



Space Power Workshop

*Commoditization of Space:
Maintaining Resiliency in the Age of Faster and Cheaper*

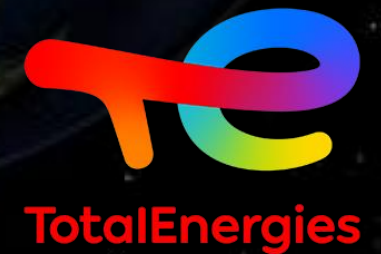
April 29–May 1, 2025

Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach, Torrance, CA

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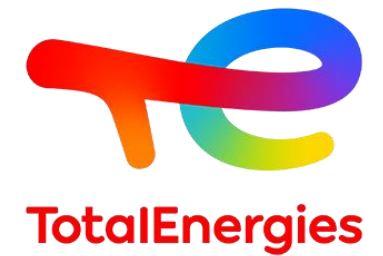
VL10ES Cell and Battery Qualification Update

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



Summary

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





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Saft Satellite Technology Road-Map

CURRENT LITHIUM CELL TECHNOLOGY Overview

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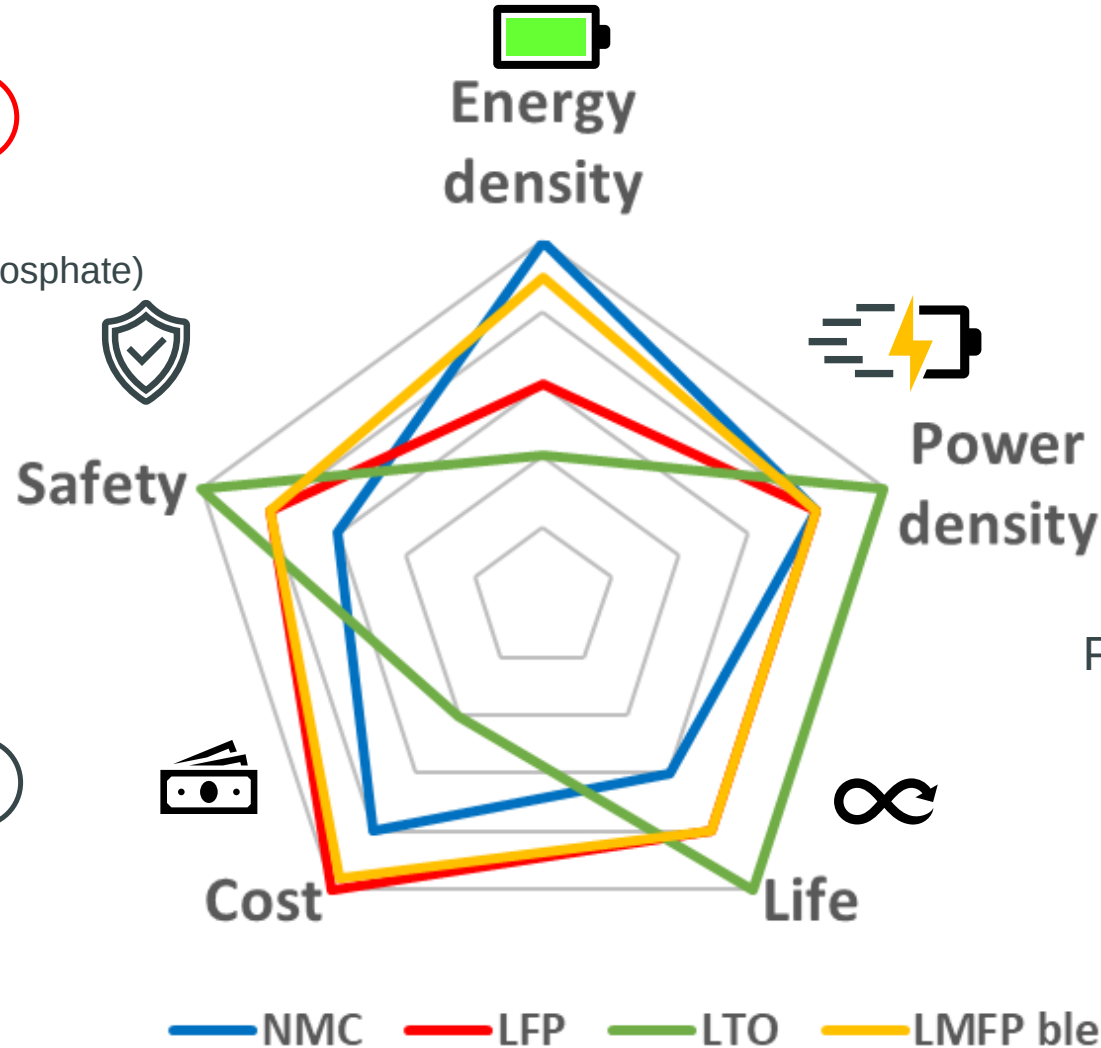
CATHODE

NCA (Nickel Cobalt Aluminum)
NMC (Nickel Manganese Cobalt)
LFP (Lithium Ferrous Phosphate)
LMFP (Lithium Manganese Ferrous Phosphate)



ANODE

Graphite
LTO (Lithium Titanate Oxide)
Silicon



Cylindrical



Prismatic hard casing



Prismatic Pouch

Saft Li-ion in Orbit Heritage and Reliability

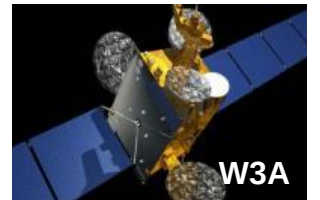


398 satellites in-orbit with Li-ion (GEO, MEO & LEO) : 377 operational

More than 3,4 Billion of cell hours in orbit with **no failure or deviations**

Total over 4,2 MWh in-orbit with 702 batteries and more than 50 800 cells in orbit

- **214 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
1st GEO Telecommunication satellite W3A launched 20 years ago (March 2004) with VES140 batteries
- **5 MEO satellite** flying with VES technology:
- **178 LEO satellites including :**
80 first Iridium Next satellites with VES16 batteries





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VL10ES Cell Development

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		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

