Volume 12, Issue 5

Solutions for OEM Design Engineers, Integrators & Specifiers of Power Management Products

Alaska Power & Telephone Company, an Alaskan elec-

Any communications network is only as good as its

Batteries Used as Back-Up Power for New Terrestrial Microwave Network That Will Improve Communications in Southeast Alaska



cause conditions where it is difficult if not impossible to safely travel to a site via helicopter (as there are no roads) to restore power or make other repairs.

To achieve minimum 99.999 percent availability of the communications system, fully discrete, redundant power systems are a must. In addition, the battery systems within this environment must be capable of sustaining the communications site for an extended period of time. In this case, a seven day minimum reserve time is required. In order to achieve this, AP&T employ load management techniques, including load shedding in sequence from non critical, sub critical and critical loads.

AP&T continued on page 4

News in Brief _

Saft Wins \$170 Million Maximum Contract with the US Defense Logistics Agency

Saft has been awarded a major multi-year contract by the US Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to supply the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps with BA5590 lithium sulfur dioxide (Li-SO2) batteries. The terms of the contract include Li-SO2 batteries for several portable military applications such as communications and electronics systems. The contract with DLA is an indefinite quantity contract with a two-year base period for an amount of up to \$64 million and three one-year option periods for a total contract value of up to \$170 million.

NREL Joins A123Systems to Improve Advanced-Vehicle Batteries

The US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and A123Systems have teamed up to support the battery-maker's effort to develop more powerful and longer lasting batteries for hybrid-electric vehicles. The Laboratory and the battery-maker have signed a three-year, Cooperative Research and Development Agreement to examine and develop new techniques to improve thermal management in advanced transportation batteries.

EnerSys Awarded \$13 Million in Submarine Battery Contracts

EnerSys has been awarded contracts for submarine batteries worth more than \$13 million. The batteries are scheduled for delivery over the next several years. The orders were received from HDW, the German shipbuilder and are for the supply of submarine batteries for propulsion power on diesel electric vessels with several navies worldwide. The contracts include the supply of the batteries as well as the ongoing maintenance and technical support for the customers.

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QUALLION



Vehicles



Military



Aerospace



Medicine

Since 1998, Quallion has delivered custom battery solutions for demanding applications. From medical implants to high voltage power supplies, Quallion leads the Lithium ion battery industry in safety, reliability and performance. Drawing upon its unique ties to the Japanese Lithium ion battery market, Quallion now offers new battery solutions to the Heavy Duty Truck Market. Enabling technologies such as the Matrix[™] Battery Design, Zero-Volt[™] capability and SaFE-LYTE[™] offer proven battery solutions that can pass the most aggressive test conditions, including full crush and constant overcharge.

Quallion's Matrix[™] Battery System was designed specifically for the vehicle market. The concept is based on matrix arrays of 18650 Li ion cells arranged in series to establish voltage, and strings of cells configured in parallel to establish capacity. The advantage of this approach is nominal use of control electronics and cell redundancy for efficient increases in reliability and survivability. Utilization of commercial grade 18650 cells offers the greatest cost effective solution and the highest variability of chemistry configuration as the cells are interchangeable in the Matrix[™].

Quallion was founded by biotechnology entrepreneur and philanthropist Alfred E. Mann and Dr. Hisashi Tsukamoto.



(Top) Quallion's new 48.8V Matrix[™] Module (4.2kg) comes in 7.5Ah, 9.5Ah and 12.5Ah configurations.

(Above) This 72Ah matrix-design pack offers as a lead-acid replacement for military applications for high power or high energy.

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New Products

New Batteries on the Market

E-One Moli Introducing New Li-Ion Battery for **Power Applications**

E-One Moli Energy Corp. has released its new generation of high power lithium-ion battery. E-one Moli uses advanced spinel technology to develop a new formula of high power lithium-ion battery. The new generation of manganese (spinel)based lithium-ion battery features great rate capability and improved cycle life.

The new high power battery offers a capacity retention rate of more than 80 percent after 1,200 cycles and improved safety, even under harsh environments. With the advanced spinel technology, E-One Moli provides the industry with a new level of power source that promises high power density, safety, long cycle life and low material cost.

Blue Spark Technologies Unveils Innovative Printed Battery Designs

Blue Spark Technologies, a supplier of thin, flexible printed battery solutions, now offers two additional battery designs that expand potential markets and product development possibilities for the company's eco-friendly, carbon-zinc printed battery technology. The new battery designs are variations on the company's ST (standard) series of thin battery solutions and were developed in response to customer needs for customized low voltage power sources to power new and existing products.

Blue Spark's two new battery designs can be integrated into the design, manufacturing and packaging of a vast array of products easily, affordably and with reliable results.

The industry's thinnest printed battery currently in production, the UT series batteries, are extremely flexible, even under high duty levels. The lower laminate profile (as thin as 500 microns ~ 0.020 inches) makes the UT series well suited to a wide variety of thin form factors including transit tickets, loyalty cards, "smart cards" and RFID smart labels. Blue Spark has been working with a variety of printed display and electronic ink manufacturers to create some truly innovative new products and applications ranging from gaming to financial transactions.

Blue Spark UT batteries are available in a variety of shapes and sizes. Typical standard form factors are 1.5 V and can deliver approximately 12 mAh of energy. Overall voltage, storage capacity and thickness can be adjusted according to individual customer's power requirements.

The Blue Spark HD (high-drain) series is designed to provide an extra boost of power in applications requiring higher peak current delivery, the HD series offers about 5x greater peak drain current than Blue Spark's ST series. They are well-suited for use in applications involving transmission of power to an LED, display, sensor, speaker or other electronic device. Batteries continued on page 4

Batteries in Action

Micro Power Supplies Custom Battery Pack for Vocollect Healthcare Systems

Micro Power has manufactured a new, custom li-ion battery pack specifically for Vocollect Healthcare Systems' AccuNurse voice-assisted care system for the longterm care industry.

New Battery Demonstrates Evolution of Power

Exide Technologies has introduced the Absolvte GP, the

company's latest addition to its stand-by power product family

of valve-regulated, network power batteries. Engineered, mar-

keted and sold by Exide's GNB Industrial Power Business, the

Absolyte GP incorporates a technologically and environmental-

enhanced cycling performance, a key attribute to support photo-

The Absolyte GP is designed to support a wide range of net-

work power applications, including telecommunications, unin-

terruptible power supply, alternative energy, outside plant, rail-

One critical objective of the R&D surrounding the Absolyte

GP was to create an industrial power product that supports envi-

ronmental sustainability. To address that objective, the Absolyte

GP is designed with a patented, proprietary alloy that reduces

the content of heavy metal in the finished product, making it

easier than ever to recycle spent batteries. In addition, the bat-

tery is manufactured with an increased ratio of recycled materi-

The improved design of the Absolyte GP offers a number of

additional environmental benefits, including a 75 percent lower

float current compared to previous generation products that will

result in reduced energy consumption and reduced heat genera-

tion. This would be a significant benefit for large users, both

costs required to maintain and cool battery rooms. In addition,

the Absolyte GP can provide more than 1,200 cycles at 80 per-

cent depth of discharge, and significantly more cycles for more

well suited to photovoltaic and other alternative energy applica-

telecom and data centers, who are looking to reduce energy

shallow discharges. These attributes make the Absolyte GP

way and utility/switchgear. The Absolyte GP will be a direct

ly-advanced design that delivers a 20 year design life with

voltaic, wind turbine and other renewable energy initiatives.

For Network Power Applications

replacement for the Absolyte IIP.

als compared to previous generations.

tions that require routine cycling.

The battery pack uses a single prismatic li-ion cell. The cell is a 103450 configuration, provides 2.0 amp-hours of capacity, and complies with the IEEE 1625 Standard for Rechargeable Batteries for Portable Computing. The battery pack gives healthcare providers a full shift of mobility while

AccuNurse opens a two-way dialogue between care staff and the resident information they need to provide the best care possible. With simple voice requests, staff can hear plan-of-care details and document activities as they are completed, using the most natural form of communication available: voice.

both healthcare workers and patients to increase quality of care and efficiency. The AccuNurse system is a perfect

example of enabling healthcare workers to offer faster and more personalized resident care," said Jeff VanZwol, marketing manager for Micro Power. "Using our expertise in the medical field, Micro Power provided Vocollect with a portable and reliable battery pack for this application."

Micro Power is a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) registered and ISO 9001:2000 certified supplier of custom battery systems for portable mission-critical equipment. The company serves the

portable medical equipment markets, Automatic Identification and Data Collection (AIDC) markets and commercial military markets. The company's battery systems power close to 70 percent of all portable Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the market today.

administering personalized resident care and reporting daily activities with simple voice cues through their headsets.

"The healthcare industry continues to improve mobility of

Battery Power Products & Technology





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New Batteries on the Market

The batteries are well suited for power-hungry RFID applications, such as active or real-time location systems (RTLS). In addition, their customizable, symmetric design allows for non-rectilinear shapes, such as might be used in transdermal drug delivery patches, wound care and such novelty items as greeting cards with miniature speakers. Typically, peak current delivery can be in the area of 6 mA and beyond, depending on individual application's circuit requirements.

Blue Spark HD batteries are available in a variety of shapes and sizes. The new cells feature 1.5 V battery chemistry and overall energy storage capacity similar to the Blue Spark ST series.

All Blue Spark carbon-zinc printed batteries offer a significantly thinner profile than standard button or coin batteries. Plus they are "green" and disposable, fully meeting the European Union's RoHS (Restrictions on Hazardous Substances) directive.

AP&T continued from the cover

This is achieved with an Argus power system CXCP controller and associated low voltage disconnects. In addition, they utilized remotely open or close battery disconnects on the battery strings. There is no augmentation to the battery systems, photovoltaic panels or wind power is not practical in the extreme operating environment.

In spite of the load management system, a seven day reserve time



requires significant Ah capacity, even for a relatively small load. Battery plant design was outsourced to Reeve Engineers of Anchorage, Alaska. VRLA (valve regulated lead acid) batteries

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IN-DEPTH PUBLICATIONS



were specified primarily due to past operational and logistics experience and practical considerations. It was possible to get a higher density of Ah/cu ft within limited space, spill resistant (important for helicopter sling loads) and simplified modular construction meant achieving UBC seismic zone 4 installation versus a wet cell design. A caveat to VRLA's are their susceptibility to thermal overload conditions. As a safety measure, temperature probes were installed on each battery string that controls rectifier output in the event of a thermal condition. Also, plate inspection is impossible due to the opaque plastic jars. Specific gravity measurements are not possible due to the sealed design.

As a general rule, battery strings within remote sites across Alaska do not get the amount of regularly scheduled maintenance they require, primarily due to economic factors (it can cost as much as \$3,000 to charter a flight to some areas) and many cases the lack of a controlled environment. State wide, AP&T operate more than 30 sites and have developed experience with various battery types and manufacturers. Out of this experience, the Deka Unigy II AVR series works best compared to other manufacturers they tried. Specifically, they selected the 3AVR95-33 series. The installation is straightforward. Some "burping" of the cells were necessary to eliminate case bulging. This was due to the rapid elevation change during transport (sea level to 3,000 feet). Initial tests were made, a freshening charge was applied, then put into service.



In the November of 2007 AP&T got their first opportunity for a practical test of the system. They lost all AC power generation to a faulty fuel system pump design. Of course, the weather was lousy. The site lasted 12 days on batter backup until the weather cleared and crews dispatched. Like so much of what they have to do, it was trial by fire.

For more information, please contact Tom Ervin, General Manager, Telecom Engineering, AP&T at tom.e@aptalaska.com.

Charging & Testing



RedHawk Energy Systems, LLC Introduces Advanced Portable Battery Discharge Testers

RedHawk Energy Systems, LLC and Microlynx Systems have teamed up to develop the RH1 and RH2 series portable battery capacity testers. The RH1 and RH2 series provide enhanced capabilities and features in a convenient and economical package. The RH1 and RH2 series testers are designed to test batteries that are in-service as well as batteries at the shop or laboratory. While testing in-service batteries the tester isolates the battery being tested from the charger and the load, measures its performance and then automatically reconnects the battery to the system.

The RH1 tester is suitable for many applications with its constant current discharge mode and user adjustable discharge rates and termination conditions. The RH2 tester is more capable with constant power and constant resistance test modes, 100 hours of internal memory and a Kelvin connection capability. Both models are powered by the battery being tested, auto-adjust to the battery voltage and can discharge at up to 500 W or 50 A. Both models are packaged in a compact, durable aluminum case designed to withstand the rigors of field use and with its integrated carry handle, transporting the tester is easy.

Xtreme Charge Introduces Dual-Station 12-Volt Maintenance Charger

To better service those needing to charge and maintain more than one battery at a time, PulseTech Products Corp. has introduced the Xtreme Charge X2, a ruggedly designed dualstation 12-volt maintenance charger.

Most households employ multiple 12-volt batteries used in automobiles, light trucks, motorcycles, boats, lawn and garden tractors and offroaders. In situations like these, use of a singlestation maintenance charger, although possible, requires more user intervention to support the ongoing needs of today's power hungry and seasonally used vehicle batteries.

In addition to providing dual station service to maintain and charge 12-volt batteries, Xtreme Charge X2 would equally apply to many dual battery 24-volt systems, which are composed of two 12-volt batteries connected in series. Potential uses would include generators, transit, tour and/or charter buses, private coaches, heavy trucks, off-highway/construction equipment, fork and scissor lifts and alternative energy applications.

