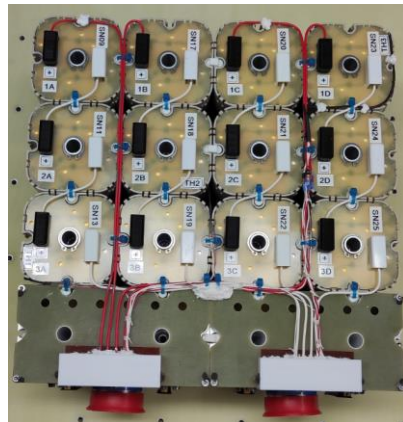
**Electrical, Thermal, Mechanical (vibration, shocks), SBS tests**

## Full Qualification Test Plan running

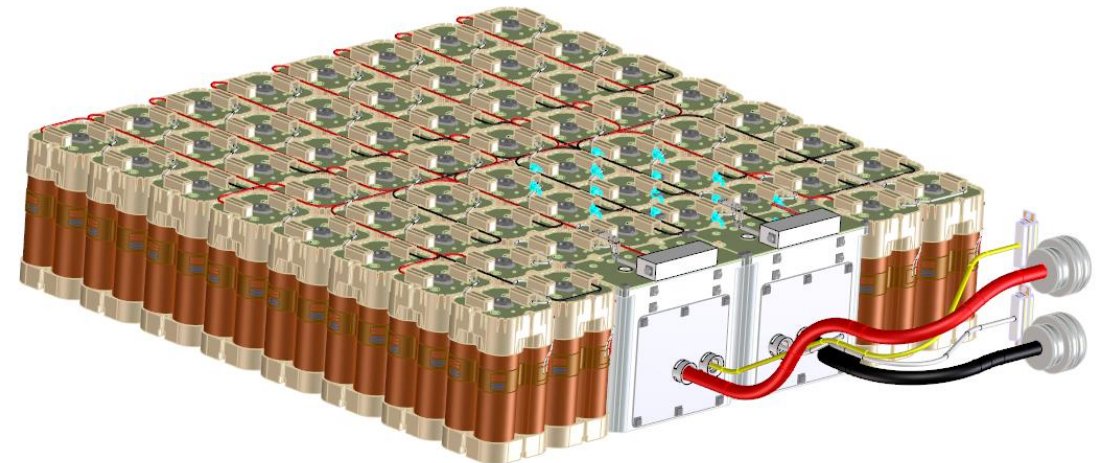
- Batt-QM1 **8S5P**
- Batt-QM2 **11S6P**
- Batt-QM3 **3x12S4P**
- Batt-QM4 **12S20P**