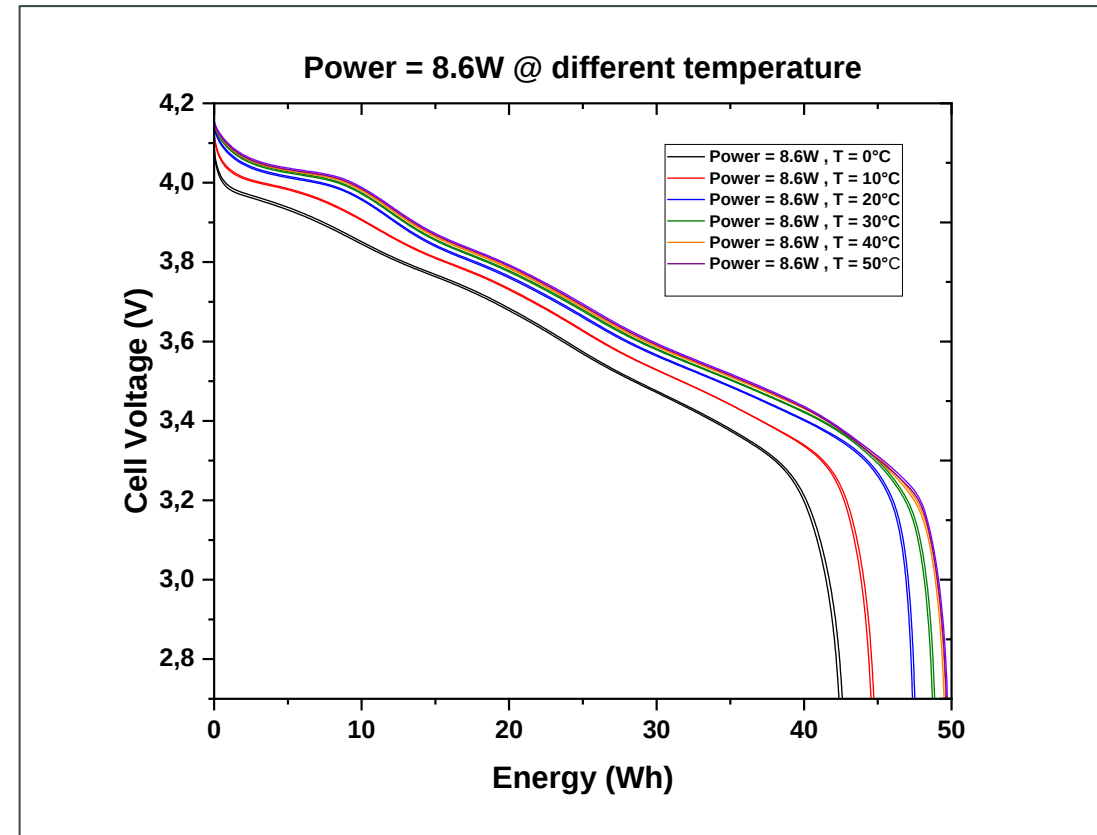
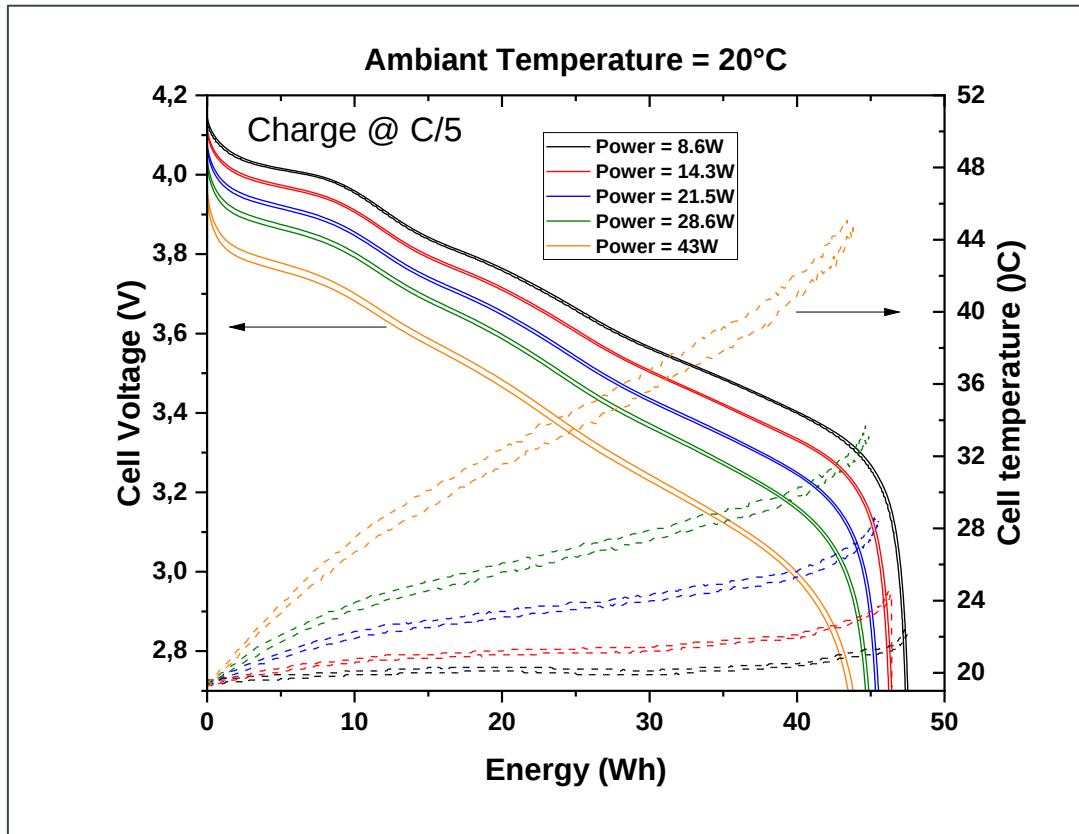


BOL Electrical Performances QM Cells : Constant Power Discharge versus Temperature



Energy evolution vs Power at 20°C

Energy evolution at constant Power vs Temperature

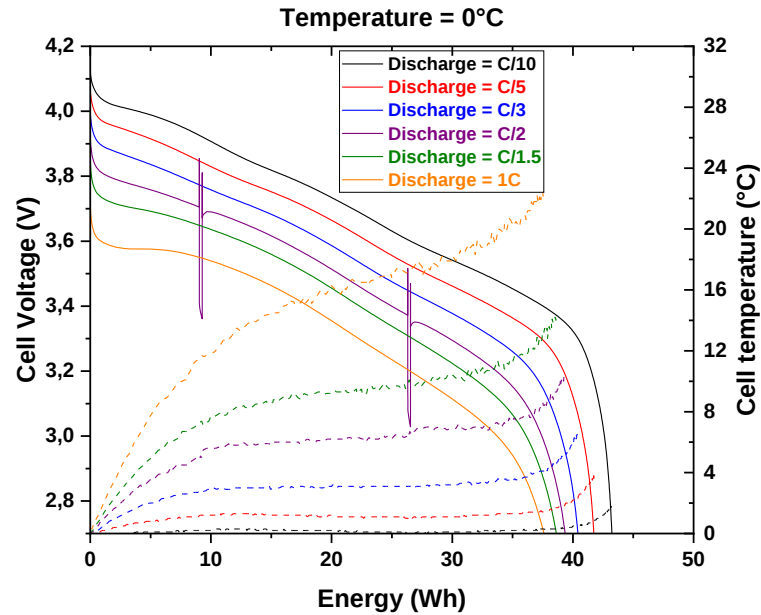


- Increasing discharge power leads to cell polarization together with a decrease in available energy and an increase in cell temperature.

