Status of the Space-Rated Lithium-Ion Battery Advanced Development Project in Support of the Exploration Vision

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The NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC), along with the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Johnson Space Center (JSC), Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), and industry partners, is leading a space-rated lithium-ion advanced development battery effort to support the vision for Exploration. This effort addresses the lithium-ion battery portion of the Energy Storage Project under the Exploration Technology Development Program. Key discussions focus on the lithium-ion cell component development activities, a common lithium-ion battery module, test and demonstration of charge/discharge cycle life performance and safety characterization. A review of the space-rated lithium-ion battery project will be presented highlighting the technical accomplishments during the past year.
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in Support of the Exploration Vision

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Energy Storage Project

- Exploration Technology Development Program ETDP
  - Focused technology development program that address critical technology areas required to implement the Vision for Exploration
- Energy Storage Project – Addresses Batteries and Fuel Cells
- Applications
  - Orion (Crew Exploration Vehicle, CEV)
  - Ares I (Crew Launch Vehicle, CLV) Upper Stage
  - Ares V (Cargo Launch Vehicle, CaLV)
  - Lunar Precursor and Robotic Program (LPRP)
  - Lunar Surface Access Module (LSAM)
  - Earth Departure Stage (EDS)
  - Un-pressurized Rovers and Habitats
  - EVA Suit 2
- Technology development to achieve TRL 6 - phased to meet technology insertion dates
## Energy Storage Technology Insertion for Exploration Missions

<table>
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<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Surface Sys.</td>
<td>FY13 Q2</td>
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Energy Storage Project Overview

- NASA/Industry/Academia Partnership
  - NASA Centers - GRC – Lead, JPL, JSC, MSFC, GSFC
  - Industry – T/J Technology
  - Grants - University of Texas, Austin, USC, University of Akron, CalTech
  - SBIRs – Giner, Inc; Yardney Technical Products, Inc; T/J Technology, Santa Fe Science and Technology, Inc

- Exploration Mission Energy Storage Requirements and Trade Studies
Exploration Mission Energy Storage Requirements and Trade Studies

• Analysis and assessment of mission power profiles
  – Identify and define energy storage requirements
  – Define where specific fuel cell & battery technologies apply
• Properly size and design the energy storage system to meet those requirements.
• Identify gaps between current performance capabilities and the mission requirements
Exploration Battery Objectives

- Develop a common battery module to serve as the building block for multiple Exploration missions
  - Affordability
  - Flexibility
  - Effectiveness
  - Reusability
  - Modularity

- Focus technology development efforts to address technology gaps to meet Exploration specific challenges
  - Human-rated safety
  - Wide operating range
  - Light-weight, low-volume
Exploration Battery Development Approach

• Trade Studies
• Parallel Development Efforts
  – Cell level technology development
  – Battery module development
  – Test and demonstration
  – Multi-mission support
Lithium-Ion Cell Design

Rechargeable Lithium-ion Cell

- Configuration: Prismatic, cylindrical or wound-prismatic
- Pouch cells for short-life applications and polymer electrolyte cells

Li intercalation (solid-state insertion) reactions at both electrodes
- Lithium ion moves from one electrode to the other through electrolyte
  - Organic liquid, polymer or inorganic solid-state electrolyte
- Lithium metal-free
ETDP Energy Storage Project - Lithium-ion Battery Development Task

Exploration Energy Storage Requirements
Technology Gap Assessments
Trade Studies

Prototype Cell Development

Battery Module Development

NASA Standard Lithium-ion Battery Module
The NASA Standard Common Building Block for Electrochemical Energy Storage and Multi-Mission Scenarios

Human-Rated Safety & Reliability
Scalable Voltage and Capacity Levels
Commonality & Interchangeability
Reduced Life Cycle & Integration Costs
Optimal Energy Storage System Packaging

Safety Assessments and Characterization

Test and Demonstration

Charge Control Methodologies

External Technology Leverage
NASA SBIR & IPP Programs
DOE, DoD, Academia

Cell Component Development & Evaluations

Optimal Cell Chemistry

Optimal Cell Design

Charge Control Methodologies

Energy Storage Technology Infusion into Exploration Missions

The NASA Team – Providing High Potential to Lead the Charge for Exploration!
Lithium-Ion Cell Component Development Task

• Electrolytes - Liquid electrolytes, polymer electrolytes
  – Widen operating temperature range
  – Non-flammable solvents to enhance system safety
  – Improved specific energy

• Cathode
  – Improve specific capacity and safety
    • Layered lithiated MnNiCo oxide
    • Lithium iron phosphate

• Anode
  – Silicon composite
  – Carbon:carbon substrate

• Separator
  – Shut-down separator
Liquid Electrolyte Development

- Cells containing 1.0 M LiPF₆ in EC+EMC+X (20:60:20 v/v %) (where X = 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl butyrate or ethyl trifluoroacetate) deliver superior performance at low temperature compared to previously evaluated electrolytes.

