NASA Glenn Research Center
Electrochemistry Branch Battery Overview

This presentation covers an overview of NASA Glenn’s history and heritage in the development of electrochemical systems for aerospace applications. Specific areas of focus are Li-ion batteries and their development for future Exploration missions. Current component development efforts for high energy and ultra high energy Li-ion batteries are addressed.
Electrochemistry Branch Overview

- GRC Electrochemistry Branch – Energy Storage System Background and Heritage
- Current Projects – focus on Battery Efforts
- Electrochemistry Branch Capabilities and Facilities
- Concluding Remarks
RPC Electrochemistry Branch
Electrochemical Energy Storage Systems
Background and Heritage
Electrochemistry Branch – Batteries

Overview
• Batteries provide a versatile, reliable, safe, modular, lightweight, portable source of energy for aerospace applications.
• Batteries have demonstrated the life and performance required to power current missions.
• Li–Ion batteries offer improvements in specific energy, energy density, and efficiency

Experience
• Lead for Battery Development Efforts under NASA Exploration Technology Development and Enabling Technology Development and Demonstration Programs
• Developed and validated advanced designs of Ni–Cd and Ni–H₂ cells adopted by NASA, cell manufacturers and satellite companies
• Evaluated flight battery technologies for ISS
• Developed lightweight nickel electrodes and bipolar nickel hydrogen battery designs
• Jointly sponsored Li–ion battery development program with DoD that developed Li–Ion cells used on Mars Exploration Rovers
• Lead for NASA Aerospace Flight Battery Systems Working Group
• Conducted electric vehicle battery programs for ERDA/DOE

Products/Heritage
Li–Ion: Lithium–Ion
Ni–Cd: Nickel–Cadmium
Ni–H₂: Nickel–Hydrogen
Ni–MH: Nickel–metal hydride
Ni–Zn: Nickel–Zinc
Ag–Zn: Silver–Zinc
Na–S – Sodium Sulfur
LiCFx: Lithium–carbon monofluoride
Terrestrial Applications - Batteries for Electric Vehicles

Late 1970’s Battery and Cell Development for Electric Vehicles
  • Spin off of space battery developments
  • Space expertise with nickel–cadmium and silver–zinc chemistries applied to nickel–zinc development
Overview

- Fuel cells provide a primary source of power that can support a wide range of aerospace applications.
- Regenerative fuel cells combine a fuel cell with an electrolyzer that is capable of converting the fuel cell products into reactants when energy is supplied and thus function much like a battery.
- Fuel cell based systems offer long run times in a portable, lightweight system and can enable extended operations.

Experience

- Lead for Fuel Cell Development Efforts under NASA Exploration Technology Development and Enabling Technology Development and Demonstration Programs
- Gemini, Apollo, and Shuttle technology development
- Terrestrial energy program management for Fuel Cell systems for Stand Alone Power
- PEM fuel cell powerplant development for launch vehicles and Exploration Missions
- Fuel cell demonstration for high altitude scientific balloons
- Fuel cell development for Helios
- RFC Development for High Altitude Airships

Products/Heritage

- AFC – Alkaline Fuel Cell
- PEM – Proton Exchange Membrane
- SOFC – Solid Oxide Fuel Cell
- RFC – Regenerative Fuel Cell Systems
Terrestrial Programs – Fuel Cell Systems

Fuel Cell Systems for Stand Alone Power

- Fuel Cell Stacks
- Gas Reformers
- Power Management

Commercial Installations of PC25 Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cell Systems
- Bank in Omaha, NE
- Verizon Telecommunications
- Police Station Central Park, NY
- Sewage Treatment Facility
Fuel Cells and Regenerative Fuel Cells

Lynntech Generation III hydrogen–oxygen fuel stack

Fuel cell and electrolyzer stacks

Helios solar airplane

Integrated system test set up of closed loop hydrogen oxygen regenerative fuel cell system

First ever demonstration of closed–loop, hydrogen–oxygen regenerative fuel cell system
RPC Electrochemistry Branch
Current Projects
RPC/Electrochemistry Branch
Current Projects

• Enabling Technology Development and Demonstration Program –
  High Efficiency Space Power Systems – Battery & Fuel Cell Development – Lead Roles

• Support to Constellation Projects
  – CLV – Battery Studies, specification, design – human rating
  – Altair – Power System Lead, Fuel Cell System studies, reliability analyses