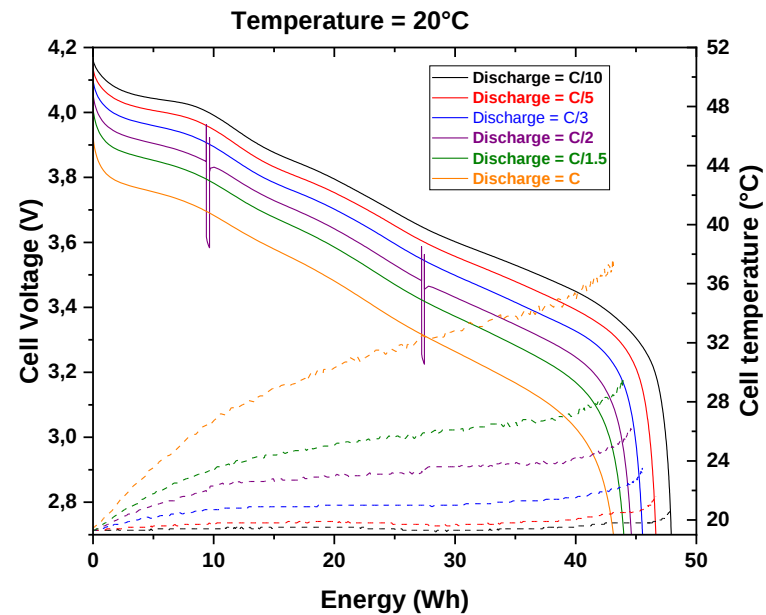
BOL Electrical Performances QM Cells : Discharge Current versus Temperature



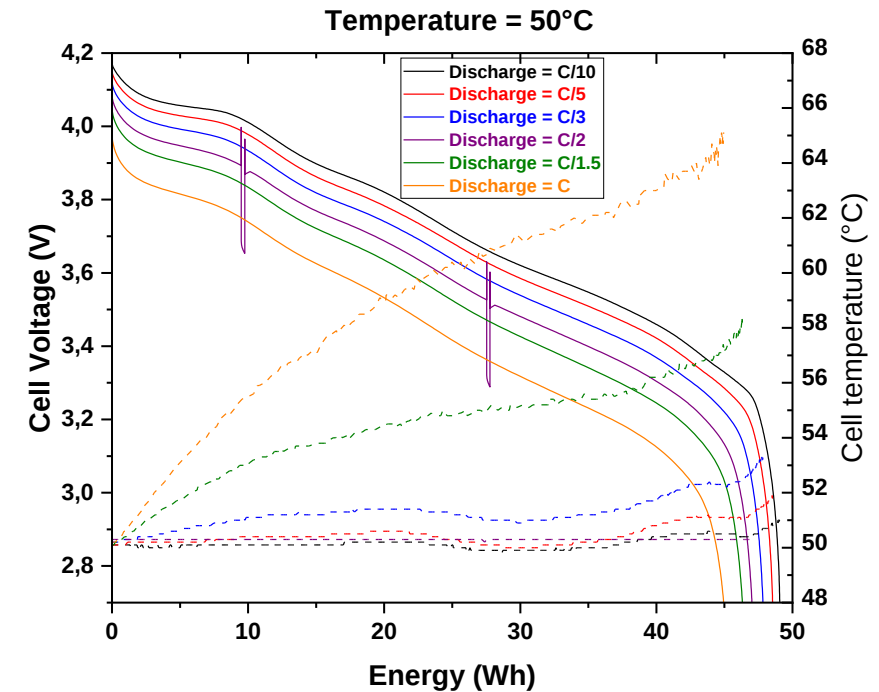
Energy evolution vs discharge rate at 0°C

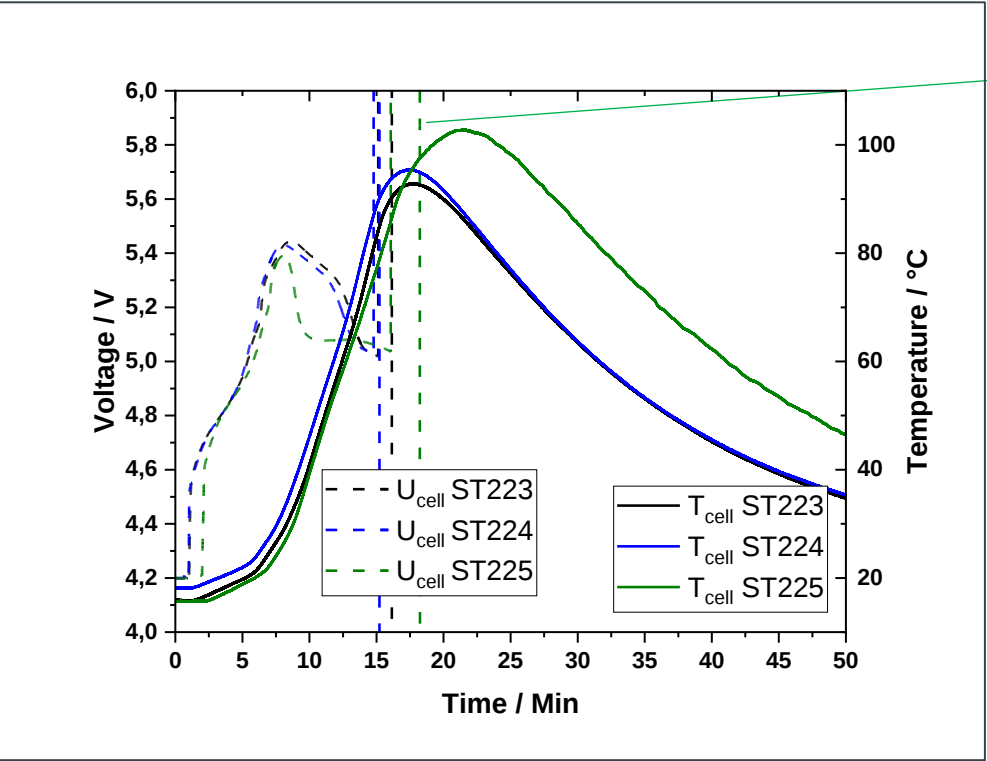


Energy evolution vs discharge rate at 20°C



Energy evolution vs discharge rate at 50°C





Cell	Event	Circuit breaker opening			Max Cell voltage (V)	Max Temperature (°C)	EUCA R
		Temperature (°C)	Time (mins)	Cell voltage (V)			
ST223	Circuit breaker opening	84.2	15	~5.0	5.7	92.9	2
ST224	Circuit breaker opening	86.9	15	~5.0	5.4	95.3	2
ST225	Circuit breaker opening	85.9	16	~5.0	5.4	102.8	2