Bat-EM1 8S5P



Bat-EM2 12S4P

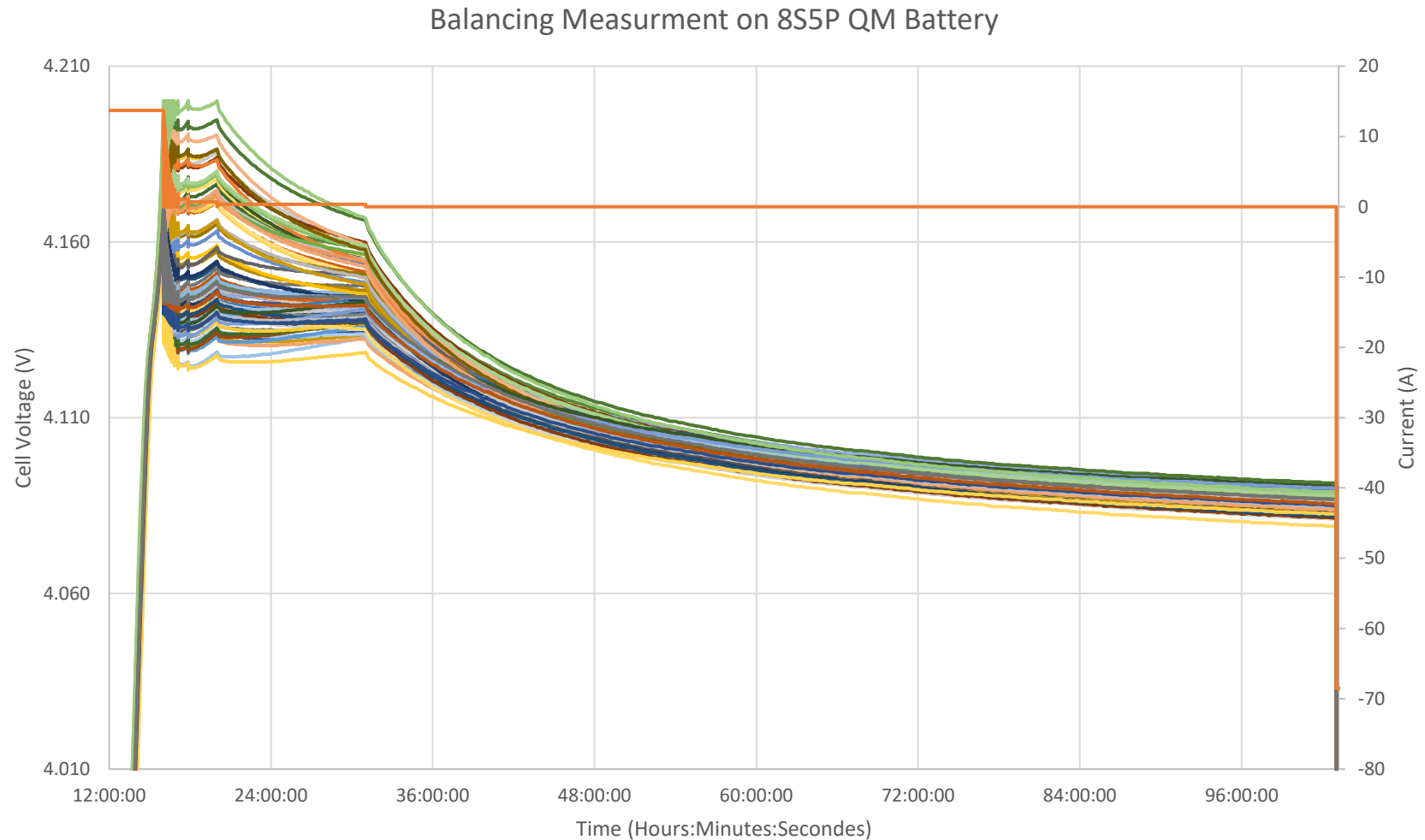


Bat-QM4 12S20P VL10ES

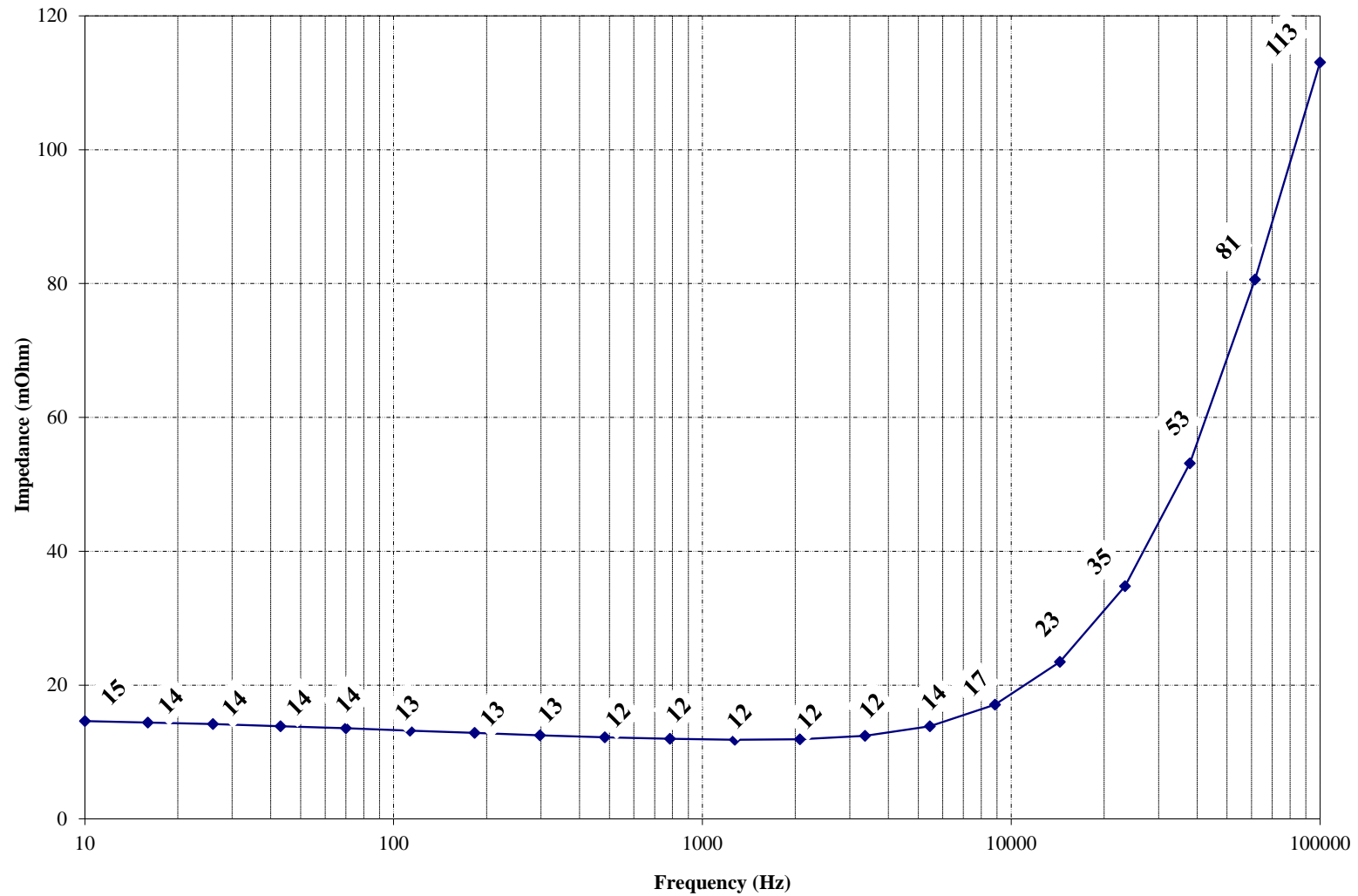