The CUL approved Xtreme Charge X2 is designed to be a maintenance charger for any type of 12-volt lead-acid battery. Like its single station sibling the XC100, during the initial connection, Xtreme Charge X2 automatically determines the appropriate rate of charge based on the battery's specific size and condition. It tests the battery continually for as long as it is connected to the charger to determine the optimal bulk or float charge rate. The test step also incorporates a Bad Battery indication if it determines the battery is either faulty and cannot be re-charged or is below 7 volts.

As part of the five-stage charging process, Xtreme Charge X2 continually pulse charges to minimize the size of lead sulfate crystals allowing the battery to accept as much charge as possible. This patented process ensures that new batteries will stay in like-new condition while dramatically improving the performance and life expectancy of older batteries.

The Xtreme Charge X2 works with all types and sizes of 12-volt lead-acid batteries including standard flooded, AGM, gel and maintenance-free (from less than 10 Ah to over 150 Ah). The Xtreme Charge X2 features four built-in wall-mount tabs and includes two fuse-protected quick-disconnect battery clamps and lugs, important safety instructions and a quickstart guide.

Introducing a new product? Send the press release to Shannon Given, Director of Content, at shannong@infowebcom.com

ower

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Charging & Testing

ECOtality's eTec Launches New Minit-Charger SC Fast-Charger

Electric Transportation Engineering Corp. (eTec), a wholly owned subsidiary of ECOtality, Inc., a renewable energy company, has received UL approval for its new line of Minit-Charger SC battery fast-charge systems. Utilizing Minit-Charger's patented advanced algorithm technology, the SC Charger is a compact and cost-effective fast-charging system that serves a variety of material-handling-equipment applications.

The SC Charger is a high-frequency, single-connector charger designed for medium and heavy duty applications. Providing up to 250 amps of output, the SC Charger can fast-charge battery systems of 36 volts or lower four times faster than convention charger. The SC Charger features a light and compact design that allows for the system to be pole or wall mounted in order to save valuable floor space and allows better cable management. The SC Charger



also features advanced data collection capabilities, including the patented Minit-Trak fleet and system data management system, which provides the most comprehensive performance evaluation of a battery's state-of-health and state-of-charge and automatically adjusts its charging rates to increase and maximize battery life.

Coulomb Technologies Announces New Smart Charging Infrastructure for Plug-in Vehicles

Coulomb Technologies has introduced a smart charging infrastructure for plug-in vehicles. Coulomb has developed a complete solution targeting plug-in vehicles including extended range electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles and battery electric



vehicles. Coulomb's ChargePoint Network includes public charging stations, a consumer subscription plan and utility grid management technology for electric utility companies to smooth electrical demands on the grid.

Coulomb's ChargePoint Network integrates three unique components into a scalable, cost-effective solution. At the edge of the ChargePoint Network are Smartlet charging stations that are individually controlled through the wireless Smartlet Communications Network and the ChargePoint network operating system. Coulomb's core technology includes the elements required to build and enable a smart charging infrastructure for plug-in vehicles.

The Smartlet charging stations perform bi-directional energy metering and control, user authentication, and 802.15.4 wireless local area network technology, which enables a subscription model through communication with a data center.

The ChargePoint network operating system (NOS) manages the Smartlet charging stations through the Smartlet communications network. The ChargePoint network also provides Web portals for subscribers, hosts and utilities. Functions include user authentication, access control, energy flow control, location management, utility company policy administration, user portal, host property portal, utility portal and GPS system interface.

Fully Automatic Battery Chargers for Backup Generators, PLC Remote Signaling, Automated Gate Entry Systems and Telecommunications Backup Systems

The ACL series for 12, 24 and 36 volt lead acid battery systems is a line of

fully automatic battery chargers from Japlar Group, Inc., that can be left on batteries indefinitely and used with any type lead-acid batteries. They are available in stationary and portable designs. These models have output voltage temperature compensation, output current limiting, reverse polarity and short circuit protection and a low battery voltage start feature that requires 3 VDC. All units are built to UL1012 or UL1236 (approval pending) and the meter-equipped units meet the



requirements of the NFPA110 Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems 2005. The optional Alarm Control Module detects and activates Form C relay contacts (2 amps open and closed loop systems) for low battery voltage, high battery voltage, open-circuit between the charger and batteries, AC power loss and battery charger failure.

HES Series 301 Power System

Hoffman Engineered Systems (HES), a manufacturer of power control systems, has introduced a new product certified for use in the medical industry to manage power in mobile applications. The HES series 301 power system is designed to manage 12 volt sealed lead acid batteries most commonly found in mobile medical carts and workstations. It provides comprehensive battery management that allows optimum battery charge and optimum battery life while automatically detecting and avoiding safety issues such as overheating, out gassing and faulty batteries; very important criteria in medical environments. The user's burden is also reduced by using a simple display, either dedicated or through a GUI interface to the sys-

tem PC, to display key information including time remaining to charge/discharge, rather than traditional green/yellow/red indicators.

The 301 Power System is designed specifically for mobile applications requiring full charge/discharge cycles. The power scheme is significantly different than those used by UPS based systems that remain fully charged awaiting a power loss event. UPS based systems are designed for ensuring the survival of the equipment for a short period of time and to provide a graceful shut down. Fully mobile products require a different design as they must operate as long as possible and provide a graceful shut down when required. The charge time in a mobile product charging system is therefore optimized to provide a complete battery charge in the shortest available time without danger or reduction in life of the battery.

The Series 301 Power System is also designed to allow power to be used directly from the batteries regulated as DC rather than converting it to AC. This eliminates the efficiency loss due to the DC/AC conversion and therefore extends run times significantly. Since the system eliminates the use of AC power directly from the wall, as with UPS based systems, the power is inherently isolated and diminishes many safety concerns.

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Integrated Circuits & Semiconductors

TI Battery Charger Achieves Faster, Cooler Charging in Mobile **Phones and Portable Electronics**

Texas Instruments, Inc. (TI) has introduced a 3-MHz, switch-mode battery charge management integrated circuit (IC) for portable electronics that can be charged from



an adaptor or a USB port. The 2 mm by 2 mm switching charger, the bq24150, significantly improves charge time, reduces power dissipation and cuts board space in half compared to typical implementation with linear chargers.

TI's bq24150 device with integrated 1.25-A FETs is the industry's smallest I2C programmable buckcharger solution, providing maximum battery charging performance and design flexibility in USB-powered applications, such as smart phones,

portable media players or other consumer electronics. The 3-MHz charger requires the use of a 1-uH inductor and small ceramic capacitors, resulting in a solution size of 7.6 mm by 10.4 mm. The bq24150 also features a reverse boost USB On-the-Go (OTG) mode that generates a voltage supply to power accessories that are plugged into a mini-USB port, eliminating the need for another discrete device.

The bq24150 fully complies with USB charging standards. The device can achieve high peak efficiency of up to 92 percent, while supporting a USB battery charging current up to 900 mA. This speeds the charging rate without exceeding the 500-mA input current limit mandated by the USB standard. In addition, the bq24150 significantly reduces power dissipation, as compared to linear charging, making it well suited for high-performance, ultra-space constrained applications.

The device's USB-friendly boot-up sequence allows the charge IC to boot



autonomously, which helps replenish deeply discharged batteries. In addition, the bq24150 features input current sensing and offers multiple programmable charge parameters through an I2C communications interface.

The bq24150 charger is available in a 20-ball, 2 mm by 2 mm chip-scale package. Suggested resale pricing in 1,000-piece quantities is \$2.00.

Microchip Technology Debuts USB/AC Load-Sharing Li-Ion/Li-**Polymer Battery Charger**

Microchip Technology, Inc. has released the MCP73871 charge-management controller-a Li-Ion/Li-Polymer charger with an intelligent charge management fea-

ture that enables simultaneous AC-DC-adapter or USB-port charging and powering of devices. The single-chip charger features an integrated pass transistor, and numerous battery and termination-voltage options-making it well suited for complex, space-constrained portable applications.

By enabling electronic devices to be simultaneously powered and charged via either an AC-to-DC adapter or through a USB port, the MCP73871 charge-management controller simplifies the charging



and powering of today's portable electronic devices. With highly accurate voltage regulation of 0.5 percent, the new charger extends battery life by allowing the battery to be charged closer to its optimal limit.

Integrated Circuits & Semiconductors continued on page 8

A Proven Approach to Assembling **Batteries and Battery Packs**

STAPLA's Ultrasonic metal welders bond similar and dissimilar metals: components and parts typical of Lithium ion cells and packs as well as other types of batteries and capacitors.

- Single or multilayer Copper tabs to Copper or Nickel plated Copper terminals
- · Aluminum terminals and multilayer tabs to covers and cans
- Nickel tabs to Copper and Aluminum foils
- Nickel tabs to Nickel foam, or felt (spot or seam weld) · Copper tabs to Copper mesh
- Connections of wires and terminals, power management and monitoring units typical of battery pack assemblies

Advantages of using STAPLA Ultrasonics Welders: Quality monitoring built into every system allowing for

- easy process control Fast cycle times
- · Custom designed tooling with special plating for improved tool life and maximum surface contact for optimum electrical performance
- Systems easily integrated into dry room environment **Global Support**

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Copper tab







Battery Power Products & Technology

Integrated Circuits & Semiconductors

Additionally, with its integrated pass transistor, the charger eliminates the need for an external FET, and only a few small passive components are necessary. This results in smaller, less complex and less expensive designs. The MCP73871 charger is available in a 20-pin, 4 mm by 4 mm QFN package, for \$1.28 each in 10,000-unit quantities.

AnalogicTech's New Power Management IC Streamlines Mobile GPS, PMP Designs

Advanced Analogic Technologies, Inc. (AnalogicTech) has introduced the AAT2603, a new highly integrated power management IC targeted at mobile GPS devices, portable media players (PMPs) and other handheld mobile systems operating off a single lithium-ion battery. Offering maximum design flexibility, the new device integrates six power functions, including two step-down converters and four LDOs, each with its own independent



enable pin, in a small 4 by 4 mm TDFN package.

The AAT2603 operates off a 2.7 V to 5.5 V input range and offers high efficiency across the entire load range. Delivering with 200 mV of head room, the first step-down converter supports functions requiring high output current and low dropout voltage. The second step-down converter supplies 600 mA and adds a two-step dynamic output voltage capability to match the needs of common system processors. The converter dynamically shifts between the two output voltages by toggling the SELB2 pin.

Four LDOs supply power to a variety of system functions. Two LDOs deliver 200 mA and are designed to power noise sensitive circuits. The second pair of LDOs offers 400 mA output. Each of the four LDOs consumes 50 μ A of quiescent current.

The new IC also features multiple protection circuits including those for shortcircuit, over-current and over-temperature protection. The AAT2603 is qualified across the -40°C to 85°C temperature range. It is available in a Pb-free, 28-pin, 4 by 4 mm TQFN package. The device sells for \$1.64 in 1,000 quantities.

New Multi-Cell, Multi-Chemistry Battery Charger Controller in a Compact Package

Linear Technology Corp. has introduces the LTC4009, a fast-charge 4 A capable, high efficiency switchmode battery charger controller for multiple battery chemistries which minimizes power dissipation without compromising board



space. The LTC4009 supports li-ion/polymer, NiMH, NiCd and sealed lead acid battery chemistries in multi-cell configurations. AC adapter current limiting maximizes the charge rate for a given fixed input power level, allowing the end product to operate at the same time the battery is charging without complex load management algorithms. The IC operates from input volt-

ages up to 28 V and is intended for applications including portable computers, portable instruments and battery backup systems.

The LTC4009's synchronously rectified, buck switching topology drives all nchannel MOSFETs and enables efficiencies as high as 90 percent at 4 A. Final float voltage accuracy is specified at ± 0.5 percent and charge current is programmable with accuracy of ± 4 percent. The LTC4009's quasi-constant frequency PWM architecture guarantees no audible noise operation and minimizes filtering needs, while the high operating frequency of 550 kHz allows the use of small inductors and capacitors. Improved non-overlap control keeps efficiency high as external power FET turn on/off times may vary with temperature and supplier. The LTC4009 consumes <20 uA in shutdown, increasing battery run time in portable applications. For safety and autonomous charge control, the IC includes battery float voltage over-voltage protection, reverse charge current protection, charge current monitoring, soft start, AC adapter present indication and current limit indication.

The LTC4009 is housed in a 20-lead, low-profile (0.75 mm) 4 mm by 4 mm QFN package. It is guaranteed for operation from 0°C to 85°C ambient temperature. Pricing starts at \$2.95 each in 1,000-piece quantities.

Highly Integrated Power-Management IC for DDR Cache-Memory Battery Backup

Maxim Integrated Products has introduced the DS2731 integrated power-management IC (PMIC) for DDR cache-memory backup. This PMIC integrates a single-cell Li+ charger, power-steering system to control switchover between system power and battery power, and a 2 MHz synchronous buck regulator that regulates the DDR memory supply. This level of integration eliminates more than 15 separate components in existing solutions, thus saving both cost and space. The DS2731 is compatible with the PCI Express 12 V power rail in DDRII and DDRIII, and is therefore well suited for RAID server/system memory cards, as well as RAID on motherboard (ROMB) and modular RAID on motherboard (MROMB) systems.