➡ Compliant Eucar 2

before test

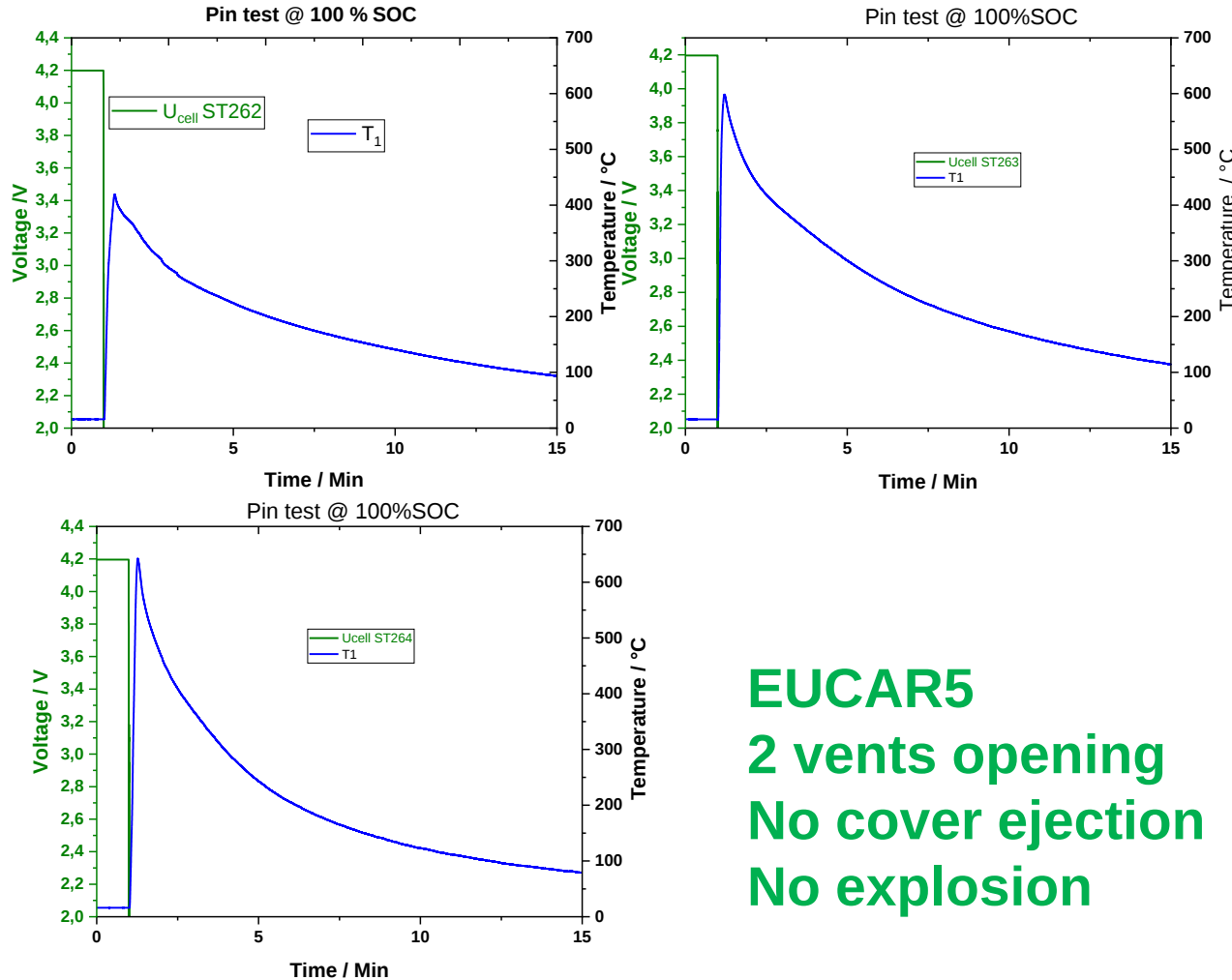


After test



Safety Test QM: Pin Test 100% SOC – 4.2V

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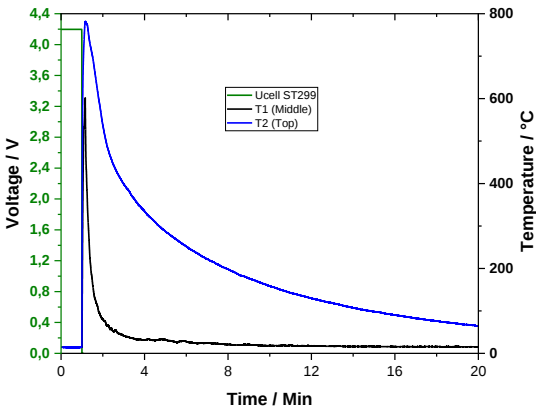
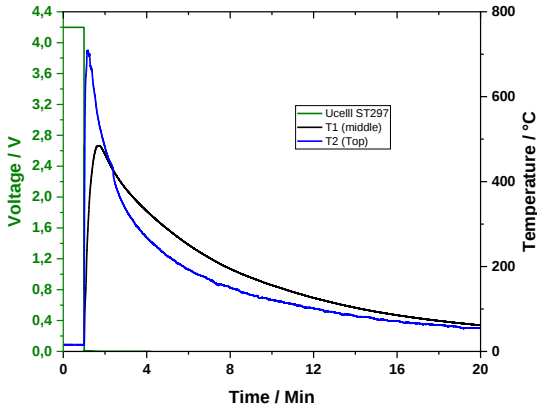
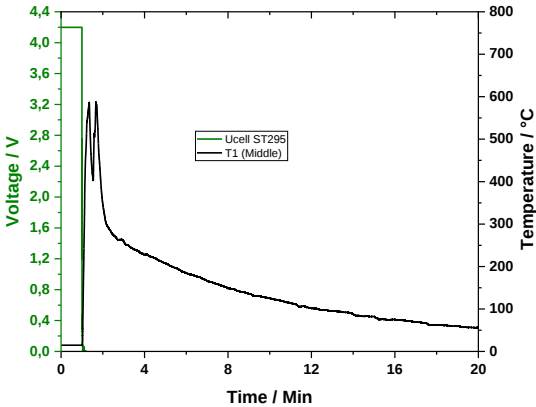
Before test



After test



Nail Test



Nail test @ 20°C	Cell	Event	Time of event (sec)	Cell temperature (°C)	EU CAR	Observation
100% SOC	ST295	Circuit breaker opening	yes	yes	5	CC opening & Venting
		Venting	yes	yes		
		Thermal runaway	yes	yes		
		Max temperature	-	586		
	ST297	Circuit breaker opening	yes	yes	5	Electrolyte leakage, flames & no ejection of the jelly roll.
		Venting	yes	yes		
		Thermal runaway	yes	yes		
		Max temperature	-	709		
	ST264	Circuit breaker opening	yes	yes	5	
		Venting	yes	yes		
		Thermal runaway	yes	yes		
		Max temperature	-	781		