• NASA Engineering Safety Center – Lead for Battery Working Group
  – Discipline Advancing Battery Tasks

• International Space Station – Li–ion Risk Mitigation – Life Testing Li–ion Batteries

• Human Research Program – Metal Air Battery Development

• Hydrogen Infrastructure for Renewable Energy
Exploration missions require advanced electrochemical energy storage devices to meet power requirements

Program/Project Completed September 30, 2010
- Transition to Enabling Technology Development and Demonstration Program

Fuel Cells for Surface Systems:
Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell technology offers major advances over existing alkaline fuel cell technology
Objective: Develop Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Fuel Cell technology with enhanced safety, longer life, lower mass and volume, higher peak-to-nominal power capability, higher reliability compared to alkaline fuel cells
Customers: Altair and Lunar Surface Systems

Space Rated Lithium Ion Batteries:
Lithium ion battery technology offers lower mass & volume, wider operating temperature range than alkaline battery chemistries (Ag–Zn, Ni–H2, Ni–Cd, Ni–MH)
Objective: Develop human-rated Li-ion batteries having high specific energy, energy density, long calendar life
Customers: Altair, EVA, and Lunar Surface Systems

Overall Objectives:
- Mature advanced technologies to TRL 6
- Integrate component technologies into prototype systems to validate performance
- Transition technology products to Project Constellation – Altair, Extravehicular Activities, Lunar Surface Systems

Participants:
Fuel Cells: JSC, JPL, KSC
Batteries: JPL, JSC

Industry Partners, SBIR Partners, IPP Partners
Project Transition

Phased out September 30, 2010

Exploration Systems Mission Directorate

Exploration Technology Development Program

Energy Storage Project
Goal: To develop energy storage technologies for Lunar Exploration

New Project as of October 1, 2010

Exploration Systems Mission Directorate

Enabling Technology Development and Demonstration

High Efficiency Space Power Systems
Goal: To provide abundant and low-cost power where it is needed for power-rich exploration
Li–Ion Battery Development

Objectives:
Improve performance of secondary (rechargeable) lithium–ion cells to meet the energy storage requirements of human missions

Approach:
• Develop “High energy” and “ultra high energy” cells to meet customer needs
• Utilize in–house and NRA Contracts to support component development
  – Develop components to increase specific energy (anode, cathode, electrolyte)
  – Develop low–flammability electrolytes, additives that reduce flammability, battery separators and functional components to improve human–safety;
• Engage industry partner – multi year contract
  – Provide recommendations for component development and screening
  – Scale–up components
  – Manufacture evaluation and screening cells with advanced chemistries
• Leverage outside efforts
  – SBIR/IPP efforts, DoE and other government programs
High-Efficiency Space Power Systems
Battery Cell Development

**High Energy Cell**
- Li(LiNMnC)O$_2$ • NASA Cathode
- Conventional Carbonaceous Anode
- Lithiated-mixed-metal-oxide cathode - Li(LiNMnC)O$_2$
- Conventional carbonaceous anode

- 180 Wh/kg @ cell level
- 150 Wh/kg @ battery-level
- At 0°C C/10

- ~2000 cycles to 80% of original capacity at 100% DOD

**Ultra-High Energy Cell**
- Li(LiNMnC)O$_2$ • NASA Cathode
- Si-composite NASA Anode
- Lithiated-mixed-metal-oxide cathode / Li(LiNMnC)O$_2$
- Silicon composite anode

- 260 Wh/kg @ cell level
- 220 Wh/kg @ battery-level
- At 0°C C/10

- ~200 cycles to 80% of original capacity at 100% DOD
Lithium Ion Battery Technology Development
Advanced Cell Components

Nano-particle based circuit breaker

Silicon nano-particles alloy with Li during charge, lose Li ions during discharge
- Offers dramatically improved capacity over carbon standard

Advanced electrolyte with additives provides flame-retardance and stability at high voltages without sacrificing performance.
Example: LiPF$_6$ in EC+EMC+TPP+VC

- Porous, elastomeric binder allows ionic transport and accommodates large volume changes during charge/discharge cycling
- Functionalized nanoparticles adhere to binder without blocking reactive silicon surface area

Layered Li(NMC)O$_2$ cathode particle
- Varying composition and morphology to improve capacity and charge/discharge rate

Optimized Solid-Electrolyte interface Layer
- Mitigates causes of irreversible capacity

Improving Cell-Level Safety
- Nano-particle circuit breaker, flame-retardant electrolytes, and cathode coatings to increase the thermal stability of the cell.
Goal: no fire or flame, even under abuse.

