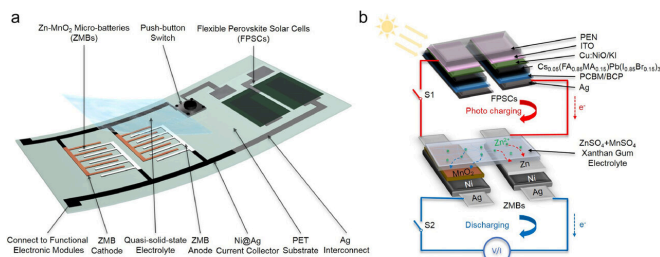


Prototype battery only needs seconds of sunlight to keep smart wearables charged

3 August 2022



Schematics of the (a) device configuration and (b) working principle of the integrated flexible photo-rechargeable system. Credit: *Energy Storage Materials* (2022). DOI: 10.1016/j.ensm.2022.06.043

Thirty seconds of sunlight could boost the battery life of future smartwatches and other wearables by tens of minutes, thanks to a renewable and rechargeable battery prototype developed by the University of Surrey.

Surrey's Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) has demonstrated how its new photo-rechargeable system, which merges zinc-ion batteries with [perovskite solar cells](#), could allow wearables to spring back to life without the need to plug in.

Jinxin Bi, a Ph.D. candidate at ATI and the first author of the paper, says that "this technology provides a promising strategy for efficient use of clean energy and enables wearable electronics to be operated continuously without plug-in charging. Our prototype could represent a step forward to how we interact with wearables and other internet-of-things devices, such as remote real-time health monitors."

Surrey's environmentally friendly, photo-rechargeable system is unique because of its elegant and well-matched [structural design](#) between the integrated battery and solar cell, allowing it to demonstrate [high energy](#) and volume

density comparable to state-of-the-art micro-batteries and super capacitors.

Dr. Wei Zhang, [project](#) co-lead and expert in perovskite [solar cells](#) from the ATI, says that "this project is an example of how the University of Surrey is dedicated to producing research and innovation that equips humanity with the knowledge, tools and technologies to help us live better and more sustainable lives."

Dr. Yunlong Zhao, project co-lead and expert in batteries for wearables and implantables from the ATI, says that "the unique features in our ultrafast photo-rechargeable system could promote wide applications in self-powered wearable internet-of-things, autonomous power systems and emergency electronics. In addition, it will broaden the perception and insight of designing the next generation of miniaturized flexible photo-rechargeable systems."

The research was published in *Energy Storage Materials*.

More information: Jinxin Bi et al, A Highly integrated flexible photo-rechargeable system based on stable ultrahigh-rate quasi-solid-state zinc-ion micro-batteries and perovskite solar cells, *Energy Storage Materials* (2022). DOI: [10.1016/j.ensm.2022.06.043](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ensm.2022.06.043)

Provided by University of Surrey

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