➡ Compliant Eucar 5

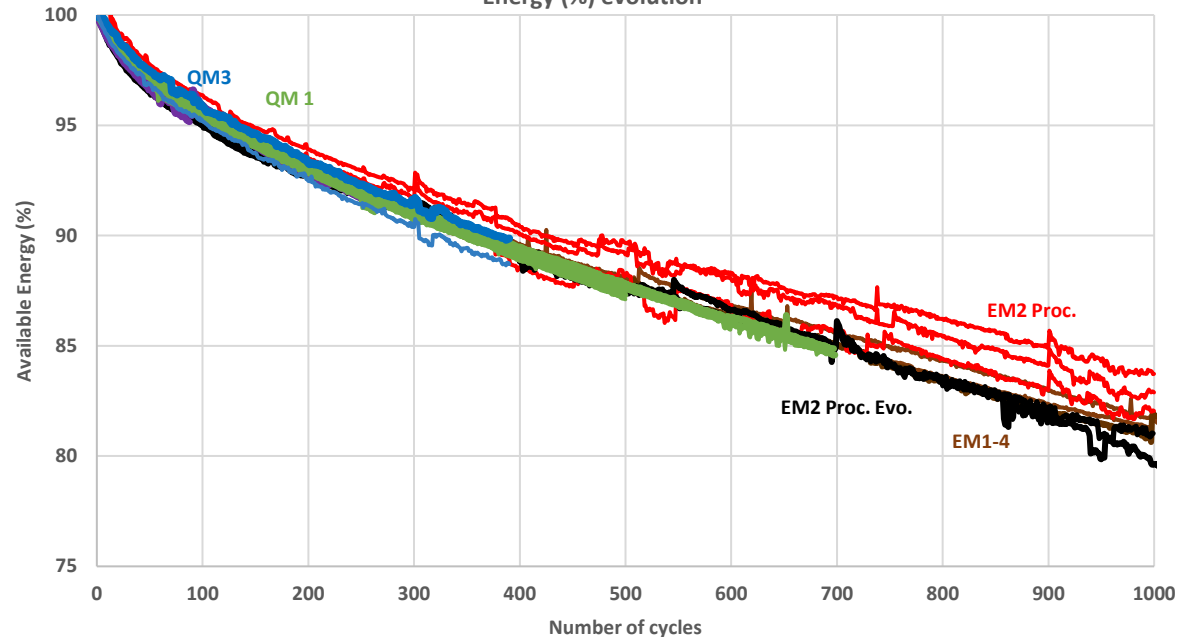


Accelerated 100% DOD Cycling: Energy Evolution



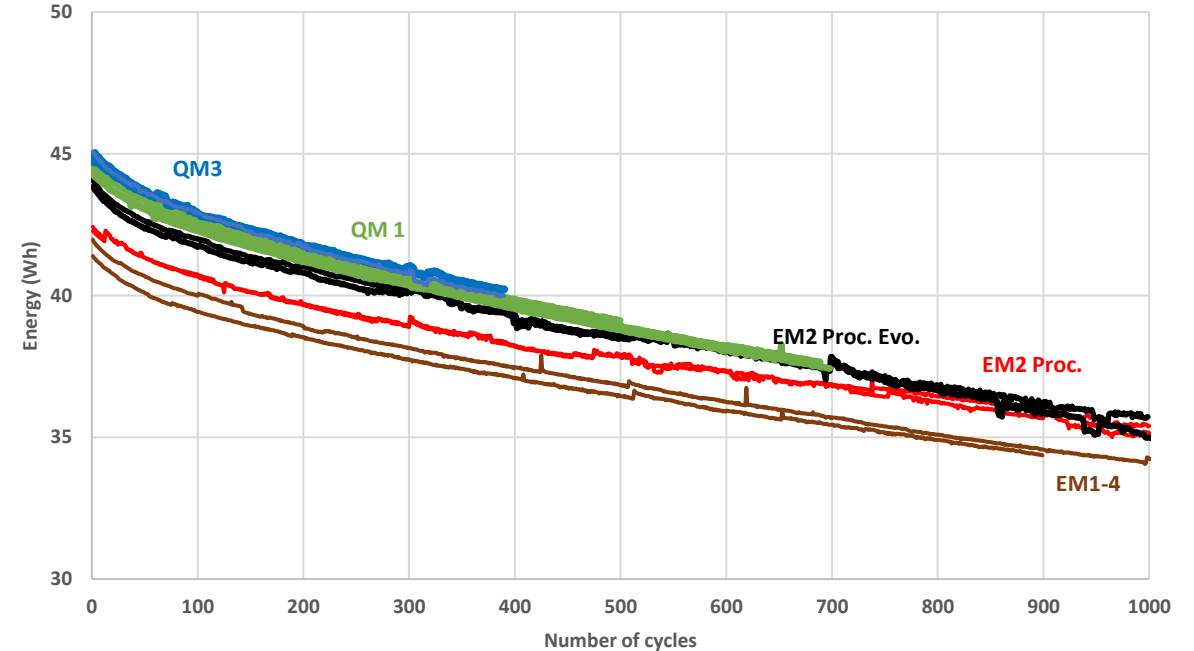
VL10ES accelerated 100% DOD cycling test: EM1 & EM2
Charge : C/3 EOCV = 4.15V & Discharge C/2 EODV = 2.7V

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

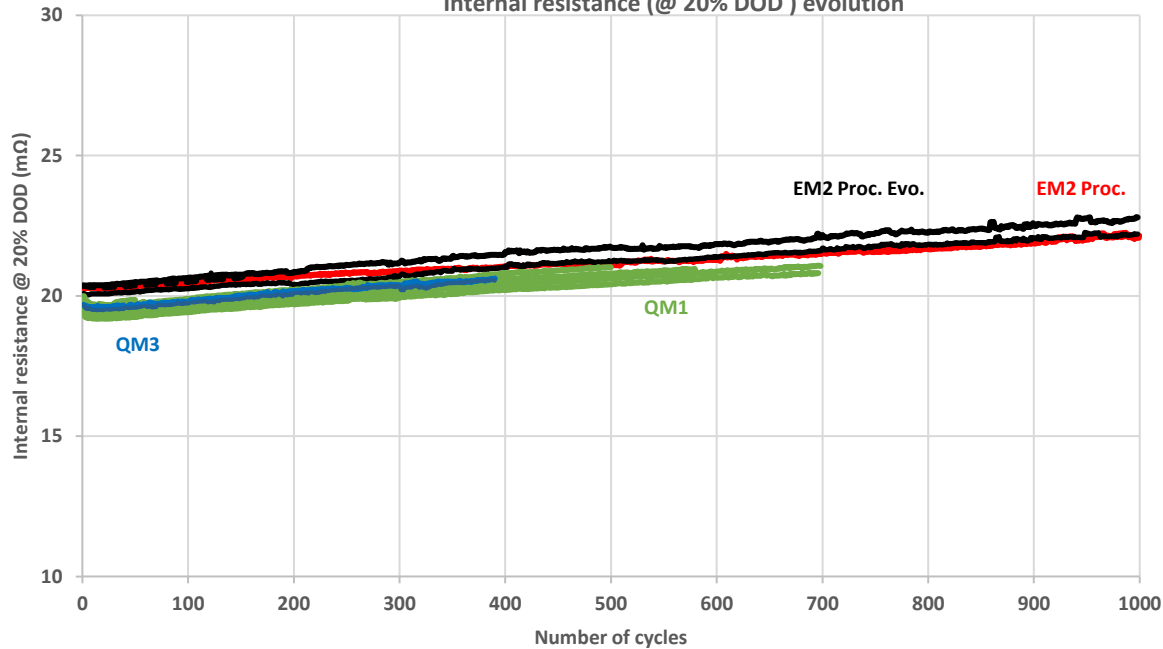


- All the batches (EM's, QM's and FM's) have been tested in Wear-out using 100 % DOD profile :
 - Similar EOL energy for all batches
 - Limited impact of BOL energy

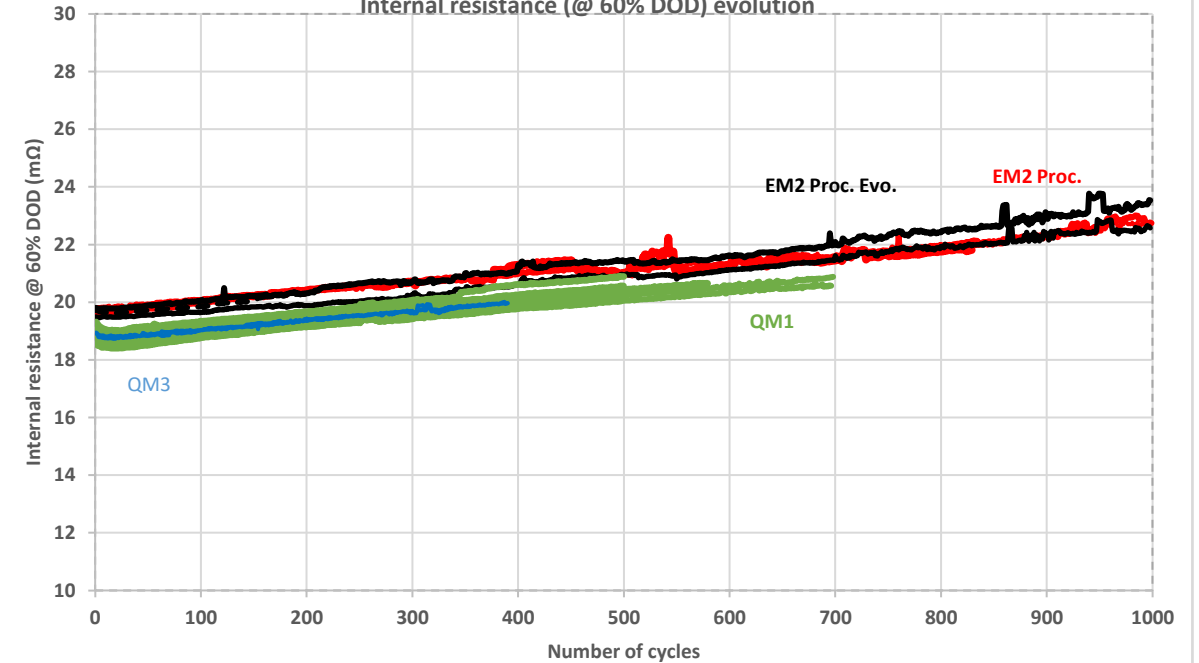
Accelerated 100% DOD Cycling : IR Evolution