Providing Ultra High Specific Energy
- Silicon-composite anodes to significantly improve capacity; elastomeric binders and nanostructures to achieve ~200 cycles
- Novel layered oxide cathode with lithium-excess compositions (Li$_x$Ni$_y$Mn$_z$Co$_{1-x-y-z}$O$_2$) to improve capacity
### Key Performance Parameters for Battery Technology Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Customer Need</th>
<th>Performance Parameter</th>
<th>State-of-the-Art</th>
<th>Current Value</th>
<th>Threshold Value</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe, reliable operation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Instrumentation/controls used to prevent unsafe conditions. There is no non-flammable electrolyte in SOA.</td>
<td>Preliminary results indicate a small reduction in performance using safer electrolytes and cathode coatings.</td>
<td>Tolerant to electrical and thermal abuse such as over-temperature, over-charge, reversal, and short circuits with no fire or thermal runaway***</td>
<td>Tolerant to electrical and thermal abuse such as over-temperature, over-charge, reversal, and short circuits with no fire or thermal runaway***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific energy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lander: 150 – 210 Wh/kg 10 cycles</td>
<td>Battery-level energy*</td>
<td>90 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 30°C 83 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C (MER rovers)</td>
<td>160 at C/10 &amp; 30°C (HE) 170 at C/10 &amp; 30°C (UHE) 80 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C (predicted)</td>
<td>135 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”High-Energy”** 150 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”Ultra-High Energy”***</td>
<td>150 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”High-Energy” 220 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”Ultra-High Energy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rover: 160-200 Wh/kg 2000 cycles</td>
<td>Cell-level specific energy</td>
<td>130 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 30°C 118 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C</td>
<td>199 at C/10 &amp; 23°C (HE) 213 at C/10 &amp; 23°C (UHE) 100 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C (predicted)</td>
<td>165 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”High-Energy” 180 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”Ultra-High Energy”</td>
<td>180 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”High-Energy” 260 Wh/kg at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”Ultra-High Energy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVA: 270Wh/kg 100 cycles</td>
<td>Cathode-level specific capacity</td>
<td>180 mAh/g</td>
<td>252 mAh/g at C/10 &amp; 25°C 190 mAh/g at C/10 &amp; 0°C</td>
<td>260 mAh/g at C/10 &amp; 0°C</td>
<td>280 mAh/g at C/10 &amp; 0°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy density</td>
<td>Anode-level specific capacity</td>
<td>280 mAh/g (MCMB)</td>
<td>330 @ C/10 &amp; 0°C (HE) 1200 mAh/g @ C/10 &amp; 0°C for 10 cycles (UHE)</td>
<td>600 mAh/g at C/10 &amp; 0°C ”Ultra-High Energy”</td>
<td>1000 mAh/g at C/10 0°C ”Ultra-High Energy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lander: 311 Wh/l 10 cycles</td>
<td>Battery-level energy density</td>
<td>250 Wh/l</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>270 Wh/l ”High-Energy” 360 Wh/l ”Ultra-High”</td>
<td>320 Wh/l ”High-Energy” 420 Wh/l ”Ultra-High”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rover: TBD EVA: 400 Wh/l</td>
<td>Cell-level energy density</td>
<td>320 Wh/l</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>385 Wh/l ”High-Energy” 460 Wh/l ”Ultra-High”</td>
<td>390 Wh/l ”High-Energy” 530 Wh/l ”Ultra-High”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating environment 0°C to 30°C, Vacuum</td>
<td>Operating Temperature</td>
<td>-20°C to +40°C</td>
<td>0°C to +30°C</td>
<td>0°C to 30°C</td>
<td>0°C to 30°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumes prismatic cell packaging for threshold values. Goal values include lightweight battery packaging.

* Battery values are assumed at 100% DOD, discharged at C/10 to 3.0 volts/cell, and at 0°C operating conditions

** ”High-Energy” = mixed metal oxide cathode with graphite anode

*** Over-temperature up to 110°C; reversal 150% excess discharge @ 1C; pass external and simulated internal short tests; overcharge 100% @ 1C for Goal and 80% @ C/5 for Threshold Value.