- Future focus is directed to improving the high temperature resilience of the electrolytes and their safety characteristics (i.e., reducing their flammability).
Liquid Electrolyte Nomenclature

**EC and PC**
(Film-forming)

- Ethylene carbonate (EC)
- Propylene carbonate (PC)

**Carbonate co-solvents**

- Dimethyl carbonate (DMC)
- Ethyl methyl carbonate (EMC)
- Diethyl carbonate (DEC)

**Ester co-solvents**

- 2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl butyrate (TFEB)
- 2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl acetate (TFEA)
- Ethyl trifluoroacetate (ETFA)

**Additives/ New Salts**

- Vinylene carbonate (VC)
- 4-Vinyl-1,3-dioxolane-2-one (or vinyl ethylene carbonate)
- Lithium bis(oxalato)borate (or LiBOB)
Cathode Development

![Gen I vs. SOA Cathode Material](image)

- 240 mAh/g demonstrated at low rate, up to 210 mAh/g at 5-hour rate (C/5)

**Benefits**
- Over 50% improvement in the specific energy over the state-of-art materials
- ~19% mass savings at the battery level
- Thermal stability also improves, which is expected to contribute enhanced cell safety
Separator Development

Free-standing membrane

Coated on Electrode

Cells with two different separator compositions that shut down at two different temperatures
Lithium Iron Phosphate: Inherently Safe Chemistry

Accelerated rate calorimetry test

- Thermal runaway on oxide based Li Ion
- No Thermal Runaway, A123Systems M1
Lithium-Ion Cell Component Development

• Component Demonstration - Cell Fabrication and Evaluation
  – Identify most promising component developments
  – Scale-up materials production
  – Fabricate small production lots to evaluate performance
    • Acceptance, Characterization, Abuse, Life cycle
  – Destructive Physical Analysis to investigate failure modes
    • Provide recommendations for cell design improvements for next cell generation

• Identify preferred cell design features for specific Exploration missions
Lithium-Ion Battery Module Activities

• Conduct lower-level trade studies to determine battery commonality among Exploration Missions
  – Drivers include voltage, ampere-hour capacity, cycle life, thermal considerations, structural loads, and commonality

• Develop common battery module design that meets performance requirements
  – Power, thermal, and data interfaces are controlled
  – Module can accept lithium-ion cells from multiple vendors
  – Component formulations can be customized to meet specific performance goals

• Fabricate and qualify battery module
  – Integrate charge control circuitry and software with the module
  – Conduct acceptance level testing
  – Perform environmental qualification testing to attain TRL 6
Li-Ion Test and Demonstration

- Evaluate SOA technology in Exploration Specific Operational Profiles
  - Develop database to define performance capabilities
  - Develop models to aid in performance predictions
  - Evaluate battery safety and reliability

- Evaluate cell component advances developed as part of this project

- Define and perform acceptance and qualification testing for Li-ion battery module
Cycle Life Verification Testing

• **Background**: This subtask originated from the Lithium-ion Cell Test Verification Program under the former NASA Aerospace Battery Program.

• **Objectives**:
  
  – Develop a statistical model to predict the performance and cycle life of Li-ion batteries operating at a specified set of mission conditions
  
  – Assess performance characteristics and lifetime of lithium-ion cells
  
  – Characterize products from multiple vendors over a range of temperatures, end-of-charge-voltages, and depth-of-discharges
Li-Ion Multi-Mission Support

• Damage Control Model for Li-ion Batteries
  – Interactions between temperature, charge voltage, depth-of-discharge
  – Determine instantaneous damage from life cycle data
  – Establish optimal charge profile

• NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop
  – Jointly sponsor annual workshop addressing current battery issues and developments
  – Hosted by Marshall Space Flight Center

• Rover Demonstration planned for late FY07
Battery Summary Remarks

- **Energy Storage Battery Development Effort**
  - Directed at development of a common battery module
    - Common chemistry, handling and operational procedures
    - Interchangeable modules
  - Allows introduction of technology advances that address gaps between SOA and Exploration specific mission requirements
    - Leverages numerous existing efforts
    - Addresses needs of human-rated systems
- **Targeted developments for insertion into Constellation and Exploration missions**