# Balancing on 8S5P VL10ES QM



- 10 mV cell to cell spread obtained in 82 hours from 80 mV



# Impedance 8S5P VL10ES QM

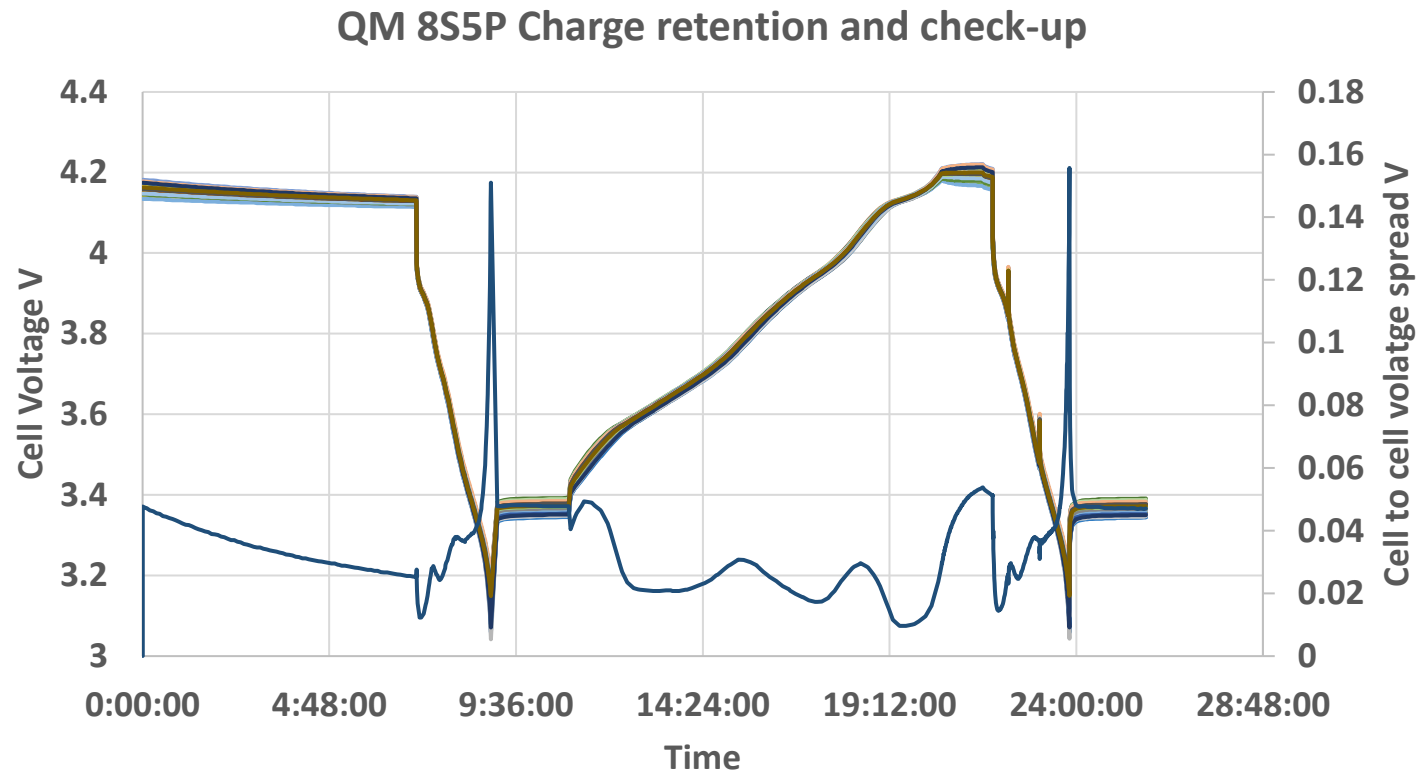




# Battery Charge Retention QM



- Cell to cell spread measurement during retention



# QM VL10ES Vibration Tests