Integrated charge FETs enable the DS2731 to fast charge a single Li+ battery cell at a rate up to 1.5 A from a 12 V supply using the constant-current, constant-voltage (CCCV) charge method. The charge rate, charge voltage and safety timer length are all user definable through external resistors, which increases implementation flexibility. Additionally, the DS2731 monitors charge status and reports results through three dedicated pins that can be used to drive LEDs.

An auxiliary supply voltage or battery provides the supply voltage for the cache-memory system. If the auxiliary supply falls below 2.93 V, an internal comparator switches the supply from system power to battery power. This switchover occurs through internal power FETs, and is implemented as a break-before-make sequence to prevent current from flowing between the battery and the auxiliary supply. The DS2731 automatically switches back to auxiliary supply when the supply rises above a 3.03 V threshold.

The DS2731's buck regulator provides up to 450 mA to the DDR cache memory to maintain operation. At light loads, the regulator operates in burst mode for maximum efficiency. To prolong battery life, all nonessential functions of the DS2731 are disabled while it supplies holdup current to the cache memory. Additionally, when the battery voltage drops below a user-programmable threshold, the IC goes into very-low-power standby mode.

The DS2731 is available in a lead-free, 28-pin TSSOP package with exposed pad. Prices start at \$4.23 (1,000-up, FOB USA).

Enpirion Power Supply Sets New Power Density Benchmark

Enpirion has released the availability of a 9 A DC-DC converter that sets a new standard for power density by delivering over 76 watts per square inch (over 11 watts

per square centimeter). The EN5395QI features Enpirion's proprietary integrated-inductor technology and ultra-high switching frequency, enabling the PwrSoC (power supply on a chip) to achieve high noise immunity with a very small footprint. The part also offers two options for setting the output voltage, providing the utmost flexibility for the user.

Enpirion's 9A synchronous buck PWM (pulse-width modulation) DC-DC converter integrates the inductor, MOS-FETS, and controller into a 10 by 12 by 1.85 mm package. The part requires as



few as five external MLCC capacitors for a complete power management solution, with a total footprint of 250 sq mm. The EN5395QI delivers up to 30 watts of continuous output power, and achieves up to 93 percent efficiency.

In addition to small footprint, low part count, and low noise, the EN5395QI simplifies design as a result of output voltage scaling. Output voltage is programmed using a 3-pin voltage-ID (VID) input, allowing designers to choose one of seven pre-programmed output voltages. This allows developers to conserve power by optimizing the part's output voltage to each specific load requirement. It also provides the flexibility to use the same device for multiple solutions that require different output voltages. Increasing load current capacity is also simple; two to four devices can be placed in parallel to provide a single load with up to 36 A of output current.

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Battery Components

Hydrogen Detector Hits the Market from Storage Battery Systems

Storage Battery Systems, Inc. has recently introduced the SBS Hydrogen Gas Detector (HDGI) designed to provide dissipation and warning before any concentration from lead-acid storage battery reaches the lower explosive limit (LEL) of 4 percent.

The hydrogen gas monitor is a prerequisite component for any flooded wet cell vented lead acid battery room. It is also required for any flooded nickel-cadmium system that also produces hydrogen. The HDGI offers visual and audible signals, as well as a dry contact closure when the concentration of hydrogen gas reaches a level of caution and another as it clears the pre-explosive hazard threshold level. The HDGI represents affordable insurance for the safety of a battery room that even the most modest due diligence would demand.



Advanced Design 9-Volt Insulated Battery Straps

High performance and pre-wired 9 volt insulated battery straps, designed to connect most 9 V batteries in series or in parallel, are available from Keystone Electronics Corp.

Keystone's Premium design is made of molded polyethylene or rigid fiber that incorporate quality insulators and sturdy phosphor bronze or spring steel, nickelplated, snap-on connectors. Available in "T" or "I" configurations, these straps provide greater dependability while featuring soldered-in #26AWG red and black wire leads. Shielded types, which reduce short circuit and contact tampering potential, are also offered.

A cost-saving alternative, the company's Economy group features a similar design and is available in "T" or "I" configurations. Fully insulated, these have brass, nickelplated contacts with a molded ABS or vinyl covered bases. Wire lengths are 4.00,



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6.00 or 8.00 inches. Lead lengths are in red and black.

The third style is a pre-wired "Dual" battery strap which connects 9 V batteries in parallel. These are manufactured with fiber bases and have steel, nickel-plated contacts. Featured are pre-tinned #22AWG red and black leads; and wire lengths of 7.00 inches length, soldered-in for enhanced reliability.

Enfora Releases Ultra Low Power Wireless Platform

Enfora, a supplier of intelligent wireless networking solutions, has introduced the Enabler Low Power Platform (LPP). This new platform provides developers with a wireless solution that can extend battery life from 30 days to as much as 18 months. With the ability to support and manage extended battery life, the Enabler LPP platform is purpose built, supporting applications that track mobile enterprise assets, vehicle fleets and a host of other equipment in a variety of vertical markets.

"This new platform is a great fit for anyone who needs to track and manage remote mobile assets, but is concerned with the very limited battery life of current devices," said Brian Murphy, vice president, worldwide sales, Enfora. "This new platform represents a major leap in battery performance, potentially extending the battery life of asset tracking devices by several orders of magnitude."

The Enabler LPP is a network edge wireless IP platform that combines global wide-area GSM/GPRS wireless and GPS location capabilities in an embeddable form factor that boasts a <10 μ A system idle. The development tools and embedded software environment for the Enabler LPP bring together the key hardware and software elements required to enhance the rapid development of business critical applications. Utilizing a programmable rules engine, network router, along with unique control and automation capabilities, the Enabler LPP simplifies the deployment, operation and remote management of devices. The LPP developer tools provide a unique interface to actively manage all aspects of power consumption on the device ensuring extended battery life.



Power Supplies



Emerson Network Power Launches a High Efficiency AC-DC Power Supply

Emerson Network Power has launched a high efficiency 100 to 150 watt AC-DC supply that features both ITE and non-patient contact and non-patient critical medical safety approvals. The new LPS103-M power supply is a compact open-frame design. Measuring 2 by 4 inches, with a height of 1.29 inches, it has a typical full load efficiency of 88 percent and a power density in excess of 14 watts per cubic inch. The supply is primarily intended for use in information technology equipment and light industrial systems, as well as for equipment intended for nonpatient contact and non-patient critical use in low power medical, dental and laboratory applications.

The LPS103-M features a universal 85 to 264 VAC input, enabling it to be used anywhere in the world, and is also capable of operating from a 120 to 300 VDC input. The power supply produces a tightly regulated main 12 VDC output, together with an isolated 12 VDC fan output; the latter is rated at 1 A, while the main output can deliver up to 8.3 A continuously with convection cooling, or up to 12.5 A continuously with 30 CFM forced air cooling. The main output can be adjusted over the range 10.8 to 13.2 VDC, and remote sense facilities are provided to compensate for a drop of up to 0.5 V between the output terminals and the load.

Active power factor correction is employed to minimize input harmonic current distortion and ensure compliance with the international EN61000-3-2 standard, the LPS103-M has a power factor of 0.99 typical. The power supply has a maximum safety-ground leakage current of 275 μ A, and the main output has a hold-up time of 16 ms minimum when the supply is fed with a 120 VAC input and is delivering 150 watts of output power.

LPS103-M power supplies are comprehensively protected against overvoltage, overtemperature and short-circuit conditions, and feature a power fail signal for remote monitoring purposes that will change state at least 6 ms before the main output loses regulation. The power supplies have a full load ambient operating temperature range of 0°C to 50°C without de-rating and can cold-start from temperatures as low as -20°C. Between 50°C and 70°C, the output should be derated by 2.5 percent per degree.

SL Power Electronics 12-Watt External Power Supply Meets Highest Energy Star and EISA Standards

SL Power Electronics has released a new 12 watt external power supply family that meets both the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Level IV criteria and the new Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) requirements. The new PW149RB series is compact, measuring 3.35 inches by 1.81 inches by 1.30 inches. It is available in desktop styles with a single output of 10 to 12 watts in eight different voltage models.

The series features a 100 to 240 VAC universal input and an impact resistant polycarbonate enclosure. It is also available in wall mount configurations for North America, Japan, the United Kingdom and Europe.

Available in eight voltage models ranging from 5 to 48 volts, all PW149RB models can be modified to meet unique power or connectivity requirements. SL Power Electronics also can design a completely custom solution to meet specific OEM requirements and private-label marking needs. The new standard series is priced at approximately \$7.50 in OEM quantities.

UPS for Industrial Applications

The Quint DC UPS from Phoenix Contact ensures uninterruptible 24 VDC power to mission critical

devices, even in the event of a power outage. The device has long-life lead acid batteries that provide long buffer times at high currents.

The UPS is designed to be powered by a Quint 24 VDC power supply. With its narrow, modular form factor, the Quint DC UPS is easy to mount in the control cabinet. It features remote battery diagnostics, remote status contacts and timed shutdown.



UPS Systems in Action

Plainfield Community School District Trusts Tripp Lite to Connect and Protect its Expanding Network

The Plainfield Community School District 202 (PCSD) is a 64 square-mile Illinois public school district serving the communities of Plainfield and parts of Joliet, Naperville, Romeoville, Bolingbrook, Shorewood, Will and Kendall counties, located approximately 35 miles southwest of Chicago. Russell Moore, PCSD's Network Manager, oversees a network infrastructure that supports 30 buildings with more than 29,000 students and 3,100 staff members. Moore recently upgraded the local networks of three schools and chose Tripp Lite products to protect and support the critical equipment and data that administrators, faculty and students rely on to keep PCSD running efficiently.

"We serve one of the fastest growing communities in the nation," said Moore. "It's imperative that our network is consistently functional and productive. We sim-

ply can't afford downtime, equipment damage or data loss." PCSD is experiencing a huge growth spurt, taking the school district (with a combined total of more than 30,000 students and staff-equivalent to a major university campus) to an estimated 60,000 students and faculty in 55 buildings by 2020. Growth is what defines the school district, and Moore is responsible for ensuring the network equipmentsuch as phones systems, servers, alarm systems, patch pan-

els, routers, PCs and wireless connections-can support it. If the network were to go down, PCSD would face consequences that would severely hinder the educational productivity of the school district.

Moore chose Tripp Lite to play an integral role in the improved network power protection and connectivity plan.

"We rely on Tripp Lite's SmartOnline SU1500RTXL2Ua UPS systems to protect

the network equipment, and Tripp Lite Surge Suppressors to protect and distribute power from the UPS to individual devices," said Moore about the new setup. "Plus, Tripp Lite Category 6 cabling is used for all the network patch connections in the MDFs and IDFs."

The SU1500RTXL2Ua is a 1,500 VA on-line UPS system designed to safeguard critical servers and network equipment from all power problems, including prolonged blackouts, through a double-conversion process. It converts dirty incoming AC power to DC, and then reconverts output back into full-time sine wave output. That cleaner output helps protect and extend the life of PCSD's network equipment. It also protects equipment from line noise and regulates overvoltages up to 138 V and brownouts to 65 V without using battery backup, so equipment gets continuous, converted power in all conditions. In addition, the UPS removes harmonic distortion, fast electrical impulses and frequency variations, a feature usually found on a more expensive system.

Each UPS system was fitted with an SNMP/Web card so Moore and his staff can manage and control power remotely. Tripp Lite's PowerAlert software allows Moore and his team control of multiple UPS systems from a centralized location. Each UPS

is also expandable with an optional battery pack, so the systems can grow along with the network-and the district.

Tripp Lite's Category 6 cabling provides PCSD with faster data transmission speeds and supports a wide variety of applications. Tripp Lite Power Strips, including the RS-1215-RA 1U rackmount model, provide reliable AC power distribution in a variety of styles with versatile mounting options. Plus, Tripp Lite surge suppressors defend against damage from power surges, spikes and line noise.

"We liked that Tripp Lite surge suppressors come in many different sizes and configurations," said Moore. "This gave us the flexibility to adapt to different power protection requirements throughout our network infrastructure."

Overall, the constant availability, flexibility and scalability of PCSD's network means faculty and administration can productively focus on increasing the quality of education for PCSD students.



Transformer-Free UPS Design: Small Footprint, Big Power

Ed Spears, Product Marketing Manager George Oughton, Engineering Specialist Eaton

First appearing at lower power levels, transformer-free uninterruptible power system (UPS) designs have been around for about two decades. A vast majority of designs below 30 kVA are now transformer-free, meaning that the UPS does not contain power line frequency magnetics (transformers or inductors). This transformer-free design trend is moving up in power levels because power line magnetics are both material and labor intensive, though the high frequency power processing needed is technology intensive. Fortunately, advances in technology have matured sufficiently to support improved value to the customer without sacrificing needed reliability.

At higher power levels reaching above 30 kVA and now as high as 1,100 kVA, the challenge is to switch high currents rapidly at high voltages without high losses or excessive peak voltages. Over the last decade, high power insulated gate bipolar transistors (IGBT) have matured enough to allow conversion frequencies of 10 kHz and above without large sacrifices in efficiency at these higher power levels. In addition, some creative control strategies permit further reduction of switching losses to the point where the new transformer-free technology UPS is competitive with the old technology UPS, even when measured in terms of system efficiency.