VL10ES accelerated 100% DOD cycling test: EM1 & EM2
Charge : C/3 EOCV = 4.15V & Discharge C/2 EODV = 2.7V
Internal resistance (@ 20% DOD) evolution



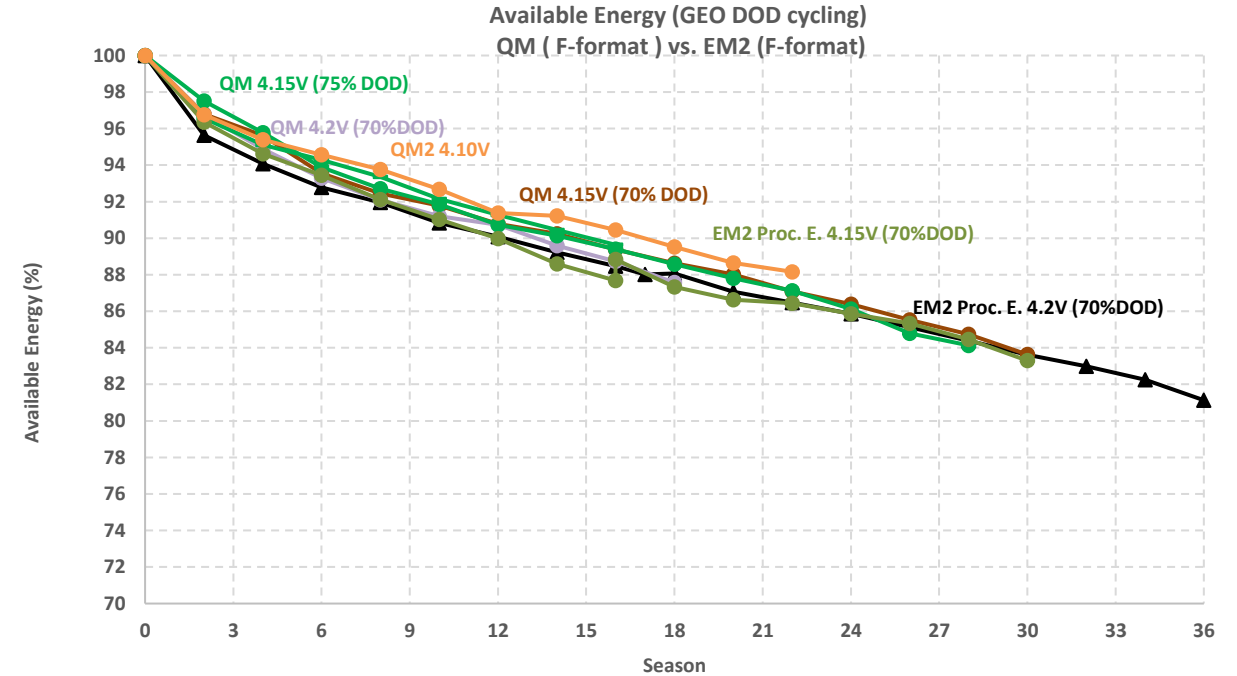
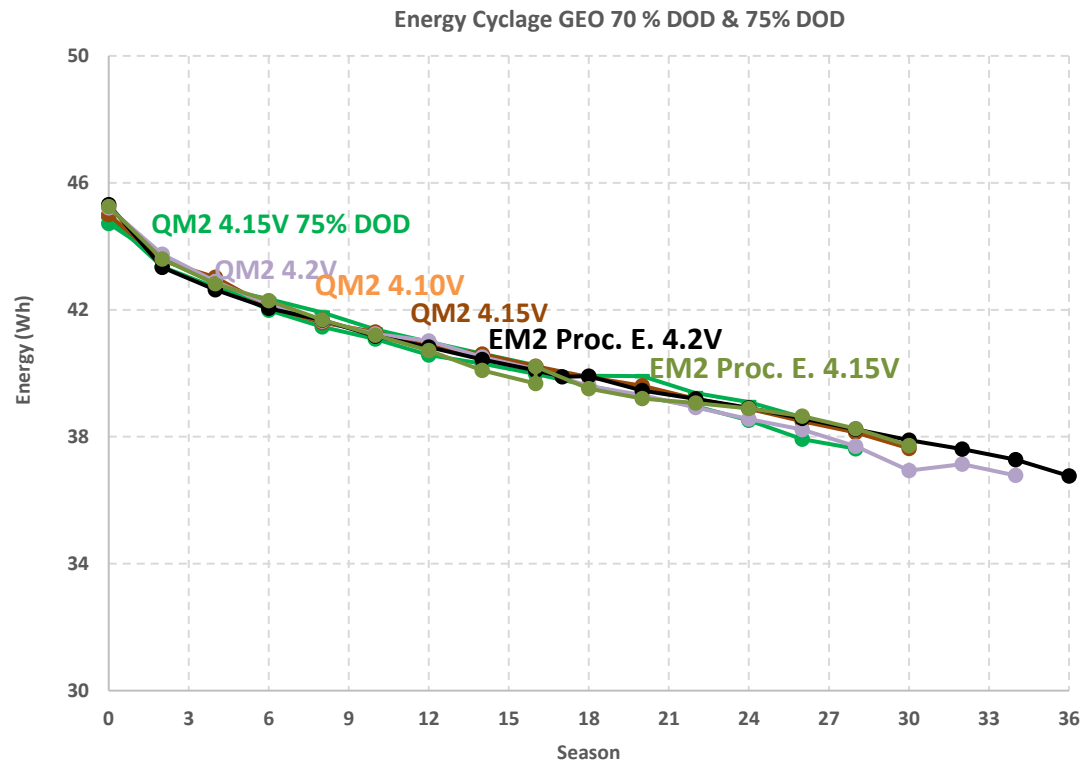
VL10ES accelerated 100% DOD cycling test: EM1 & EM2
Charge : C/3 EOCV = 4.15V & Discharge C/2 EODV = 2.7V
Internal resistance (@ 60% DOD) evolution