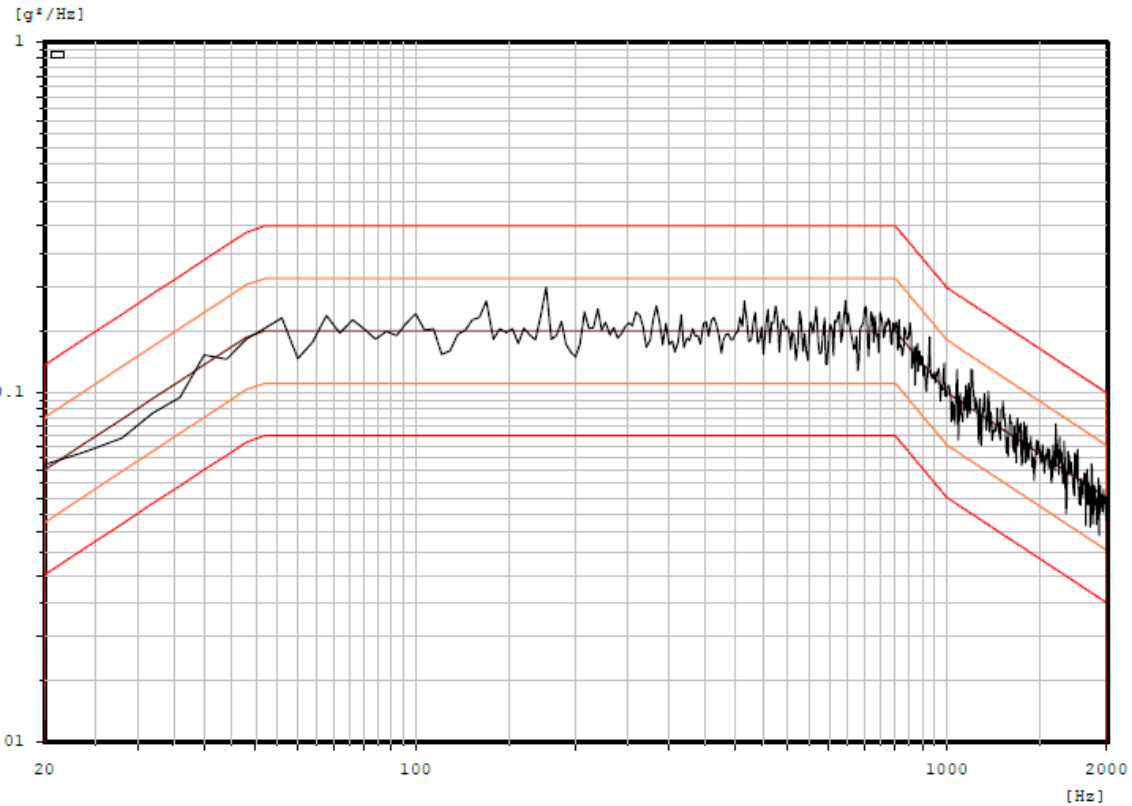


- Sequence :
  - Sine 3 axis
  - Random 3 axis
  - Sine with frequency search
  - Energy Check-up