Considering the basic topology of the legacy and new transformer-free technology UPS powertrain, a phase-controlled rectifier, while efficient and cost effective, produces large harmonic input currents and reduced input power factor that is unacceptable at many sites and incompatible with some generators. Large input inductors and harmonic filters are needed to bring the harmonics down to 5 to 10 percent total harmonic distortion (THD) and power factor (PF) up to >0.99 PF. These components add cost and weight and increase footprint. In addition, they do not hold THD down and PF up over a wide load range. They are typically effective only above 60 percent of full load. At light loads below approximately 40 percent, the input PF can actually become leading and will cause incompatibility with generators. The PF also varies with line voltage but is only specified at nominal line.

The transformer-free design with an IGBT rectifier inherently holds PF up and THD down from 10 to 100 percent load. It is highly compatible with generators and avoids the additional generator over-sizing commonly required with a phase-controlled rectifier. These superior input characteristics are maintained over the input voltage operating range.

There are also battery management advantages of a transformer-free UPS. Note that a half bridge converter can control battery voltage independent of bus voltage and also allows a range of battery voltages (e.g. 192 through 240 cells) to be accommodated. This converter also enables the battery to rest in an open circuit state to avoid continuous ripple current and the accelerated aging (especially at elevated temperatures) resulting from floating at a voltage significantly higher than open circuit volt-



Figure 1. Illustrations of New Versus Old UPS Technology

age. With these additional capabilities, charging techniques can be more effective in extending battery service life.

An example of what is eliminated by using a transformer-free design is shown in Figure 1. The output transformer, input line inductors, DC bus choke, output filter inductors and input harmonic filter inductors are included. Not only is it very heavy, but it is also a significant contributor to the size of the overall unit. The size and obvious weight difference in legacy components versus new transformer-free technology is visually apparent when the units are compared side by side.

It is important to compare the components of a traditional legacy UPS to a transformer-free UPS to understand the technology. It is also important to understand the cost-saving benefits of a transformerless UPS design, which will ultimately impact an organization's bottom line.

Space: Floor space in data centers costs on average \$600 to \$900 per square foot annually; in places like Manhattan, it can cost \$1,500 per square foot. One of the top requests from IT and facility managers is to minimize the footprint of power protection products so they can utilize floor space for servers. Though it is not feasible to minimize the size of batteries, removing transformers from a medium to large size UPS can save as much as 60 percent of space. This also reduces the weight of the UPS by up to 50 percent, which can save thousands upfront on shipping costs.

Installation: A transformer-free UPS is smaller and lighter compared to a legacy UPS which can actually simplify the installation process. Companies often overlook the installation process when considering purchasing a UPS, but it is important to consider how the UPS will physically be brought into the building. For example, an elevator may be weight rated for 2,500 lbs. but the UPS module could weigh 3,000 to 5,000 lbs. This oversight could result in unexpected construction costs to widen doorways or even to rent a crane to lift a UPS through a window, simply because the weight of the UPS exceeds the weight limit of the elevator.

Efficiency: A transformerless UPS is energy efficient which ultimately saves on power costs. Although a legacy UPS can claim high efficiency at full load, a vast majority of UPSs are running at a 40 to 50 percent dayto-day operating level. Companies operating at partial-load versus 100 percent capacity can lose 2 to 3 percent efficiency points, a high dollar amount in terms of power costs. But for a transformer-free UPS running at 50 percent load, efficiency is almost the same as it would be at 100 percent capacity. For a large, transformerless 500 kVA UPS, a company can save about \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year, and at the smaller level, 100 kVA, it can save approximately \$1,000 per year. These figures result in real savings considering the average UPS service life is 15 years.

Eaton continued on page 17



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Battery Monitor Users be Aware

Jeff Albér, Vice President of Marketing Glenn Albér, Consultant Albér

We are all aware that batteries are the weakest link in the power system and that battery monitoring has become an integral part of every critical system specification. We are not all aware, however, of the fact that owning a monitor by itself is not going to keep a system from crashing. This article will deal with some of the realities of properly maintaining a reliable battery backup system.

System Reliability

In today's digital world, millions of dollars are at stake when a computer hiccups. Users spend a great deal of money on the equipment required to ensure reliability (UPS, chargers, inverters, etc.). However, for some reason, when it comes to the batteries that support the UPS, they tend to look for the cheapest solution. With millions of dollars on the line, it is imperative to invest in the proper technology and preventative maintenance program to avoid battery failures entirely.

Guaranteeing is a strong word, but with the proper equipment and procedures, it is possible to approach 100 percent uptime. A critical system user must be aware of what the right monitoring equipment is and also understand what a monitor can and cannot do. For example, a monitor cannot perform corrective action such as replacing a failing cell or adjusting the room temperature. The system owner must be a willing participant for the process to be successful. This means either training in-house personnel or hiring a competent service company.

Too many monitor owners have a false sense of security, believing that just because the monitor is there, they are fully protected. Reliability comes from preventing problems and therefore requires early problem detection. Early warning of incipient problems comes from trending the state of health of the battery and recognizing when something abnormal is happening. Someone has to pay attention to the monitor and respond to the early warning alarms.

Being proactive means that some action must take place. The corrective action phase of the program is very important and it must be done in a timely manner by someone who understands the impact of the action on the overall string.

Monitoring Equipment

As with any purchase, the caveat "let the buyer beware" holds true. The buyer must be knowledgeable enough to determine his actual needs and not allow a monitor salesman to dictate what is required in the particular situation.

Some monitor specifications that appear in today's bid documents were most likely written by one of the battery monitor manufacturers and therefore reflect only the salient features of that manufacturer's product. Also, some of these specifications have

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clauses that are outdated and require updating based on technological advancements and consideration of the features available on the market today.

The IEEE has been working for quite a few years on a monitor guide for selecting and using monitors in the field. It is not a standard, but more of a tutorial type document that does not explicitly tell a user how and what to do.

This article will not discuss the details of why flooded and VRLA batteries fail (please see reference 1 for a detailed discussion or contact the authors directly), but will instead address the main failure modes and why a monitor must have certain capabilities.

Major Failure Modes Flooded Batteries

1. *Positive grid corrosion* - This leads to a reduced conduction path and grid growth. The grid growth causes the active material paste to break away from the grid causing high resistance connection. This is the most common failure mode, and will definitely show up as an increase in internal resistance.

Major Failure Modes VRLA:

1. Grid corrosion, same as flooded batteries.

- 2. *Dry out of the electrolyte* This will lead to an increase in internal resistance, but not until 30 percent of capacity has been lost. This is the most common failure.
- 3. *Undercharged negative plates* This new phenomenon, not seen in flooded batteries, will cause an increase in resistance and loss of capacity.

Buying a monitor is like buying most high tech electronic devices, there are different features and prices available. So what is the trade-off and how do you know what you need? Besides the normal voltage, current and temperature readings, there is a list of absolutely must have features. The following recommendations do not come from a salesman's perspective; but rather from the first-hand experience.

- 1. *The ability to read internal resistance of a cell/module* Every battery failure is preceded by an increase in the internal resistance. As a battery deteriorates, the effects can be seen by measuring the internal resistance.
- 2. *Ability to measure inter-cell and inter-tier resistance* This is very important for high current applications where even a 1 milli-ohm connection can start a fire. Most catastrophic failures such as fires and explosions are the result of poor quality or corroded external battery connection.
- 3. *The ability to auto detect battery discharges* When a battery goes under load, it is necessary to see how every single cell/module in the system responds. Since most UPS hits are typically only 20 second or less in duration, it is necessary for the monitor to be capable of scanning all parameters several times within that interval. This is also a key feature for battery warranty purposes.
- 4. *The ability to display real time battery data during a discharge* During a scheduled discharge test such as a commissioning test, it is necessary to see the

performance of each cell/module. There have been many incidents of poor or faulty intercell connections that lead to a catastrophic failure such as fire and/or explosions under load. Some monitors only record data during the discharge and then display after the fact. Who needs to see a failure after the fact? The idea is to see the poor connections and prevent the failure from occurring.

Without the above four capabilities, a battery monitor will not adequately protect against system failures.

Unfortunately, in today's world the decisions for system reliability end up in the hands of the financial departments. As a result, the number one selection criterion is driven by the price of the system. It is time for the technical people to step up and realize that price should only be a consideration if the system meets the needs of the requirement. Think about what is required and then write a spec that must be met before any proposal is accepted. After all, when your facility experiences downtime, it will not be the finance department that takes the heat.

Below is a list of items potential battery monitor users must be aware of:

1. Flooded batteries are much more reliable than VRLA.

2. VRLA batteries fail abruptly and therefore require more intensive monitoring. Cost and

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Welcome to the first stand-alone issue of the Battery Power Products & Technology Resource Guide. Within these pages you will find listings of manufacturers and suppliers in the battery industry and the products and markets they serve. Batteries are categorized by chemistry and type for easy reference. The guide also covers battery supplies, from cables and enclosures to integrated circuits and watering systems.

Additionally, Frost & Sullivan has contributed a feature article on Green initiatives, which starts on page 4. There is also a preview of Battery Power 2008 on pages 24-25.

We hope you will find the 2008 Resource Guide and useful reference tool. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Shannon Given, Director of Content shannong@infowebcom.com

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An Era of Green Initiatives

Vishal Sapru, Industry Manger

Frost & Sullivan's Power Systems Group

Extreme weather patterns are observed throughout the world. From rising temperatures to a combination of melting glaciers and extremely harsh winters, global warming and climate change are hot topics. These factors significantly affect the existing ecosystem and call for environmental friendly power generation technologies like renewable energy to reduce impact of harmful greenhouse gas emissions, largely from fossil fuel power plants that cause global warming.

Changing Face of Energy

- · Greater awareness of fossil fuel effects on the environment
- · Rising gas prices
- Rising residential electricity prices per kilowatt hour; prices have doubled since 2005
- Concerns about increasing frequency of brownouts and blackouts
- Move toward renewable/alternative energy sources in demand such as solar power and wind energy
- Grid-tied connectivity expects to be major segment of renewable energy-based systems, especially in developed regions of the world
- Off-grid segment to cater to distributed power generation requirements in isolated and rural regions

Major regions of the world can significantly contribute toward increased installed capacity of various renewable energy systems by effectively utilizing the abundant resource potential in biomass, small hydropower, geothermal power and solar energy. There is an ongoing effort to promote the renewable energy industry through government incentives, non-govern-



mental organizations (NGOs) initiatives and extensive public support. This is likely to increase the role of renewable energy in power generation in the coming years. Chart 1 represents the key drivers and restraints in the renewable market.

Market Trends

Some key market initiatives taken by governments and companies include the following:

- US production tax credit for wind power
- State renewable portfolio standards
- Numerous European indicatives in green energy, especially Germany
- China approved funding of 17 clean energy projects based on self-developed technology
- Brazil energy independent, major potential source for ethanol
- GE: Ecomagination
- Honda: Environmentology
- BP: Beyond Petroleum
- Dow: The Human Element
- Toyota: Sold over one million hybrids
- Shell: Involved in wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and biofuels
- Rolls Royce: \$1 million dedicated to renewable energy

Energy Storage Markets

Overview

When one thinks of energy storage, the first technology that comes to mind is batteries. There are a number of battery chemistries that have evolved, from the age-old lead acid to nickel-based chemistries and most recently, lithium chemistries. However, these chemistries are best fit for certain specific applications among the plethora of existing applications. Lithium batteries have captured the electronics markets to a large extent. Their superior performance and technology specifications imply great value and potential for the automotive sector. Lithium-based technology and its suitability for automotives is under investigation. This comes at a time when there is an emphasis on technology innovation to identify good energy storage mechanisms for a world that is fixated on reduction in gas consumption, especially for big economies such as North America and Europe. On the other hand, the current market scenario suggests that NiMH batteries are predominantly used for hybrid electric vehicles. A combination of battery chemistries is likely to be of greater use in the market and reduce gas consumption.

Frost continued on page 6

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NiMH and Lithium-Ion Chemistries

The markets for Lithium-ion and Lithium-ion polymer batteries were \$6.40 billion in 2007. Similarly, markets for NiMH batteries were \$1.16 billion in 2007. A prime driver for these markets in the future could be the automotive segments due to their ability to have a truly "green" effect to reduce dependence on the depleting oil resources in the world. Additionally, they will enable nations that are highly dependent on outside sources for oil to strengthen their weakening economies with the help of in-house technology to efficiently store energy.

Clean Alternatives - The Flywheel and the Ultracapacitor

Another area gaining attention is clean energy storage solutions such as flywheels and ultracapacitors. These technologies are commercial and seen on many levels in various applications. A significant drawback for both technologies is the inability to provide power for longer durations. They provide power from 10 seconds to a minute although they charge easily. These technologies are considered suitable in tandem with existing battery technology to either extend the life of the battery, or to add more power for finer features. These markets have yet to achieve high adoption rates. Additionally, the increased cost involved in purchasing these systems is high. Hence, these technologies are set to make an impact on the markets once their price points are on par with battery technology.

Renewable Energy-Based Inverter Market

With a move toward renewable and alternative energybased solutions, there is a need to convert raw electrical energy into usable power. This is where products like renewable power inverter come into play; for converting direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) that can be used for different applications.