Revised 9/20/10
NASA Enabling Technology Development and Demonstration Program
High-Efficiency Space Power Systems – Battery Development Effort

NASA In–House Efforts
• Layered Metal Oxide Cathode Development – JPL
• High Voltage, Flame Retardant Electrolyte Development – JPL
• Si–based Composite Anode Development – GRC
• Safety Assessments – JSC
• Separator Assessments – GRC

NASA Research Announcement – Battery Cell Component Development Efforts
• NEI Corp., “Mixed Metal Composite Oxides for High Energy Li–ion Batteries”
• University of Texas at Austin, “Development of High Capacity Layered Oxide Cathodes”
• Physical Sciences, “Metal Phosphate Coating for Improved Cathode Material Safety”
• Yardney, “Flame–retardant, Electrochemically Stable Electrolyte for Lithium–ion Batteries”
• Georgia Tech Research Corp. & Clemson University, “Design of Resilient Silicon Anodes”
• Giner, “Control of Internal and External Short Circuits in Lithium–Ion Batteries”

Component Scale–up and Cell Development for High Energy and Ultra High Energy Cells
• Saft America
Projections

New materials have promise for greatly increased specific energy and energy density relative to state-of-the-art Li-ion

High energy and Ultra-high energy Li-ion chemistries are under development

New electrode materials with challenging performance goals are required

Metal-air and Li-S

Other challenges
- Cycle life
- Calendar life
- Safety
Spreadsheet-based models project cell and battery level characteristics

Tool for “what if?” analysis

Rate performance can be estimated from laboratory data for electrodes under relevant conditions
### Cathodes

**Goals:**
- Specific capacity of 280 mAh/g at C/10 and 0°C to 3.0 V
- High voltage operation to 4.8 V
- Improved thermal stability over conventional Li-ion cathodes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology Challenges</th>
<th>Current Project Approaches to Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High specific capacity at practical discharge rates</td>
<td>• Vary stoichiometry to determine optimum chemical formulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce particle size</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experiment with different synthesis methods to produce materials with physical properties such that their specific capacity is retained on production scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low volume per unit mass</td>
<td>• Vary cathode synthesis method to optimize properties that can:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improve energy density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improve ability to cast cathode powders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Facilitate incorporation of oxide coatings, which have the potential to increase rate capability and reduce capacity fade to extend cycle life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize 1\textsuperscript{st} cycle irreversible capacity loss and irreversible oxygen loss</td>
<td>• Surface modification via coatings to improve cathode-electrolyte interfacial properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improves capacity retention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduces capacity fade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Anodes

- **Goal:** 1000 mAh/g at C/10 (10 hour discharge rate) and 0°C
  - Over 3 times the capacity of SOA Li-ion anodes
  - Threshold value = 600 mAh/g at C/10 and 0°C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology Challenges</th>
<th>Current Approaches to Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimize volume expansion during cycling</td>
<td>•Pursuing various approaches to optimize the anode structure to accommodate volume expansion of the silicon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•Nano-structured Si composite absorbs strain, resists active particle isolation on cycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•Incorporation of elastic binders in Si – graphite and Si-C matrices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•Improvement of mechanical integrity by fabricating structure to allow for elastic deformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimize irreversible capacity loss</td>
<td>•Protection of active sites with functional binder additives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•Pre-lithiation approaches are possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•Nano-structured Si resists fracture and surface renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 cycles</td>
<td>Loss of contact with active particles reduces cycle life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Addressing volume changes and improvement of mechanical integrity will improve cycle life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Electrolytes

- **Goal:** Develop flame-retardant and/or non-flammable electrolytes that are stable up to 5V

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology Challenges</th>
<th>Current approaches to address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electrolyte that is stable up to 5V</td>
<td>Experiment with different electrolyte formulations and additives with potential to improve high voltage stability. Study interactions at both electrodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-flammable or flame retardant electrolyte</td>
<td>Develop electrolytes containing additives with known flame retardant properties. Perform flame retardance assessments on developments that exhibit suitable electrochemical performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High voltage stable, non-flammable or flame retardant electrolyte (combination of both properties in one electrolyte system)</td>
<td>Combine flame retardant additives with electrolyte formulations with high voltage stability. Operate systems to high voltages and investigate impacts on rate capability, specific energy, energy density and life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrolytes possessing the requisite physical properties to ensure good rate capacity (adequate conductivity) and electrolyte-wetting.</td>
<td>Develop electrolytes that are not excessively viscous to ensure that the ionic conductivity is sufficiently high over the desired temperature range and the electrolyte-wetting is adequate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Safety