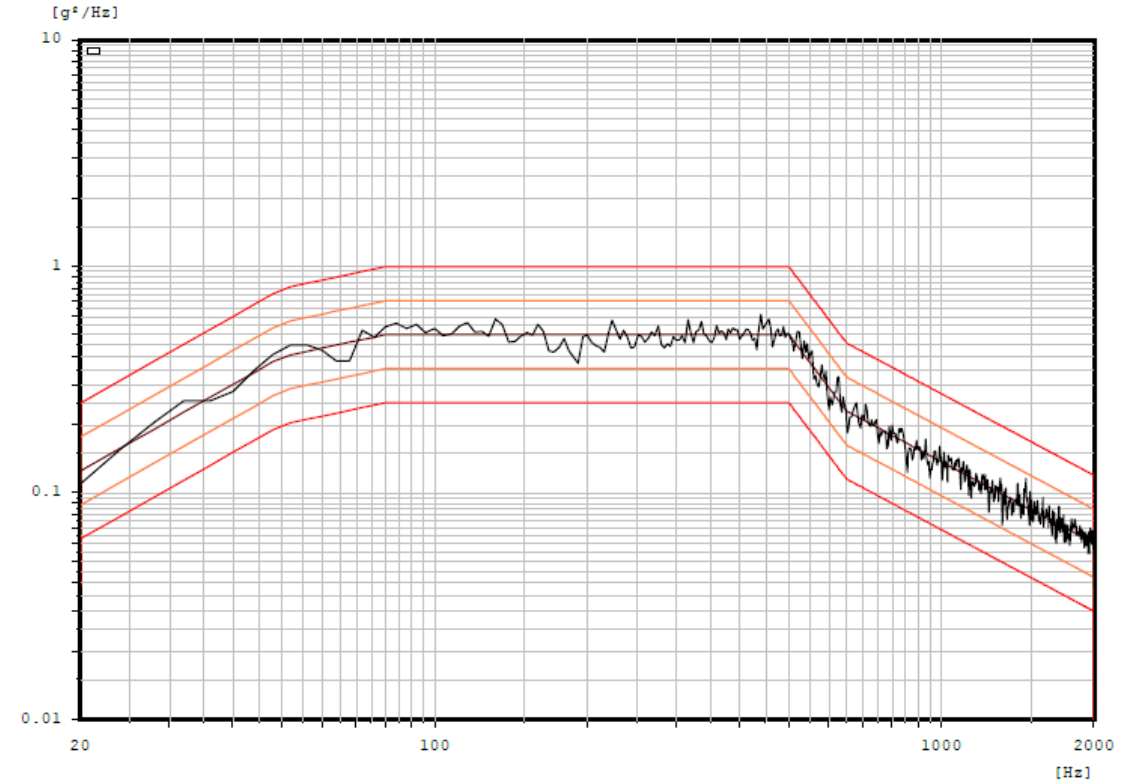
# Random Vibration X and Z axis



- X-axis