The demand for the renewable power inverter is likely to increase during the forecast period as the need for "green" increases. Sales of power supplies for renewable energy systems are dependent on the expansion of new renewable energy

system installations. Increasing energy costs and a depleting reserve of conventional fossil fuel sources have made these systems essential; past demand was driven by environmental issues. Recently, economic challenges caused by skyrocketing fuel prices have sparked renewed interest in renewable energy systems. Power supplies used in these systems are typically inverters. Core elements of the system harness the natural renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and fuel cells to provide electrical energy, while the inverters convert the electrical energy produced to a usable form. Chart 2 shows the revenue forecast of the non-renewable and renewable power inverter market.

Market Characteristics

Salient Features

• Inverters are a component of the balance of system (BoS) in the renewable energy setup. Though they perform a critical function in these systems, their consumption is completely driven by the expansion of the installation base of renewable energy systems.

• Inverter vendors in the market are powerless in terms of the influence they create in the market. Any amount of technology development or price reduction does not translate into increased demand, but it does help in building a competitive advantage.

• Incentives and government policies indirectly control the demand for inverter products used in the renewable energy systems. Incentives for installation of renewable energy systems indirectly drive the demand for inverters.

• Most inverters are manufactured by vendors that specialize in power electronics, because strong technical knowledge is essential to produce, sell and service these products. Most of the designs in the market are proprietary and difficult to replicate.

• Solar inverters, especially with grid-tied capabilities, require a strong technical knowledge for vendors to develop an effective power conversion solution. Apart from the core conversion function, vendors offer a wide range of control and monitoring equipment that make the system more efficient and user friendly.

• Inverters are used primarily in small-scale wind systems, which have limited installations in the market due to lack of proper promotion or support through federal policies.

• Most of the small-scale wind energy systems are stand-alone and are located in isolated areas. There are few grid-tied systems in this end-user segment. In most of the cases, the inverter is used in a battery-backed wind energy system wherein they convert the battery DC power into AC power. In many other cases, inverters used in hybrid systems are a combination of one or more alternative systems such as wind turbines, microturbines, diesel generators and solar energy systems.

• Unlike the solar energy systems, wind energy systems require very specific surrounding conditions for proper efficiency and effective wind energy harnessing. Therefore, small wind energy systems are installed in rural and isolated regions.

• Small-scale units have a much higher installation and maintenance cost per unit of power than the utility scale wind energy

Frost continued on page 8

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Battery Holders, Clips & Contacts systems. Inverters tend to be a major component of the total small wind energy system.

• Inverters in the fuel cell energy market are currently sold in very low volumes, primarily in the stationary fuel cells segment. The primary reason for this is the elusiveness of a proper fuel cell design that can be developed at a low cost and create the required commercialization of the fuel cells in the market.

• Very few vendors manufacture inverters for fuel cells as they do not generate enough demand and are less profitable, but this is expected to change when fuel cell technology becomes fully commercialized.

• Inverters used in fuel cell systems are being designed to properly handle the variations in output from fuel cells. As a result of the improved designs, the inverters cost is slightly higher in comparison to the general application inverters. This leads to a high inverter cost contribution to the total fuel cell system.

• Inverters in this market typically cater to the fuel cell market with two different power ranges, primarily the small (below 5 kW units), and mostly in the above 50 kW segment. Stationary fuel cell units typically exist as small (below 10 kW) and large (above 10 kW, averaging close to 200 kW) power units. The high-power segment has been the largest contributor to the renewable energy power systems market in term of megawatts installed. The high power units (up to 300 kW), have very low volume demand and vendors cater to it with relatively customized products.

• Small fuel cells are becoming popular in the form of CHP (combined heat and power plants) units that involve the generation of both power and heat in the same unit.

• In comparison to the other two renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, the inverters used for the fuel cells tend to have higher cost.

Chart 3 illustrates the percentage of revenue by renewable power inverter type.

Market Analysis of Each Renewable

Power Inverter Type

Solar Energy Power Inverters

- The market is growing at a CAGR of 30 to 35 percent.
- The inverter markets are dependent on the developments in the solar photovoltaic markets.
- Demand driven by incentive programs offered by local governments.
- Vendors are offering a wide range of control and monitoring equipment that make the system more efficient and user friendly.
- Most of the inverters are manufactured by vendors who specialize in power electronics.
- Most of the designs in the market are proprietary and are normally hard to replicate.

Fuel Cells Energy Power Inverters

- The market is growing at a CAGR of 20 to 25 percent.
- Inverters in this market are currently sold in very low volumes.
- Very few vendors manufacture inverters for fuel cells.
- In comparison to wind and solar, inverters used for fuel cells tend to have higher cost.
- As the fuel cell market heads towards commercialization, larger demand is expected, leading to a proportionate increase in the consumption of inverters.

Wind Energy Power Inverters

- The market is growing at a CAGR of 25 to 30 percent.
- The focus of the figure is on the non-utility scale or small scale (below 100 kW) wind energy systems.
- Most of these systems are stand-alone and located / installed in rural and isolated regions.
- Requires surrounding conditions for proper efficiency and effective wind energy harnessing.
- Higher installation and maintenance cost per unit of power than the utility scale wind energy systems.

Conclusion

It is clear that renewable energy has gained special importance in the minds of policy makers as well as the corporate world. High growth, government initiatives and technology development have proved to be significant pointers to growth of renewable energy markets. Solar energy, wind energy and fuel cells are technologies that have a promising future among other contributors. With these explicitly defined initiatives and the right amount of enthusiasm to move ahead, this era of green initiatives is set to transform the direction of energy for the upcoming century.

For more information regarding this article, please contact Johanna Haynes at johanna.haynes@frost.com.

Chart 3

SCADA, Device Networking, M2M, Wireless Technology, Onsite Power, And Security for Remote Sites and Equipment

Onsite Power Sessions Highlight Remote 2008!

No other industry conference brings together technology users that manage remote sites like the Remote 2008 Conference and Expo. Over 50 conference sessions will provide cutting-edge technology direction and application strategies from the companies and users driving the growth in SCADA, M2M, device networking, data communications, system & site security, emerging wireless technology, remote monitoring and automated control, and onsite powering of distributed equipment, networks and facilities.

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14 | Battery Chemistries/Types

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Quallion was founded by biotechnology entrepreneur and philanthropist Alfred E. Mann and Dr. Hisashi Tsukamoto.

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*U.S. Patent 7,279,867 Method for Balancing Cells or Groups of Cells in a Battery Pack



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FEATURES

(Optional)

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Power Supplies



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14-18 - Intelec 2008, San Diego, Calif.

23-26 - 11th European Lead Battery Conference, Warsaw, Poland

October

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Battery Monitoring | 13

floor space savings are at the expense of reliability. Decisions must be made based on the reliability requirements.

- 3. Early problem detection is the key to reliability. Pro-active testing and state of health monitoring is a must when failure is not an option.
- 4. Capacity testing is the most reliable way to determine a battery's state of health; and a monitor must be capable of supporting or conducting this test.
- 5. New batteries are delivered without being fully formed. Therefore an acceptance test may show 90 to 100 percent capacity. This is not a problem.
- 6. Do not accept a new battery installation until all cells/modules float within the manufacturers specified limits. A lot of battery problems appear early on and can be prevented. If cells do not float uniformly, then the low cells will sulfate and have low capacity problems. The high floating cells will gas excessively, venting out electrolyte and running the risk of going into thermal runaway.
- 7. When replacing faulty cells/modules, make sure the replacement cell/module is fully charged and is the same exact model. Some users/service companies replace cells/modules without paying attention to how the replacement module floats with respect to the rest of the battery. Typically a

fully charged new battery will float at a much higher voltage than the rest of the string and therefore runs the risk of going into thermal runaway.

- 8. Some monitors offer voltage management, which controls the individual cells/module voltage. This is not a good idea. If a cell is having internal problems that cause the voltage to deviate from the norm, then that problem will be masked by forcing the cell voltage to be in line with all the rest. This control will mask what is really going on beneath the cover of that cell.
- 9. The benefits of monitoring outweigh the
 - sometimes short-sighted financial decisions: a. The price of a monitor is insignificant in comparison with the cost of a failure. This does not even consider the cost of customer goodwill.
 - b. With monitoring, maintenance people can now focus on problem resolution instead of being data collectors
 - c. Warranty data is collected 24/7
 - d. Avoid abrupt power failure that could damage equipment
 - e. Keep maintenance people safe by reducing their exposure to dangerous high voltages
 - f. Avoid potential hazardous situations like battery room fires; by proactively replacing bad cells/modules and identifying bad/loose inter cell connections.
- 10. All monitors are not created equally. Do your homework and specify the required features to ensure a safe and reliable system.

Monitoring the Monitor

Now we know what the monitor can and should do, but all that pertinent information is wasted unless someone is monitoring the data and managing the system. It doesn't matter whose monitor is used or how good it is, if the system owner does not close the loop, system failure is sure to follow.

In a tough competitive world, it is hard to justify additional specialized personnel on the payrolls. Each company has its own ideas and philosophy on how to deal with this issue. However, a system failure resulting in millions of dollars worth of damage cannot be tolerated, so a choice between in-house trained personnel versus outsourcing must be made.

There are several service companies around the country that offer Battery Monitoring Services. There are also companies that will analyze data from the monitor sent to them, and then advise the battery owner what corrective action is required. There are also large companies working on a business plan to offer customers reliable power. These plans are based on the provider supplying the UPS, the batteries and the service required. Service may or may not include battery monitoring with remote access.

Summary

Be aware that monitor selection and user follow-on support are key to maintaining a failure-free battery system. The only way to approach the 100 percent guarantee that was mentioned earlier is to install a full-function monitor and to be diligent with taking the appropriate actions based on the information gathered from the monitor.

There is no substitute for doing it right. Why waste your company's money on a monitor that does not substantially improve the system reliability and that provides no financial paybacks?

References

1: Guaranteeing Battery System Performance. Sept 1995, Power Quality Conference, Glenn Alber & Marco Migliaro

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Onsite Power Sessions Highlight Remote 2008!

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Preventative Maintenance is the Best Defense To Downtime

Henry Hu, Service Product Manager

Liebert Services

As organizations become increasingly dependent on data center systems, there is a need for great reliability in the critical power system. For many organizations, the IT infrastructure has evolved into an interdependent business-critical network that includes data, applications, storage, servers and networking. A power failure at any point along the network can impact the entire operation and have serious consequences for the business.

To keep running through power outages, utility spikes and other unforeseeable



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power issues, critical systems are dependent on the reliability of the UPS system.

While the UPS systems are designed to offer the utmost reliability and performance at an affordable price, they are not failure prone. Factors, such as application, installation, design, real world operating conditions and maintenance practices can impact the reliability and performance of the UPS systems. Remember, the reliability of a system only lasts a long as the shortest component life in the unit. However, some manufacturers, including Liebert, are addressing this issue by reducing the number of parts that need to be replaced, thus decreasing the chance of a failure.

However, the reality is failures still occur, therefore being proactive with its maintenance can greatly reduce your chances for downtime.

Preventative Maintenance is the Key

One way end users can minimize unit-related failures is to institute a comprehensive Preventative Maintenance (PM) program that is implemented by original equipment manufactured (OEM) trained and certified technicians. When equipment is not maintained especially in adverse conditions, such as dirty environments and/or high temperatures, it can result in system deterioration up to and including load loss.

PM programs maximize the reliability and performance of the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems on which organizations depend on critical systems running. When correctly implemented, PM visits ensure maximum reliability of data center equipment by providing systematic inspections, detection and correction if incipient failures, either before they occur or before they develop into major defects that could translate into costly downtime. Typical PM programs include inspections, tests, measurements, adjustments, parts replacement and housekeeping practices.

Frequency of PM Depends on the UPS

The frequency of PM visits depends on the type of UPS being utilized in the organization. Small UPS devices, like the GXT product line, should be inspected annually. For medium and large systems, it's recommended that inspection take place at least twice a year to ensure proper function and confirm that the unit is operating within the manufacturer's specifications.



Figure 1. An increase in the number of annual preventive maintenance visits increases the MTBF.

For VRLA batteries that have been in service for four or more years, an evaluation is in your best interest. This is important because of the fact that even a single bad



cell in a string of batteries could compromise your entire backup system, leaving you without protection. By proactively replacing batteries, this will help to keep your system running up to specifications and minimize the risk of downtime to your business operations.

Benefits of PM

PM has a number of benefits for the enduser. First, better reliability is delivered by adding another layer of redundancy. This is achieved by combining leading service with cutting-edge equipment.

Other benefits include extending product lifecycle and optimizing capital expenditure for the equipment. Also, by providing risk management at a fixed cost, this aids in budget preparation and promotes fiscal responsibility. Also, PM gives you better control of the business environment.

Semi-Annual Service

- Perform a temperature check on all breakers, connections and associated controls. Repair and/or report all high temperature areas.
- Perform a complete visual inspection of the equipment including subassemblies, wiring harnesses, contacts, cables and major components. Check air filters for cleanliness.

• Check module(s) completely for rectifier and inverter snubber boards for discoloration, power capacitors for swelling or leaking oil and DC capacitor vent caps that have extruded more than 1/8 inch.

- Record all voltage and current meter readings on the module control cabinet or the system control cabinet.
- Measure and record harmonic trap filter currents.