- 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

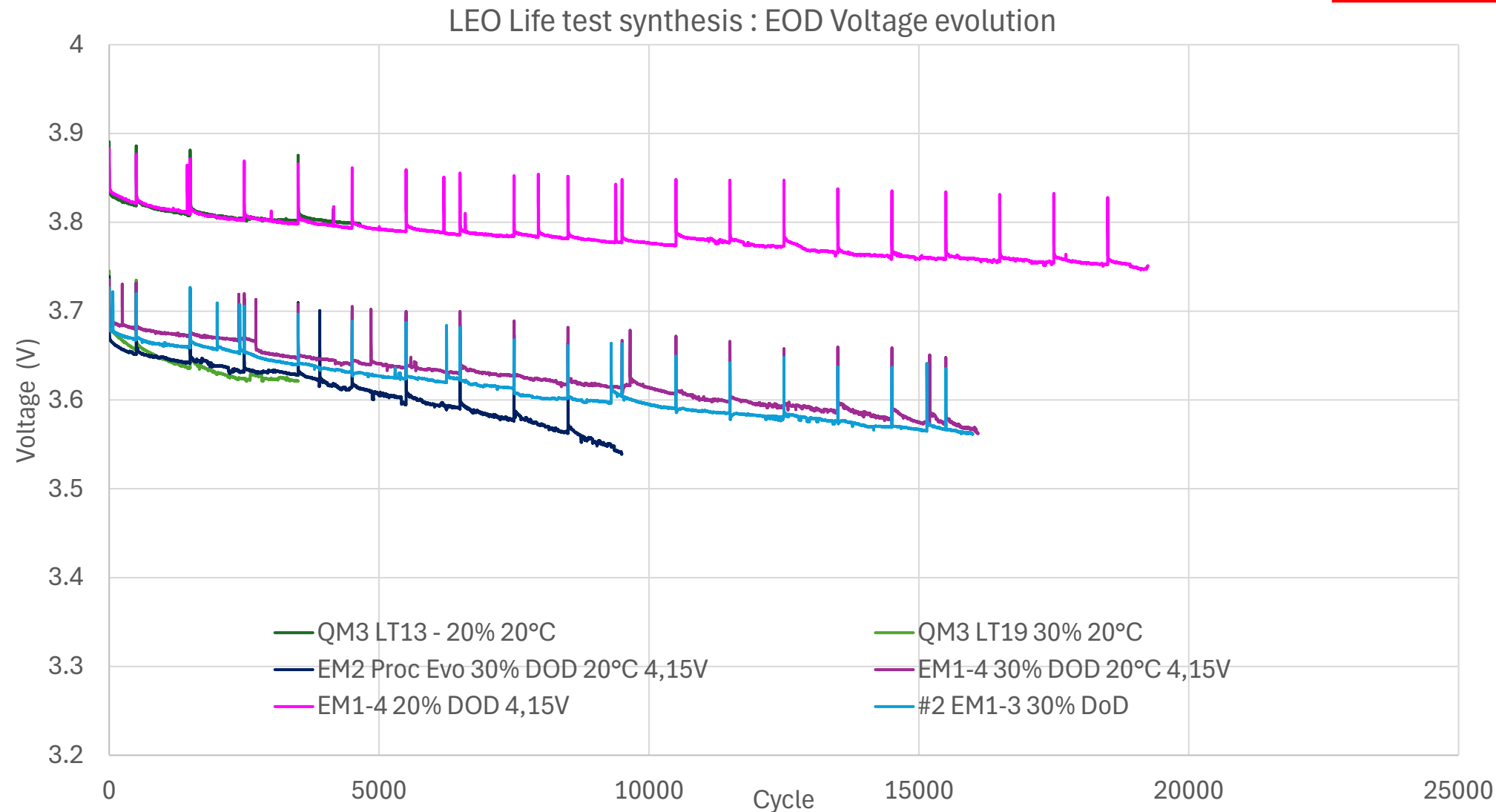
Constant Internal Resistance (IR) evolution with cycling

QM2 versus EM2 Process Evolution : GEO Life Energy Trend



- 70% DOD EOCV = 4.15V & 4.2V (average data)
 - QM2 cells followed the same trend as EM2 cells
- 75% EOCV= 4.2V (average data)
 - QM2 cells cycled at higher DoD displayed similar losses as cells cycled at 70% DOD

VL10ES#1 – 20%-30% DOD LEO Qualification LT at 20°C



VL10ES Innovative Battery Concept



To answer to modularity (SP / PSP), to limits 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)

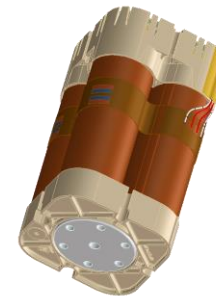
Assembly innovation

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



4S1P Block with SBS

4S1P block



Individual Footprint
(mechanical / Thermal)