## Z-Axis

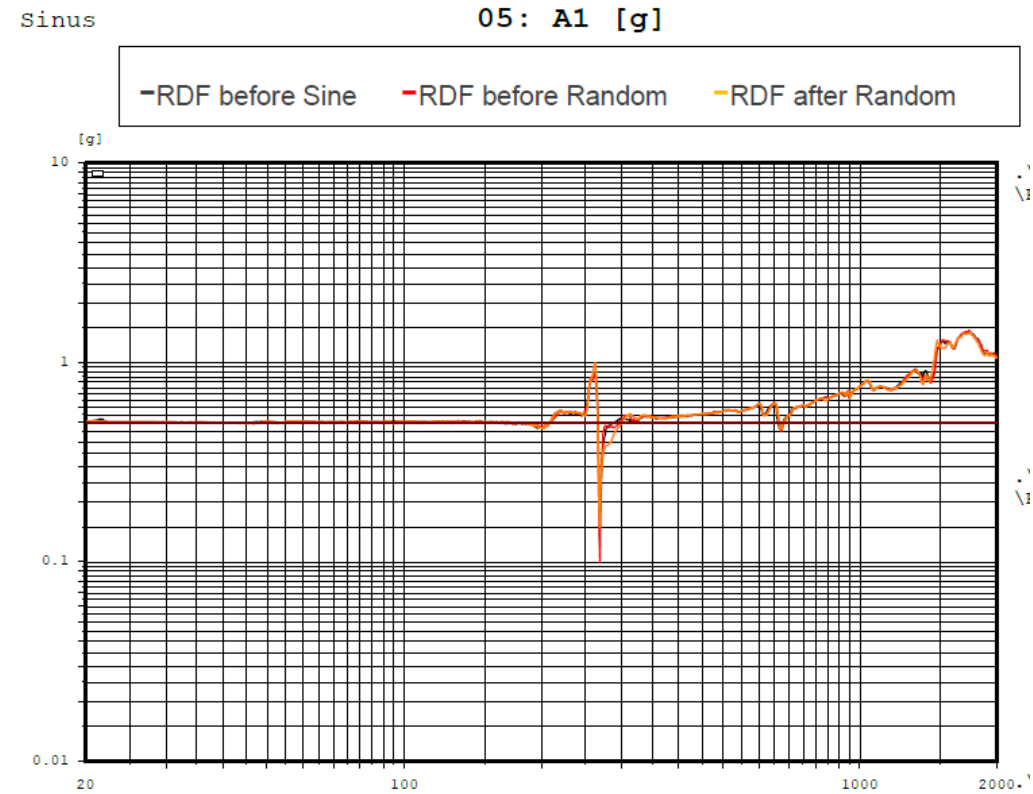
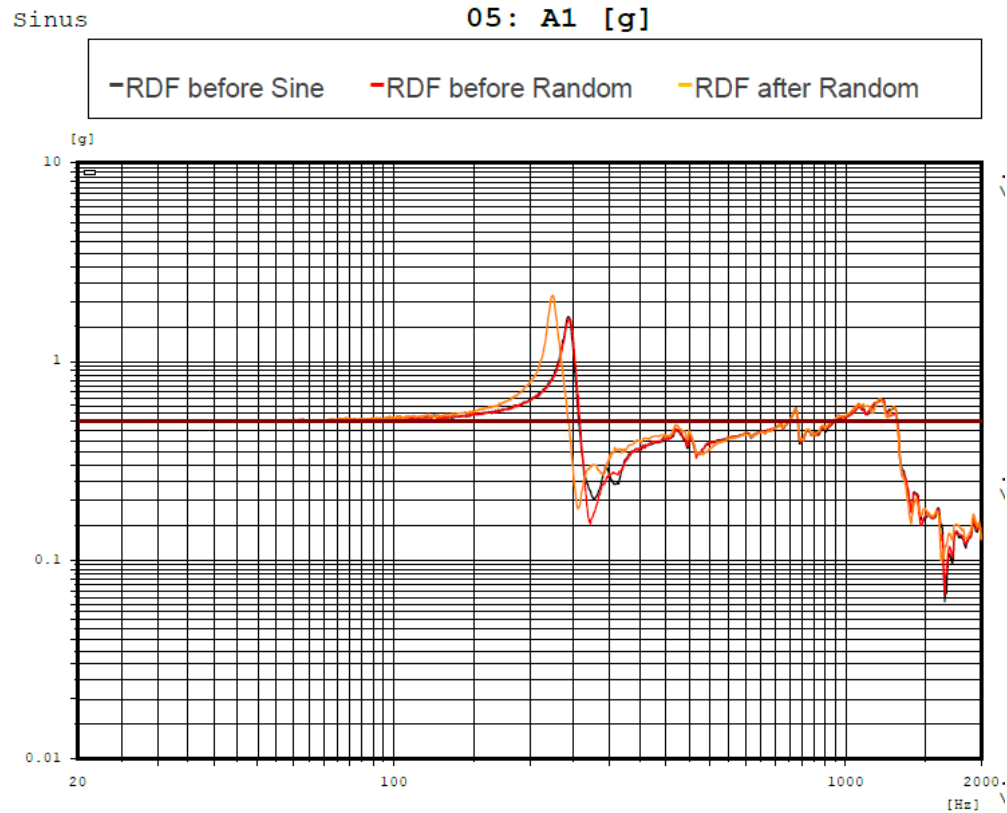


