End User Acceptance – Requirements or Specifications, Certification, Testing

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April 11, 2013
NTSB Li-ion Battery Forum
NASA Human-Rated Li-ion Battery Applications

• Current: Flying Li-ion since 1999
  • Government furnished equipment ~ 20 types (< 20V/10 Ah)
  • Experiments/Payloads (55 to 60 types) up to 270 V (high energy, high power, capacity 2 to 20 Ah)
  • Crew suit (main power) 20 V/40 Ah
  • Space vehicles and Space Launch Systems
    – HTV (32 V/174 and 100 Ah), SpaceX (28 V/200 Ah and 28 V/16.5 Ah)

• Future (and in work):
  – ISS Main Power (120 V/134 Ah)
  – Robonaut (106 V/60 Ah)
  – New Tools (18 V to 28 V/8 Ah)
  – New Vehicles (Orion (120 V/30 Ah, Orbital, 28 V/190 Ah, Boeing, SNC, Blue Origin)
  – Surface mobility systems (270 V/60 Ah high power)
  – Lunar Lander Platforms (varying); Habitats (≥ 28 V)

• Uniqueness:
  – Space, confined volume and human-rated with zero tolerance to fire
  – pressurized and unpressurized environments

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Non Human-rated NASA Li-ion Battery Applications

Deep Space Missions: First mission in 2002) ( Maj. 20 to 70 Ah; one at 120 Ah)

Current:
- Mars Exploration Rover (Spirit and Opportunity)
- Mars Phoenix Lander
- Juno (Jupiter Obiter)
- Kepler
- NuStar
- GRAIL
- Aquarius
- Mars Science Laboratory
- SMAP (On-going) and

Future:
- Europa Orbiter
- Mars 2020 Rover
- Mars Insight (Lander)

Satellite Applications: First mission in 2006 (6 Ah to 134 Ah)

Current:
- Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO)
- Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)
- Van Allen Probes (formerly RBSP Radiation Belt Storm Probes)
- Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX)
- ST-5 (mission completed)

Future:
- Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) spacecraft
- Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) spacecrafts
- Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN)
- DSCOVR (Triana) spacecraft
- James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)
- Joint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1)
- Solar Probe Plus
- Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite -2 (ICESAT-2)
- GeoStationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-R)
Current State for Safety of Li-ion Batteries

Although the chemistry is one that can provide very high energy density for rechargeable systems (significant weight advantage for NASA), it is not the safest due to the nature of the associated catastrophic failures such as

- electrolyte leakage (toxicity hazard in crewed environments),
- fire and
- thermal runaway

Typical causes for catastrophic failures encountered in Li-ion cells/batteries are

- Overcharge/overvoltage
- External shorts
- Repeated overdischarge; overdischarge with subsequent charge
- High thermal environments
- Internal Shorts

NASA human-rated safety requirement is two-fault tolerance to catastrophic failures or design for minimum risk in cases where designing fault tolerance is impossible

- Two-fault tolerance – three levels of control to all credible failures

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Failure Modes and Controls or Mitigation Measures for Li-ion Batteries

Overcharge
Min. 3 controls
Verified by test
*Manuf. spec.

Repeated
Overdischarge/
overdischarge
followed by charge
Min. 3 controls
verified by test
*Manuf. Spec.

External Shorts
High and Low
Impedance
Controls and Design
for Minimum Risk
Verified by test;
*heat dissipation

Internal Short
Design for Minimum
Risk
Stringent testing and
screening of flight cells;
manuf. Facility audits
•Impeccable cell
quality, cell uniformity
•Backup Slide 20

High temperatures/High
Thermal Environments
*Thermal analysis leading
to appropriate thermal
sensing; Verified by test
Design qualified to extreme
temps
*Manuf. Spec.

Stringent Monitoring and Control of
*Cell and battery voltage
*Battery current
*Temperature

Cell Balancing designed into a
majority of applications
Concerns with Scaling and Testing- Cell to Module to Battery level

- NASA Centers have carried out extensive testing on li-ion batteries in the past 15 years –for human and non-human rated missions

- NASA Centers have learned that cell level controls do not necessarily translate to module or battery level controls (Backup slides 15 and 16)

- NASA Centers have learned that all safety controls need to be verified by testing at the appropriate level and in the relevant environment
  - Hazards such as overcharge and external short have opposite outcomes in pressurized versus non-pressurized environments due to the difference in heat dissipation
Concerns with Scaling and Testing- Cell to Module to Battery level

• Li-ion battery designs should have high fidelity thermal analysis to show that the battery design is safe under worst case environments (temperatures and pressures) and under all nominal and off-nominal conditions.
  – Results of thermal analysis should provide guidance on safe designs with very good heat dissipation paths.
  – Good thermal design increases safety as well as extends the life of the battery

• Li-ion battery management electronics should be robust
  – strike a balance in monitoring and control;
  – extensive testing of control electronics should be carried out on ground
  – For human-rated safety critical applications insight into telemetry should be appropriate for trouble-shooting off-nominal events.
Evolution of requirements occurs with rigorous testing (Backup Slide 17)

**Human-rated:**

Crewed Space Vehicle Battery Safety Requirements, JSC 20793

- Battery Processing, JWI 8705.3 and Battery Evaluation Forms (required for all batteries from button cells to large li-ion)