Annual Service

- · Perform a temperature check on all breakers, connections and associated controls. Repair and/or report all high temperature areas.
- Perform a complete visual inspection of the equipment including subassemblies, wiring harnesses, contacts, cables and major components. Check air filters for cleanliness.
- Check module(s) completely for rectifier and inverter snubber boards for discoloration, power capacitors for swelling or leaking oil and DC capacitor vent caps that have extruded more than 1/8 inch.
- Record all voltage and current meter readings on the module control cabinet or the system control cabinet.
- Measure and record harmonic trap filter currents.
- Check inverter and rectifier snubbers for burned or broken wires.
- Ensure all nuts, bolts, screws and connectors for tightness and heat discoloration.
- Verify fuses on the DC capacitor deck for continuity (if applicable).
- With customer approval, perform operational test of the system including unit transfer and battery discharge.
- Calibrate and record all electronics to system specifications.
- Install or perform Engineering Field Change Notices (FCN) as necessary.
- Measure and record all low-voltage power supply levels.
- Measure and record phase-to-phase input voltage and currents.
- Review system performance with customer to address any questions and to schedule any repairs.

nance is not provided.

Don't Forget About **Battery Service**

One important procedure performed during the UPS Semi-Annual and Annual PM Service is the inspection of the battery. This includes checking for NO-OX grease or oil on all connections, ensuring battery jars have proper liquid levels (if flooded cells), checking for corrosion on all terminals and cables; and examining the physical cleanliness of the battery room and jars. It's also important to measure and record DC bus ripple voltage (if applicable) and total bat-

tery float voltage. While these visual inspections are steps in PM, it is not intended to replace a full preventive maintenance program for the battery system.

Full Preventive Maintenance Service

Full PM Service usually requires a shut-down to ensure electrical connection integrity.

- Perform a complete visual inspection of the internal sub-assemblies, wiring harnesses, contactors, cables, major components and check for proper clearance around the unit.
- · Examine all transformer, terminal block and ground/neutral bus bar connections as well as input and output breaker(s) for tightness.
- Inspect high and low voltage junction box terminals for tightness.
- Inspect all option wiring for tightness (spike suppressor, ground fault, phase rotation/loss).
- Inspect all capacitor bank connections for a solid fit. • Verify that all cooling fans are functional and air
- ducts are open. • Confirm continuity of all fuses and that they are correctly rated.
- Measure input and output phase to phase voltage.
- Determine the output, neutral and ground current.
- Verify KVA load and capacity per phase.
- · Validate grounding electrode conductor and any isolated grounds.
- · Measure all filter capacitor currents at no load for

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UPS Maintenance

- all three phases (if applicable). • Measure primary, secondary, second harmonic and third harmonic (if applicable).
- All should be balanced within 2.5 percent deviation.
- Verify EPO lamps are illuminated.
- Check that the local and remote EPO's are functioning properly (if permitted).
- Confirm that the monitor is recording within +/- 2 percent of those values measured. • Activate the transformer over-temp alarm and shut down circuits to confirm proper operation (if permitted).
- Verify the operation of any option for alarm or shut-down sequence (if permitted)
 - and of any customer alarm circuit(s) and specified messages. • Make sure of specified restart capabilities (manual or auto-restart).
 - Verify the operation of the bypass switch and the bypass transformer over temp
 - alarm (if applicable).

There are also preventive measures for desktop power management tools, including surge suppression and smaller UPS systems. Ensure the unit performs a battery test regularly and proactively replace batteries / UPS before they fail. These units are mainly swapped out when defective.

Once You Choose Your PM Strategy, Let Professionals Handle It

Most preventive maintenance measures should be left to qualified persons. UPS and batteries contain high voltage among other things, and only qualified personnel should attempt preventive maintenance or repair. End users can provide preventive support such as replacing air filters when dirty, ensuring environmental specifications are met and monitoring the UPS for alarms.

When choosing a service

provider, seek out a group that offers a comprehensive portfolio of services. Service can be customized to satisfy customer requirements. In addition, preventive maintenance service, service contracts should include, 24 x 7 emergency services, parts replacement, a variety of end-user



Figure 3. For customers who require the highest level of service response for their critical cooling and power systems they should employ a tried and true professional account management group. Securing a comprehensive offering designed to provide service support, critical facility information and customer relationship management will pay off over time.

training seminars detailing best practices and service tips for end-users. The service provider should provide access to highly trained technicians that engage in ongoing industry training.

For more information concerning service capability for your entire facility infrastructure contact 1-800-543-2378 or view additional information at: www.liebert.com/servicesupport_pages/ServiceSupport.aspx?x=servicesupport.

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New

The Automotive Dream for Energy Storage

Anu Elizabeth Cherian, Industry Analyst *Frost & Sullivan*

In the wake of the global oil crisis, several new technologies strive to become a viable alternative to petroleum. A particular area of interest is the transportation segment where the consumption is an average of over 20,000 barrels of oil per day.

Rising demand and inadequate supply are factors that have led the US government to impose tougher fuel economy rules. These factors, along with a dramatic shift in consumer attitude toward fuel efficiency, have caused automakers to radically shift their global strategy. In many respects, Toyota has forged ahead to find their niche with the Prius and the nickel metal hydride battery. Their popularity not only reflects in year-over-year sales, but additionally earns the company green credits. This accomplishment is attributed to careful planning since the 1990s.

Whatever one chooses to call this phenomenon, forward thinking or the next roadto-market plan, the results span well for Toyota. In June of 2008, oil prices reached all-time highs. Some gas station owners are forced to leave their businesses as economics suggest the threat of bankruptcy due to increasing oil prices. The market is forced to speculate and forward-looking statements from several automakers indicate a drive for cheaper fuel alternatives. In the short term, manufacturers are quickly developing hybrid systems to reduce reliance on petroleum.

Current available energy storage options for hybrid vehicles include traditional lead acid (flooded, deep cycle and VRLA), nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride and lithium-ion.

Despite many options, the grim reality indicates that none of these chemistries can provide sufficient energy density within the operational requirements of the automobile. If one of these chemistries successfully works for an automobile, this can provide a major boost to current fuel economy levels.

Lead-acid batteries are certainly the most mature technology, but global lead-acid manufacturers face a predominantly declining market. In addition, lead-acid batteries cannot supply the necessary power density. On the other hand, nickel-metal-hydride chemistry is a technology that has found its niche in hybrid vehicle technology. It is predominantly used in the hybrids created by Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Ford, GM and Chrysler. To date, lithium-ion technology has not made it to production vehicles. Several manufacturers are racing to make lithium technology viable and part of production vehicles on or before the year 2010.

Peripheral Value Additions for Energy Storage

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The interesting part of the global energy storage market is the fact that we have alternatives in flywheels and ultracapacitors that can add value to existing technology to create a new revolution in the automotive sector.



Innovations

An example of one such innovation is a two wheeler recently found in the Asian subcontinent; a vehicle powered by wind and solar energy. A demonstration of a prototype reveals there is potential; however, there are many more hurdles to cross before this highly innovative technology takes over.

The ultracapacitor is seen as a solution that specializes in capturing energy derived from regenerative braking. It is also seen by many car manufacturers, such as BMW, as a component that can serve to enhance fuel economy while maintaining a performance- oriented driving experience.

A common feature of the flywheel and the ultracapacitor is the short run time. The power density, however, is high and helps to provide burst power for stopand-go applications.

So, what are the real options both theoretically as well as practically?

The nickel-metal-hydride cells used by all hybrid vehicles as of 2008 are the only commercially viable technology for the hybrid electric vehicle. Its success is attributed to its ability to provide reasonable energy density, along with a fairly large amount of power density to keep up with automotive power demands. It has increased the fuel efficiency factor and has enabled the onset of the green outlook in the automotive world.

Moving forward, we can say there is light at the end of the tunnel when technological progress reduces overall fuel consumption in the transportation market by 50 percent. Many are sceptical that advances to battery chemistry will happen in the near future. These advances are paramount to the introduction of extended range electric vehicles like the Chevrolet Volt.

The battery needed for the Chevrolet Volt is presently a non-existent battery chemistry. This battery has peak power density as provided by an ultracapacitor. It also has the best energy density. Although theoretically possible, practical considerations, cost in particular, weigh heavy on the horizon. So which technologies can tolerate each other to make the marriage work between the car and the ultimate fuel efficiency? The current and most keenly observed areas are the use of an ultracapacitor in tandem

with a lithium-ion battery.

The world will be curiously watching the road in 2010 to see if General Motors, or some other manufacturer, can fill the road with ultra-efficient, near-zero emission vehicles. If successful, you can be sure that under the hood lies the latest in technological innovation.

Anu Elizabeth Cherian is an Industry Analyst with Frost & Sullivan's North American Energy & Power Systems practice. She focuses on monitoring and analyzing emerging trends, technologies, and market dynamics in the energy storage, alternative energy, power supplies, and power quality industries worldwide. Since joining Frost & Sullivan in April 2005, Cherian has completed several research studies and consulting projects on ultracapacitors, fuel cells, flywheels, UPS, and DC power systems focused on telecommunications and power factor correction capacitors.

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Advances in Lithium

Mobile Applications

Battery Technologies for

Eaton continued from page 11

Green: Companies striving to be environmentally-friendly may want to avoid large transformers if possible. Iron and copper, materials are that are expensive (see Figure 2) and nonrenewable, make up much of the composition of transformers.



Figure 2. Copper Price Chart

Also, the building process of transformers often involves dipping them in an environmentally hazardous, chemical varnish and baking them in an oven, emitting harmful fumes. While UPS products still contain some copper and iron, the elimination of the transformer significantly decreases the "energy required for production and supports the green nature of the product.

Overall, the new transformer-free topology with small and lightweight filter inductors, high performance IGBTs in both inverter and rectifier, and advanced control strategies can bring improved performance and value to an organization. Compared to legacy UPS topology designs, a transformer-free UPS is typically only 25 percent the weight and occupies 60 percent the footprint. Low input THD (<4.5 percent at full load) and high input power factor (>0.99) are supported down to nearly 10 percent load without the need for an additional input filter. In addition, full load efficiency can reach 94 percent and above. The packaging can be designed so that cooling and wiring do not require side or rear access or clearance. With these new benefits, this technology-intensive design will become the preferred topology.

Ed Spears is a product marketing manager in Eaton's Critical Power Solutions Division in Raleigh, N.C. A 28-year veteran in the power systems industry, Spears has experience in UPS systems testing, sales, applications engineering and training-as well as working in power quality engineering and marketing for telecommunications, data centers, cable television and broadband public networks. He may be reached at EdSpears@Eaton.com.

George Oughton is an engineering specialist at Eaton's Critical Power Solutions Division in Raleigh, N.C. Oughton has more than 30 years' experience in the power systems industry with an expertise in high frequency power conversion: HF motive chargers, HF telecom rectifiers, CATV standby supplies, HF PWM UPS: single and three phase, and PWM motor drives. He has achieved more than a dozen patents. He may be reached at GeorgeWOughton@eaton.com.

Global Market for Portable Battery Powered Products Worth \$461.5 Billion by 2013

According to a new technical market research report, *"Portable Battery-Powered products: Global Markets"* from BCC Research, the global market for portable battery-powered products was worth \$425.3 billion in 2007. This is expected to increase to \$443.2 billion in 2008 and \$461.5 billion by the end of 2013, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 0.8 percent.

The market is broken down into applications for communication, entertainment, computer, navigation, camera, timepiece, tools, lighting, toy and novelty, medical, scientific and military. Of these, communication products have the largest share of the market. Valued at \$127.6 billion in 2007 and an estimated \$135.2 billion in 2008, this segment is expected to decline to \$120.0 billion in 2013, a CAGR of -2.3 percent. This decline is due to a convergence of function seen in PDAs and smartphones that causes individual markets to shrink as new converged markets grow.

Computer products, the second largest segment, was worth \$98.0 billion in 2007. It is expected to reach \$103.0 billion in 2008 and \$118.7 billion in 2013, for a CAGR of 2.8 percent. Medical products also represent a significant share of the market, generating \$66.1 billion in 2007 and an estimated \$68.6 billion in 2008. This should increase to \$94.0 billion in 2013, for a CAGR of 6.5 percent.

The fastest growing segment is expected to be military products. This segment was worth \$1.3 billion in 2007 and is expected to increase to \$1.8 billion in 2008 and \$3.2 billion in 2013, a CAGR of 12.0 percent.

The key technology that enables these portable products is the \$72 billion worth of batteries used to provide power. Although advanced high-energy battery systems, like lithium-ion and nickel-metal-hydride, have gained the most attention, primary alkaline batteries are still widely used. Battery chargers remain a smaller market. In 2007, 2.1 billion internal and external battery chargers worth \$43 billion were used with portable battery-powered products.

USABC Awards \$12.9 Million Battery Technology Development Contract to Compact Power, Inc.

The US Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC) has awarded a \$12.9 million plug-in hybrid electric battery technology development contract to Compact Power, Inc. (CPI). USABC formally awarded the contract earlier this year, in collaboration with the US Department of Energy



(DOE), which previously announced the award, pending agreement on all terms and conditions. The 27-month costshare contract is for the development of battery cell, module and pack technology for plug-in hybrid-electric vehicle (PHEV) applications.

USABC is a division of the US Council for Automotive Research LLC (USCAR). Enabled by a cooperative agreement with the DOE, USABC's mission is to develop electrochemical energy storage technologies that support commercialization of fuel cell, hybrid and electric vehicles.