# Sine before and after Random Vibration



- X-axis

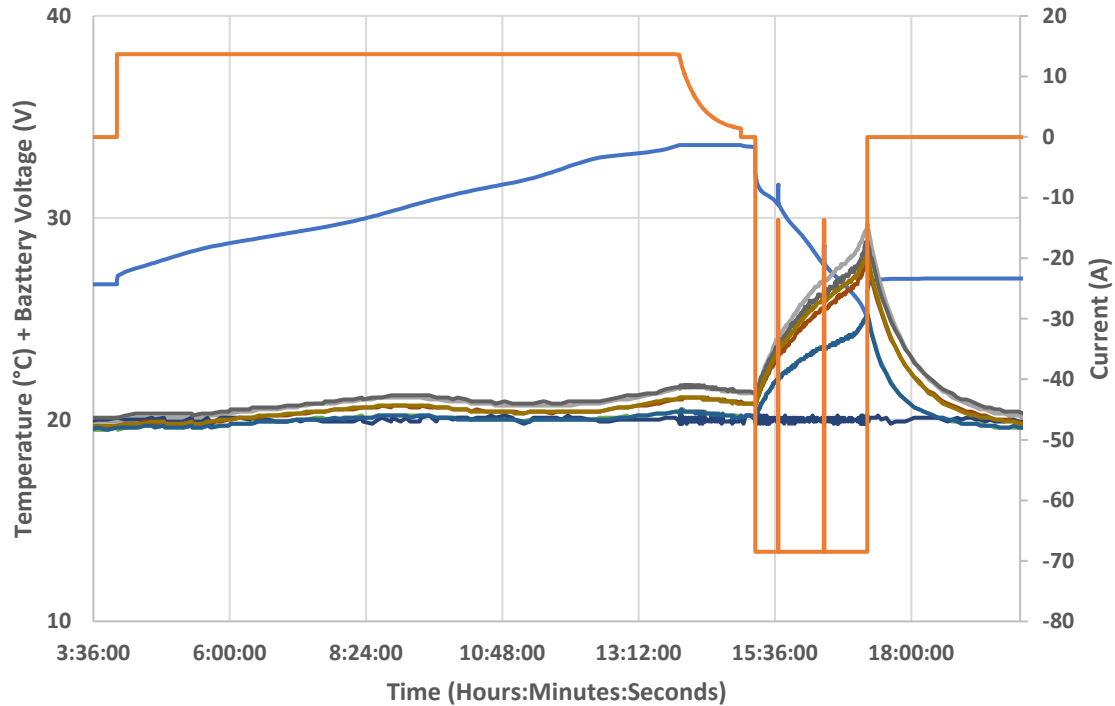
Z-axis



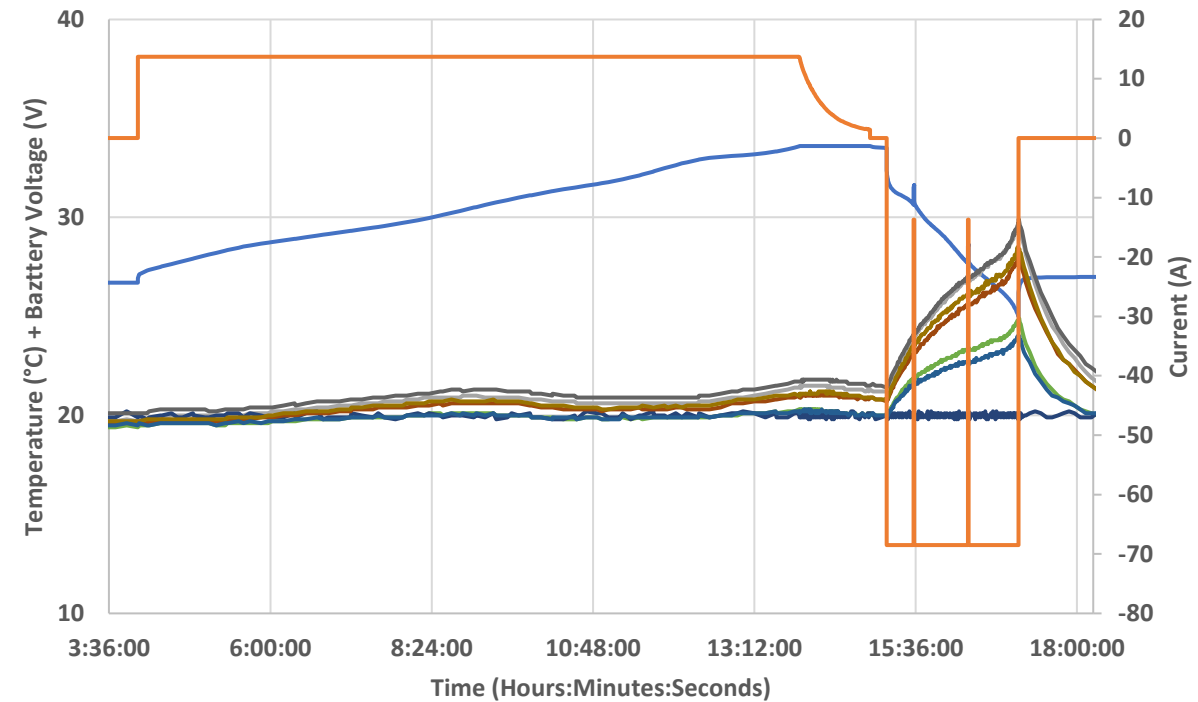
# Energy Check before and after Random Vibrations



Energy Check-up before Vibrations



Energy Check-up after vibrations



No energy or internal resistance evolution before and after mechanical tests



# Conclusions



- VL10ES cell and battery development QR program is close to the end with QR planned at the end of the year.
  - The cell qualification tests have been already performed. Still some few are running.
  - Cell Life Tests are running : 30 seasons GEO already performed (15 years) and >20,000 LEO cycles
  - For battery qualification plan :
    - Electrical including performance in temperature, balancing
    - Environment tests
    - Safety tests
- First FM' batteries have already been delivered to customers for satellite AIT



# Acknowledgements



VL10ES cell and battery development is supported by :

- ESA (Dr Evelyne Simon, Aurore Carré)
- CNES (Christian Elisabelar and Diane Delbegue)



Thank you