- **Goal**: Cells that are tolerant to electrical and thermal abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology challenges</th>
<th>Approaches to address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Safe electrodes       | • Develop materials to improve tolerance to an electrical abuse condition  
                        • Approach 1: Develop a high-voltage stable (phosphate) coating on cathode particles to increase the safe operating voltage of the cell and reduce the thermal dissipation by the use of a high-voltage stable coating material (cobalt phosphate).  
                        • Approach 2: Develop a composite thermal switch to shutdown cell reactions safely using coatings on the current collector substrates |
| Safe electrolyte      | • Development of advanced high voltage, non-flammable/flame-retardant electrolytes (via electrolyte task) |
Separators

• **Goals:**
  – Identification of Li-ion cell separator materials that are compatible with the ETDP chemistry and provide an increased level of safety over SOA Li-ion cell separators
  – Current efforts are focused on assessment of developmental (i.e., company IRAD materials) and commercial separator materials

• **Technology Challenges:**
  – No significant technology challenges
  – Design optimization for high porosity and low ionic resistance to facilitate ionic conductivity while maintaining mechanical strength
  – Must “shutdown” cell reactions below 130°C without shrinking or losing mechanical integrity

• **Significant results to date:**
  – Baseline separator identified (Tonen E20) and evaluated
    • Physical, thermal, electrical and mechanical properties measured and documented
  – Several promising commercial and IRAD materials identified and evaluated. Procured, obtained, or negotiating for additional samples to evaluate for our purposes
    • Physical Sciences, Inc.
    • Exxon Mobil
    • Kynar PVDF resins
    • Porous Power Technologies Symmetrix separators
    • Tonen polyethylene (PE)
    • Celgard polypropelene (PP)
    • Celgard PP/PE/PP trilayer
    • Saft America
RPC Electrochemistry Branch
Facilities and Capabilities
Facilities:
- Development Laboratories – SOA equipment for materials and component development, and analytical and electrochemical characterization
- Dry room with 1% relative humidity for handling moisture sensitive materials used in lithium based batteries
- State-of-the-art battery cycling facilities with >100 independent test channels, 1–200 Ahr, 1–50 V
- Environmental chambers to evaluate performance as a function of temperature (−75 °C to +200 °C)
- Accelerating Rate Calorimeter

Capabilities
- Fundamental electrochemical research – component development and characterization with state-of-the-art analytical test capability
- Cell/Battery Design
- Cell/Battery Performance and Life Testing
- Cell/Battery Safety Testing
- Battery Performance Modeling
- Environmental Testing
Electrochemistry Branch
Fuel Cells and Regenerative Fuel Cells

Capabilities
• Fundamental electrochemical research – component development and characterization with state-of-the-art analytical test capability
• Design and development of fuel cell and regenerative fuel cell systems, including ancillary components and reactant storage systems
• Fuel Cell System Modeling
• Fuel Cell System Performance and Life Testing and Evaluation

Fuel Cell Facilities
• Fuel Cell Development Laboratories with SOA equipment for materials and component development, and analytical and electrochemical characterization capabilities
• Fuel Cell Testing Laboratory large-scale (up to 25kW) fuel cell and regenerative system evaluation and life testing
• Regenerative Fuel Cell Test Facility component and system design evaluation
Electrochemistry Branch
Facilities

Imaging and Material Analysis Laboratory –
Surface and Thermal Analysis Capability
- Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer
- Scanning Probe Microscope
- Scanning Electron Microscope Energy Dispersive Spectrometer
- Stereomicroscope
- BET Surface Area Analyzer

Thermal and Material Analysis Laboratory
Molecular analysis, particle size distribution, thermal property analysis
- Differential Scanning Calorimeter
- Fourier Transform IR Spectrometer
- Thermogravimetric Analyzer (TGA)
- Raman Spectrometer
- Particle Size Analyzer
Concluding Remarks

- Electrochemical systems are critical to the success of Exploration, Science and Space Operations missions
- NASA Glenn has a long, successful heritage with batteries and fuel cells for aerospace applications
- GRC Battery capabilities and expertise span basic research through flight hardware development and implementation
- There is a great deal of synergy between energy storage system needs for aerospace and terrestrial applications