The CPI contract is to develop lithium-ion batteries for 10-mile range PHEVs using high-energy and high-power manganese-spinel chemistry.

The new CPI contract follows research previously conducted with USABC on lithium-ion battery cell development, which focused on improving life cycle, calendar life, cold-cranking power, abuse-tolerance and low-temperature performance, as well as creating designs for a new cell pouch and separator. Module development also included lithium-ion thermal issues, battery module electronics, cell interconnections and abuse testing.

The US DOE's overarching mission is to advance the national, economic and energy security of the US. DOE's Vehicle Technologies Program works with industry to develop advanced transportation technologies that reduce the nation's use of imported oil and increase our energy security. Electrochemical energy storage has been identified as a critical enabling technology for advanced, fuelefficient, light and heavy duty vehicles.

Nexergy, Inc. Receives Commitment for Purchase of More Than \$1 Million Intrinsically Safe Lithium Ion Battery Packs Used for Miners' Cap Lamps

Nexergy, Inc. has received a commitment to purchase more than \$1 million of lithium ion battery packs from a UK-based company supplying batteries for use in mines and other environments characterized by the potential presence of explosive gas.

These batteries represent one of the first lithium ion battery packs approved for and used in applications that require intrinsically safe systems. The packs are used to power miner's cap lamps that have been qualified to IEC 62013-1, a standard of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

The intrinsically safe qualified eight-cell battery packs

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replace large sealed lead acid batteries. The key requirement for intrinsic safety is that the device not contain any components that produce sparks or that can hold enough energy to produce a spark of sufficient energy to cause an ignition in an explosive atmosphere.

As the alternative energy source to the heavier sealed lead acid battery, the lithium ion battery reduces the weight of a miner's cap lamp battery from 4.6 lbs. to 1.3 lbs. while providing the same runtime between charges. Additionally, the lithium ion battery packs are maintenance-free, as opposed to most sealed lead acid batteries, which require regular maintenance.

Currently, Nexergy is producing these battery packs for use in the customer's European and Australian markets. The production rate of these packs is expected to increase by 20 percent in the North American market upon the approval of the design by the US Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

The product is the result of more than two years' worth of development and collaboration with the customer to ensure the battery pack meets the needs of this demanding market.

Odyne Corp. Awarded Patent for Battery Thermal Management System

Odyne Corp., a clean technology company that develops advanced hybrid electric vehicle propulsion systems, has been awarded US Patent for its Battery Thermal Management System (BTMS).

According to Joe Ambrosio, founder and CTO of Odyne, "The use of the technology embodied in this patent will improve the functionality and extend the operating life of battery packs used in mobile applications. Battery enclosures need to be placed within a variety of locations within a vehicle, sometimes not in the best place for keeping a battery at optimal temperatures. Batteries are like people, they like to be kept near or at room temperature. Our patented design allows for chilled or heated fluids to be pumped to the battery wherever it is located within the vehicle."

Approved for patent is a battery tray enclosure, designed to provide a method for thermally managing commercially available battery modules through conduction cooling or heating. The BTMS provides several key features: such as protection from the environment, structural integrity, passive/active thermal management and the ability to scale the design for a variety of battery module shapes/sizes. Although the design can be used in any mobile application, Odyne's BTMS is optimized for use in Class 6, 7 and 8 buses and trucks where a variety of terrains and environmental conditions are experienced year round.

Denali National Park Goes Greener with Hybrid Commercial Bus from IC Bus

Visitors to Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve, one of the largest protected intact ecosystems in the world, will now have the opportunity to explore the park with the aid of an environmentally friendly vehicle; a fuel-efficient and emissions-reducing hybrid bus. IC Bus, North America's largest school bus and commercial bus manufacturer, delivered the park's first hybrid bus in July.

Assigned for use as part of the park's shuttle service, which extends 90 miles into the wilderness, the hybrid bus will transport visitors along a 45-mile route through August 30, during the Park's peak season, enhancing visitors' experience. A quieter engine will improve wildlife viewing as visitors see and hear nature in a way the other buses do not allow.

When Doyon/ARAMARK, the concessioner responsible for the Park's transportation service, won the Denali contract in 2003, the park challenged them to explore new bus technology, including hybrid. In turn, Doyon/ARAMARK approached Cascadia International, the IC Bus dealership in Anchorage. Cascadia is loaning the hybrid bus to Doyon/ARAMARK to test at the Park.

"This bus is for demo and evaluation purposes. The National Park Service is looking at this technology and is very interested in the feasibility and economic viability of future fleet replacements. The price of diesel fuel in the Denali area tops \$5.00/gallon so fuel economy is a genuine consideration with this project along with reducing environmental impact," said Matt Gerber, statewide sales executive of Cascadia International, LLC.

Doyon/ARAMARK currently has 110 buses in its Denali National Park and Preserve fleet which drive an average of 1.2 million miles per year. As more of the diesel-engine buses are replaced by hybrids, the reduced impact on the environment and fuel savings become that much greater.

The hybrid system, developed by Enova Systems, couples a diesel engine with an 80-kilowatt powertrain, incorporating a transmission, batteries and an electric

JOINT INTERNATIONAL MEETING 214th Meeting of ECS — The Electrochemical Society 2008 Fall Meeting of The Electrochemical Society of Japan and with the technical co-sponsorship of Japan Society of Applied Physics Korean Electrochemical Society 7-) Electrochemistry Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute ON ELECTROCHEMICAL Chinese Society of Electrochemistry AND SOLID-STATE SCIENCE CENERAL TOPICS T · Batteries, Fuel Cells, and Energy Conversion Electrochemical Synthesis and Engineering Biomedical Applications and Organic Electrochemistry Fullerenes, Nanotubes, and Carbon Nanostructures Corrosion, Passivation, and Anodic Films Physical and Analytical Electrochemistry Dielectric and Semiconductor Materials, Devices, and Processing · Sensors and Displays: Principles, Materials, Electrochemical / Chemical Deposition and Etching and Processing HONOLULU, HI 💥 HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLACE 💥 OCTOPER | 2-17, 2008 Registration: Deadline for advance meeting registration is September 12, 2008. Hotel: The Hilton Hawaiian Village is the meeting headquarters hotel. Reservations are due September 12, 2008. SHORT COURSES The following courses are planned, as of press-time: Basic Impedance Spectroscopy, PEM Fuel Cells, Electrodeposition of Magnetic Materials, Operation and

Atomic Layer Deposition.

motor. The system recovers kinetic energy during regenerative braking, charging the batteries while the bus is slowing down. This provides additional power for acceleration, making the hybrid buses well suited because of the frequent starting and stopping of the bus.

ECOtality's Innergy Power to Develop And Manufacture Battery Systems for Electric Vehicle Applications

ECOtality, Inc. has announced immediate plans for its subsidiary Innergy Power Corp., to develop and manufacture advanced battery systems for electric vehicle (EV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) applications. Electric Transportation Engineering Corp. (eTec), also a subsidiary of ECOtality, will provide Innergy Power with its Advanced Charge Management (ACM) technology that optimizes battery performance for fast-charging with the eTec Minit-Charger fastcharge systems and provides real-time battery condition information for users.

The Innergy Power battery systems will be designed with eTec's Advanced Charge Management technology that maximizes fast-charging capabilities and provides dual communication capabilities between the battery and the charging station to provide instant feedback to users about the state-of-charge, battery charging history and overall battery condition.

Specifically designed for eTec Minit-Charger systems, Innergy Power's battery systems will feature optimized fast-charging capabilities to enable an EV or PHEV to be charged in 10 to 15 minutes while eliminating the risks of overcharging and extending overall battery life. While Innergy Power's advanced battery systems can be recharged overnight using standard 120 V outlets, the ACM technology enhances fast charging capabilities to greatly reduce recharging time and provides an easy and convenient solution for recharging an EV or PHEV while on the go. Innergy Power will be custom designing these battery systems for use in various electric transportation applications including fullsized electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, neighborhood electric vehicles, electric scooters and electric bikes.

ICP Solar Enters into Sales Contract with Nissan for New OEM Solar Charger

ICP Solar Technologies, Inc., a developer, manufacturer and marketer of solar panels and products, have

> entered into a sales contract with Nissan in Europe and North America for OEM solar charger. A discharged battery is one of the most common problems facing the automotive industry, with cars sitting in parking lots for a long period of time in cold or hot conditions. The ICP Solar OEM solar charger will help reduce the related costs and will avoid strong 12 V battery drain using the power of the sun.

"ICP Solar Technologies wants to be a major player in the automotive industry, which is looking for a more cost effective green solution to the dead battery problem. We have proved in the past with other car manufacturers that this OEM solar charger placed on the dashboard inside the car would be a great cost saving tool for 12 V battery in the entire automotive industry," said Sass Peress, CEO, ICP Solar.

Lithium Technology Corp. Selected For PHEV Project with Volkswagen AG and E.ON

Lithium Technology Corp.'s German subsidiary, GAIA Akkumulatorenwerke GmbH (GAIA), was recently selected to participate in a passenger car fleet project for Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) sponsored by the German Federal Government. GAIA batteries will power the project made possible in conjunc-

Applications of Electrochemical Capacitors, Fundamentals of Electrochemistry, and

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tion with Volkswagen AG and E.ON.

Over the next three years, GAIA will deliver a total of seven lithium ion batteries that are based on iron phosphate cathode chemistry with energy content of about 12 kWh. The project will partially be funded by the German Federal Government.

The project aims to demonstrate the use of electricity generated by renewable energy such as wind and solar for powering up 20 PHEV's in a fleet trial under real-time conditions. The project will also validate the advanced lithium ion batteries to power such vehicles and evaluate the use of various methods of integrating these vehicles into the electric power grid for stabilization purposes.

"At the present time the automobile is unthinkable without a highly efficient diesel or gasoline engine. The future however, and that is certain, will belong to the electric motors fueled by the wall power plug," said Professor Winterkorn, CEO of Volkswagen AG. "On this way to the future, our innovative motors (TDI/TSI) combined with electric motors and highly efficient battery systems create advanced propulsion systems."

PHEVs are part of a family of electric-drive technologies that will play an important role in achieving the objectives of energy security and a reduction of

greenhouse gas emissions. The relatively large battery installed enables a full electric driving over distances typical in urban situations as the battery can be charged directly from the electricity grid. The increased use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar put stress on the grid stability as power generation becomes less predictable. PHEV batteries can play a role in stabilizing the grid by charging at times of excess power generation capability and by feeding power back to the grid when there is a power generation shortage.

VIASPACE Energy Begins Sales of Its Battery Electrode Health Analyzer with Order in Japan

VIASPACE, Inc. has received an order for its BA-1000 Battery Electrode Health Analyzer product from Hohsen Corp. of Japan. Hohsen Corp. is a major distributor of high technology products including fuel cell and battery test stations to both manufacturers and universities in Japan, which includes many of the world's largest battery manufacturers such as Sanyo and Sony corporations in the multibillion dollar lithium battery market.

Improving the performance and safety of lithium batteries is a major challenge for battery manufacturers and university researchers throughout the world. Battery capacity and safety is limited by electrode changes during charge and discharge cycles. The BA-1000 Battery Electrode Health Analyzer is the first instrument developed to study these changes using a new, patent pending, nondestructive technique, which enables continuous analysis over the lifecycle of the battery.

VIASPACE CEO Carl Kukkonen said, "Hohsen is a well respected corporation in the battery field in Japan, with many major Japanese battery manufacturers and respected universities among its customer base. We believe that the BA-1000 will help customers rapidly develop and optimize new designs for rechargeable batteries for electronics, power tools and electric vehicles."

Air Products Awarded Two Key Patents For Lithium Ion Batteries

Air Products has received two US patents covering usage of its Stabilife fluorinated electrolyte salts in lithium ion batteries. These salts have been formulated to stand up to the difficult conditions expected from next generation portable power applications as well as hybrid electric vehicles (HEV).

"These patents will help Air Products develop the materials for next generation HEVs," said Wayne Mitchell, vice president and general manager of Performance Materials for Air Products. "They are testament to the enabling characteristics of fluorinated materials for lithium ion batteries, as well as our company's 30 years of experience working with fluorine compounds."

Air Products' Stabilife salts are electrolyte salts based on the poly- fluorinated borane cluster anions. Stabilife salts have exhibited extraordinary thermal and hydrolytic stability that can allow for the use of safer, lower cost electrode materials, such as LiMn2O4 and LiFePO4, in large format lithium ion batteries. They also have expanded the operating temperature window of lithium ion batteries versus currently employed lithium electrolyte salts.

In addition, Stabilife Salts' unique electrochemistry enables them to provide inherent overcharge protection to lithium ion batteries through redox shuttle chemistry. They are produced at a pilot plant housed within Air Products' fluorine-based chemicals plant in Hometown, Pa.

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Bosch and Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. Plan Joint Venture to **Develop and Manufacture Lithium-Ion Batteries**

Robert Bosch GmbH and Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. have decided to set up a joint venture to develop, manufacture and sell lithium-ion batteries. It is planned that the joint venture, which is to be named "SB LiMotive Co. Ltd." and to be headquartered in Korea, will start operations in September 2008. The shareholding of Robert Bosch GmbH will be 50 percent and that of Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. 50 percent. Both companies will be equally represented on the board of management and on the board of directors. The foundation of the joint venture is still subject to approval by antitrust authorities.