12S3P Example



Battery Development Plan



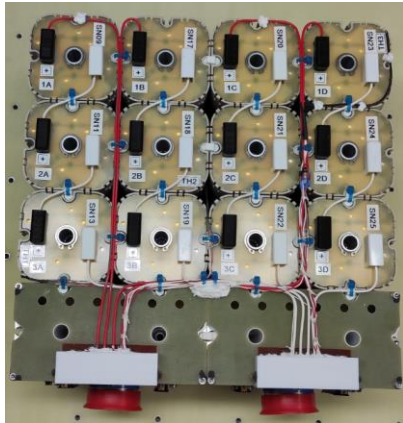
EM's Test plan **successfull**

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

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



Bat-EM1 8S5P



Bat-EM2 12S4P

Full Qualification test plan done

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

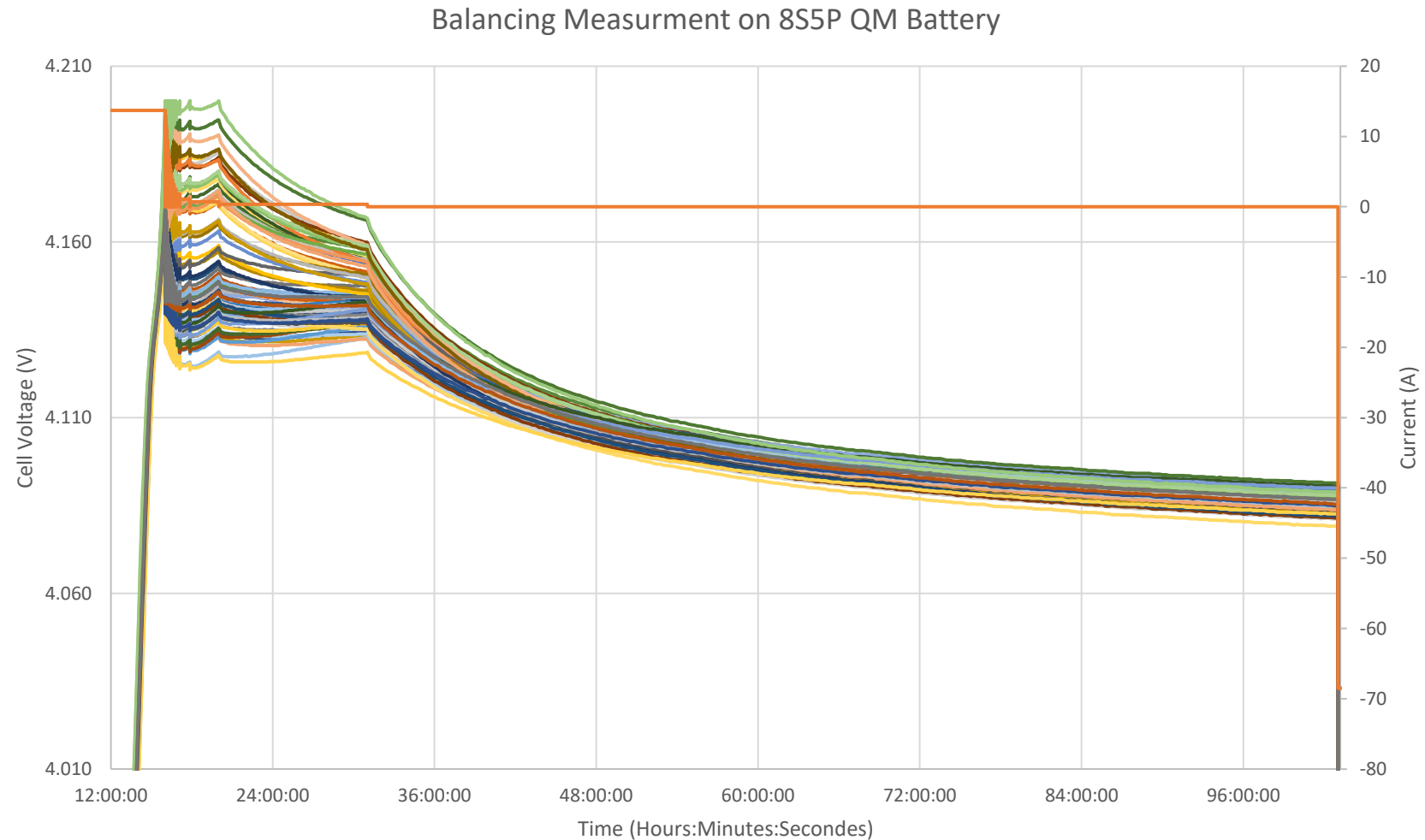


Bat-QM4 12S20P VL10ES

Balancing on 8S5P VL10ES QM



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



QM VL10ES Vibration Tests

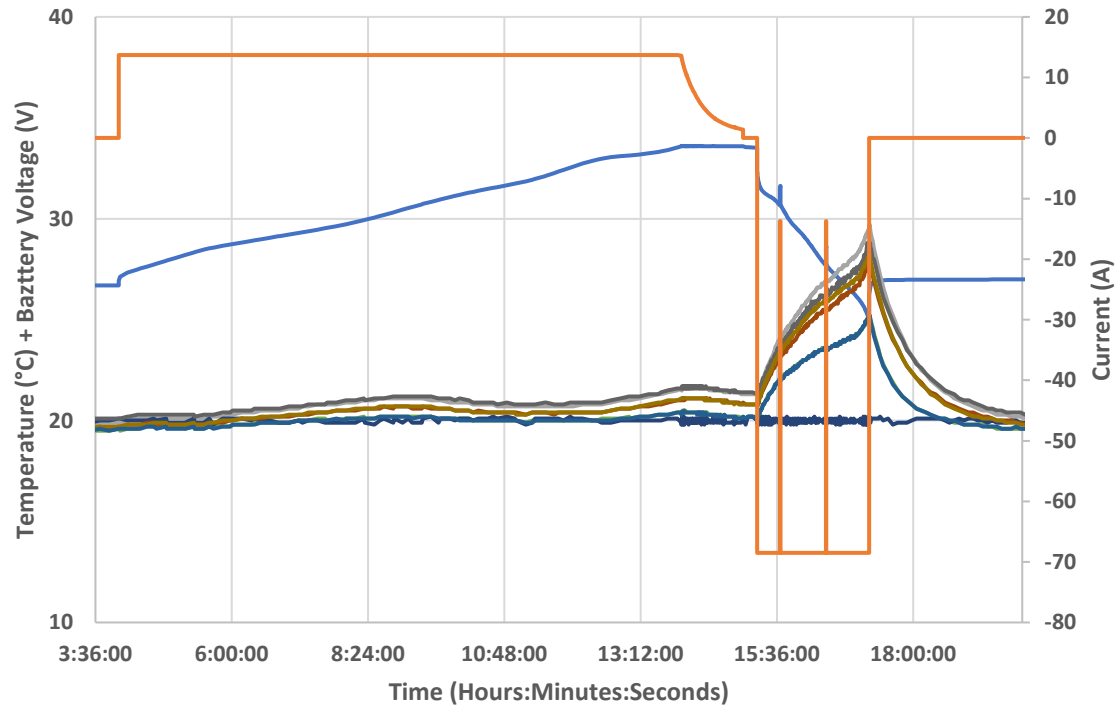


- Sequence :
 - Sine 3 axis
 - Random 3 axis
 - Sine with frequency search
 - Energy Check-up

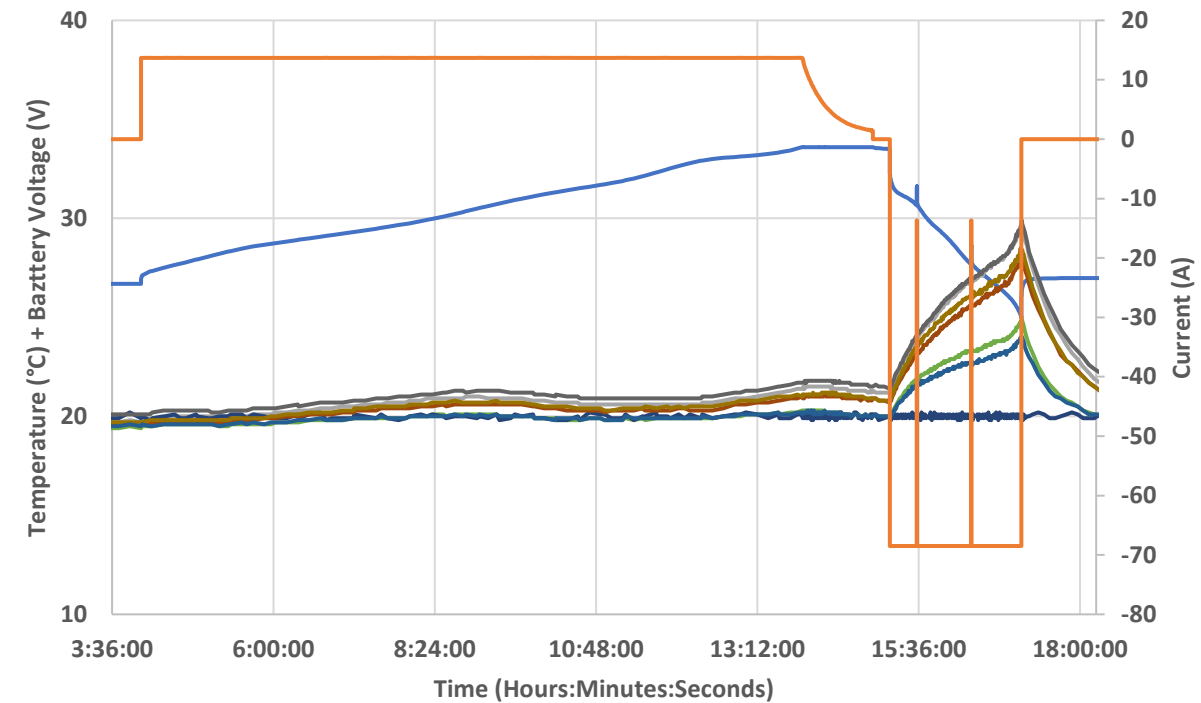
Energy Check before and after Vibrations



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 successfully done
 - Cell Life Tests are running : 30 seasons GEO already performed (15 years) and >20,000 LEO cycles
 - For battery qualification plan :
 - Electrical tests including performance in temperature, balancing
 - Environment tests
 - Safety tests
- 20 FM's have been already delivered to customers for satellite AIT

Thank you