The companies plan to collaborate in the development, manufacture and worldwide sale of lithium-ion batteries for automotive applications. Lithium-ion batteries are the basis for forward-looking technologies in the automobile, such as hybrid or electrical drives. In connection with its hybrid project unit, Bosch has already built up comprehensive expertise in areas such as power electronics, battery management, electric motors, transmissions and DC/DC converters. The main focus of Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. is the further development of lithium-ion batteries, which it already produces for a large number of manufacturers of laptops, mobile phones and power tools. In 2007 Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. has produced 376 million battery cells.

EnerDel and Think Global Demonstrate Operational Battery Pack in Th!nk City Vehicle

Ener1, Inc. has reported that its lithium-ion battery subsidiary, EnerDel, has installed and demonstrated a fully functional lithium-ion battery pack in a Th!nk City electric vehicle at its manufacturing facility in Indianapolis. The integration of the battery pack into a Th!nk City EV was completed ahead of the schedule previously announced by EnerDel. The successful completion of this milestone indicates that EnerDel is on schedule to meet the year-end timetable for volume production under its supply agreement with Think Global of Oslo, Norway.

EnerDel delivered three functional 27 kWh lithium-ion battery packs to Think Global earlier this year for testing. Both companies are working to meet the scheduled roll-out of pre-production units over the next three months.

"This is a very exciting program to be involved in, with an aggressive time to market schedule," said EnerDel CEO Ulrik Grape. "Our collaboration with Think to develop a battery solution for the leading electric vehicle worldwide, the Th!nk City, has been rewarding. A lot of work remains both in terms of testing and evaluation, but we anticipate that we will be able to meet the schedule set by our supply agreement to begin production of integrated battery packs by the end of this year."

'We are very pleased with the progress EnerDel and Think have made on the lithi-

cle," said Think Global CEO Jan-Olaf Willums. "EnerDel has achieved an important milestone MRS and met our expectations so far. We are confifall 2008 MRS FALL MEETING dent that the project is on schedule to introduce meeting www.mrs.org/fall2008 2008 end of the year." Symposia **Meeting Activities** ELECTRONICS, PHOTONICS, AND MAGNETISM **Meeting Chairs** ENGINEERED MATERIALS AND MODELING Symposium Tutorial Program Naterials, Devices, and Characterization for Smart Systems. Computational Materials Design via Multiscale Modeling Biomineral Interfaces—From Experiment to Theory. Mechanics of Biological and Biomedical Materials Materials for Optical Sensoria in Biomedical Applications Polymer-Based Smart Materials—Process, Proventies and Application Performance and Reliability of Semiconductor Devices Transparent Conductors and Se Available only to meeting attendees, the symposium Britstials will concentrate on new, rapidly breaking areas the Pennsyl of tesearch oelectronics ory and Applications of Ferroelectric and University tol. 814-863-4560 C: AA: BB: Multiferroic Materials Rare-Earth Doping of Advanced Materials for Photonic Applications Materials and Technologies for 3-D Integration Exhibit D: Properties, and Application Design, Fabrication, and Self Assembly of "Patchy" and da M. Bake CC: A major exhibit encompassing the full spectrum of rvey Mudd Colle 909-621-8643 rnda_baker@hmd Anisometric Particles Materials in Tissue Engineering equipment, instrumentation, products, software, DD: Low-Cost Solution-Based Deposition publications, and services is scheduled for December 2-4 in the Hynes Convention Center. Convenient ic/Photonic Devices of Inorganic Films for Electronic/I Organic and Hybrid Materials for NANDSCIENCE Nano- and Microscale Materials—Mechanical Properties and Behavior under Extreme Environme Nanofunctional Materials, Structures, and Devices for G. EE: tael R. Fitzsim Large-Area Functional Systems Physics and Technology of Organic Semiconductor Devices to the technical session mores and scheduled to nents H complement the program, the MRS Fall Exhibit offers FF Devices aboratory el. 565-665-4045 Biomedical Applications Microelectromechanical Systems—Materials and Devices II Advances in Material Design for Regenerative Medicine, Drug Delvery, and Targeting/Imaging Bio-mepied Transduction, Fundamentala, and Applications Nanotubes, Nanowires, Nanobelts, and Nanocoils— Promise, Expectations, and Status Transport Properties in Polymer Nanocomposites Nanowires—Synthesis, Properties, Assembly, and Application medical Applications everything you need all under one roof. Reliability and Properties of Electronic Devices on 60 Flexible Substrate Processing Technologies Magnetic Nanostructures by Design New Materials with High Spin Polarization and Their Applications HH. Publications Desk A full display of over 550 books will be available at 11 the MRS Publications Desk: Symposium Proceedings m the 2907 MRS Fall Meeting and 2008 MRS Spring KK: Meeting will be featured. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT Application Applications of Group IV Semiconductor Nanostructures In-aith Studies across Spatial and Temporal Scales for Nanoscience and Technology Grazing-Incidence Small-Angle X-Ray Scattering Solid-State Chemistry of Inorganic Materials VII Synthesis and Processing of Organic and Polymeric Functional Materials for a Sustainable Energy Economy Artificially Induced Grain Alignment in Thin Films Application Energy Harvesting—Molecules and Materials Next-Generation and Nano-Architectured MM **Student Opportunities** NN Graduate students planning to attend the 2008 MRS hotovoltaics 00 Structure/Property Relationships in Fluoritefall Meeting are encouraged to apply for a Symposius Derivative Compounds Photovoltaic Materials and Manufacturing Issues Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management Derivative Co Assistant position and/or a Graduate Student Award. 00 ons will be accessible on the MRS Web site by June 1 XXXXII and Qualifying New Materials for Use in 55 Materials for Future Fusion and Fission Tech **Career** Center 6-7573 Solid-State Ionics and Dynamics in Amorphous Syst Mobile Energy Advanced Intermetallic-Based Alloys for Extreme A Career Center for MRS members and meeting **GENERAL INTEREST** attendees will be open Tuesday through Thursda Frontiers of Materials Research Environment and Energy Application Everything you need to know about the industry. Right in your Box. Subscribe to the Battery Power Industry Report for full industry Coverage: Nor Hybrid Power DCC Industry News **New Products**

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the EnerDel battery in production vehicles by the ActaCell Closes \$5.8 Million Series A Financing; Investment Consortium Led By DFJ Mercury

um-ion battery solution for the Th!nk City vehi-

Includes Google.org, Applied Ventures and Good Energies

ActaCell, Inc. has secured \$5.8 million in Series A financing. DFJ Mercury led the round with syndicate investment from Google.org's RechargeIT program, Applied Ventures, LLC, the venture capital arm of Applied Materials, Inc. and Good Energies, an investor in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industry. The proceeds from the Series A financing will be used to hire key technical talent and to further develop ActaCell's lithium-ion battery technology for commercial purposes.

ActaCell, Inc. is an Austin-based technology start-up commercializing lithium-ion battery technology developed in Professor Arumugam Manthiram's Material Science and Engineering lab at The University of Texas at Austin. This new technology is focused on delivering substantially longer cycle life at low cost while maintaining safety as the number one priority.

'We were highly impressed with ActaCell's pedigree," said Ned Hill, managing director at DFJ Mercury. "We believe their technology will significantly impact industries that rely on rechargeable batteries, particularly those that require high power and long cycle life such as Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles. Low cost, long life and safety are key attributes of ActaCell's battery roadmap, the holy grail of battery technologies on the market today." RechargeIT is a Google.org initiative that aims to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, cut oil use and stabilize the electrical grid by accelerating the adoption of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and vehicle-to-grid technology. Google.org demonstrates the technology using its own fleet and supporting others through grants and investments.

Still in the development phase, ActaCell's technology has not been publicly disclosed. Full product and technology announcements will follow in early 2009.

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Calendar of Events

September

4-5 - Battery Power 2008, New Orleans, La. Contact Webcom Communications at www.BatteryPowerOnline.com

12-17 - Electrochemical Society Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI.

14-18 - Intelec 2008, San Diego, Calif.

23-26 - 11th European Lead Battery Conference, Warsaw, Poland

October 8-10 - Batteries 2008, French Riviera

November 5-6 - Remote 2008 Conference & Expo, Atlanta, Ga.

December 1-5 - MRS Fall, Boston, Mass.

2-4 - Power-Gen International 2008, Orlando, Fla.

8-9 - Lithium Mobile Power, Las Vegas, Nev.

2009

March 10-12 - Aviation Industry Expo, Las Vegas, Nev.

16-19 - 26th International Battery Seminar & Exhibit, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

April 27-29 - Battcon 2009, Orlando, Fla.

June 8-9 - Advanced Automotive Battery Conference 2009, Long Beach, Calif.

Send Calendar of Event Items to Shannon Given at ShannonG@infowebcom.com

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September/October 2008

Strategic Overview of Silver-Zinc Rechargeable Batteries

Dr. Ross Dueber, President and CEO ZPower, Inc.



At the heart of the \$55 billion global battery market is the chemical conundrum of power supply. Today's consumer has the ability to watch an entire movie on a palm-sized devicebut portable power technology has not kept up. Engineers admit that they are "hitting the wall" on lithium polymer and lithium-

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ion performance. Unstable lithium-ion batteries have resulted in a number of high product recalls by manufacturers of notebook computers. These market trends are creating a pressing need for a better battery.

This improved battery chemistry can now be found in silver-zinc (AgZn) rechargeable battery technology. Silver-zinc battery chemistry has a long, successful history of use by the military, international space programs and by underwater marine applications. The chemistry is currently poised to move into the commercial marketplace for use in consumer electronics.

This new silver-zinc battery chemistry uses the latest in advanced polymers, nano-technology, power elec-

tronics and processing methods to create a battery that surpasses other rechargeable batteries for notebook computers, mobile phone and consumer electronics applications.

The advantages of silver zinc batteries can be summed up overall as follows:

High Performance - Up to 40 percent more run time than traditional lithium-ion batteries. And with recent improvements in battery cycle life, silver zinc batteries achieve 200+ cycles at 100 percent discharge to 80 percent of rated capacity and thousands of cycles at intermediate discharge.

Clean Technology - More than 95 percent of key battery elements can be recycled and reused. The raw materials recovered in the recycling process of silver-zinc batteries are the same quality as those that went into the creation of the battery. Environmental impact is lessened since the need to mine for new materials is minimized. Also, there will be financial incentives for consumers to recycle their silver-zinc batteries.

Safe - Silver zinc batteries contain no lithium and are inherently safe. They are not subject to the recent FAA air travel restrictions now placed on lithium-ion batteries. Silver zinc batteries feature a water-based chemistry that is not flammable. The battery is therefore free from the problems of thermal runaway and fire.

To provide further insight on just how "clean" silver zinc batteries are when compared with lithium-

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ion technology, the difference is dramatic. The primary materials of silver zinc batteries (i.e. silver and zinc) are fully recyclable. That means that the materials derived from recycling process are of the same quality as the materials that went into the initial creation of the battery. Recycling the raw materials results in using a fraction of the energy required to mine for new materials.

In contrast, most elements of traditional lithium-ion batteries are downcycled and cannot be reused. The downcycling process reduces the original battery into raw materials of lower quality which can't be reused for battery production (cobalt is the notable exception). Additional lithium must be obtained before another battery can be produced.

The silver recycling process already exists. Refiners perfected the processes over centuries for jewelry, tableware, photographic film and electronics. Additionally, silver obtained from scrap makes up over 30 percent of the silver that is needed each year to satisfy world demand.

The success of silver zinc technology can be found in three important areas:

Composite Polymer Zinc (Zn) Anode - The zinc anode in silver batter zinc batteries is a composite polymer electrode which inhibits shape change and dendrite growth. In the past, shape change and dendrite growth in traditional silver-zinc cells frequently shortened the overall cycle life of the battery.

Multi-Functional, Layered Separator - A separator stack within the silver zinc battery resists dendrite growth from the zinc anode, while simultaneously resisting degradation from the silver cathode. At the same time, it allows ions to move freely from the cathode to the anode to minimize the cell's internal resistance. This results in a superior silver-zinc battery cell which offers long life.

Nano-Particle Silver Oxide (AgO) Cathode - The silver oxide cathode in silver-zinc rechargeable batteries is coated with nano particles. This nano-technology enhances conductivity for lower internal resistance and faster charge times than traditional silver zinc batteries.

Silver zinc has significantly higher volumetric energy density than existing battery technologies such as lithi-

um-ion or nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, or lead acid. It has 40 percent more energy density than traditional lithium-ion batteries and offers plenty of runway to safely increase energy density and cycle life.

The batteries have passed a wide range of tests, including environmental high-performance tests (heating, temperature cycling, storage); electrical performance tests (short circuit, abnormal charge, forced discharge); mechanical performance tests (impact, crush, test, nail penetration).

At the present time in the development of silver-zinc rechargeable battery chemistry, there are no serious obstacles to bringing the technology into the market. Many of the fundamental chemical and technology challenges that were experienced in the earlier phases have been overcome. Right now, the focus is on scaling manufacturing processes to meet high anticipated demand. The current work is focused on achieving and maintaining world class quality.

A silver zinc battery option will be rolled out in a major notebook computer in early 2009. The battery is slated to be released as a premium extended life battery. The notebook will be "dual chemistry enabled" which means it will work with either silver-zinc or lithium ion batteries.

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