* NASA NESC RP-08-75 “Database and Guidelines Document Developed for Lithium-ion Battery”

**Non-Human Rated:**

- Have tailored requirements based on programs/projects (as a minimum, need to meet Range safety and Launch readiness reviews and AFSPCMAN 91-710);
- safety requirements for **ground processing, integration and launch** are very similar to **human-rated li-ion battery systems**;
- **on-orbit safety maybe reduced to one-fault tolerance in many cases.**

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Summary

- NASA follows top level safety requirement of two-failure tolerance (three levels of controls or design for minimum risk) to all catastrophic hazards in the design of safe li-ion batteries for space use
- Rigorous development testing at appropriate levels to credible off-nominal conditions and review of test data
- Implement robust design controls based on test results and test again to confirm safety at the appropriate levels
- Stringent testing of all (100%) flight batteries (from button cells to large batteries)
Back Up
Li-ion Battery Project And Safety Review Life Cycle

• Systems Requirements Review (SRR)
  – Project or Product Technical Requirements Specification (PTRS)
    • Outlines battery specifications, mission requirements for performance and safety, interfaces (mechanical, electrical, data, pressure, etc.) and unique requirements such as pressure variations, thermal extremes, vibration, shock, impact, water proofing, humidity, salt fog, etc.

• Preliminary Design Review (PDR)
  – Cell and Battery Design chosen at this point) (Phase 0/1 Safety Review)

• Critical Design Review (CDR)
  – Confirmed cell and battery design (Phase II Safety Review)

• Manufacturing readiness review (MRR)
  – Before start of cell manufacturing and/or battery manufacturing

• Flight Readiness Review (FRR)
  – Includes approved safety data packages (Phase III safety review and final approval)
Sample Li-ion Battery Qualification Tests

- Physical and Electrochemical Characterization (mass, dimensions, OCV, capacity, dc resistance/ac impedance,
- Charge/discharge cycles (typically with mission profile) at temperature extremes (+/- 20 deg F of mission temperature range)
- Vibration to qualification levels (15 mins in each axis)

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- Charge/discharge cycles
- Vacuum leak Check (6 h exposure; 0.1 psi for pressurized; 10^{-5} Torr for those used in vacuum environments)
- Charge/discharge cycles

Pass/fail criteria is stringent with OCV (< 0.1 % change); capacity checks (1 to 5% depending on battery size) and mass checks (0.1 to 1% change depending on battery mass)

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Sample Li-ion Flight Battery Acceptance Tests

Cell Acceptance: As a minimum, physical and electrochemical characterization; 6 sigma range accepted; if more than 3% of lot fails, the entire lot is rejected

Cell Matching: As a minimum, from accepted cells, the cells are matched for modules (banks and strings) based on the following: OCV (0.1 % variance), capacity (less than 2%), dc resistance (10% variance)

Battery Flight Acceptance Testing:
- Physical and Electrochemical Characterization (mass, dimensions, OCV, capacity, dc resistance/ac impedance,
- Vibration to levels higher than workmanship (1 min per axis)
  
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- Charge/discharge cycles
- Vacuum leak Check (6 h exposure; 0.1 psi for pressurized; 10-5 Torr for those used in vacuum environments); thermal vacuum exposure tests for batteries to be used in unpressurized volume
- Charge/discharge cycles

Pass/fail criteria is stringent with OCV (< 0.1 % change); capacity checks (1 to 5% depending on battery size) and mass checks (0.1 to 1% change depending on battery mass)

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Examples of Cell Protective Devices

- Lithium-ion cells, whether cylindrical, prismatic, etc. irrespective of size, have different forms of internal protective devices
  - PTC
  - CID
  - Tab/lead meltdown (fusible link type)
  - Bimetallic disconnects
  - etc.

- External protective devices used in lithium-ion battery designs are
  - Diodes
  - PTC/polyswitch/contactors
  - Thermal fuses (hard blow or resettable)
  - Circuit boards with specialized wire traces
  - etc.

Although cell level protective devices protect cells and low voltage /low capacity batteries (less than 12 V and 60 Wh), extensive testing at NASA-JSC has shown that cell level protective devices do not always protect when the cells are used in batteries of high voltage and high capacity.

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Examples Showing Cell Limitations in Multicell Configuration

48V 6A Overcharge on 4P Battery

Photos show the limitations of 18650 size cells; These cells are only test vehicles; protective devices, Internal and external to the cells, irrespective of cell size, should be fully characterized at all appropriate levels if used within the first three levels of safety control.

12V 6A Overcharge on 4P Battery

External Short on 8S5P Matrix Pack

Overcharge Test on a 14-Cell String

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Note: The Pyrex dish shattered due to thermal stress minutes after the cell events
Studies In the Area of Lithium-ion Technology

• Funding for surveillance task (more than 2 decades)
  – Previously Shuttle
  – Currently International Space Station, NASA Engineering Safety Committee (NESC), Office of Chief Technologist (OCT), Seed Funds from NASA HQ and Center Level Discretionary funds

• Types of Test Programs
  – State-of-the-art cell technology (commercial cells of increasing capacities, high energy and power density, pouch type, etc.) – performance and safety characterization
  – General issues faced by li-ion technology – limitations of cell internal protective devices, safety characteristics under different environmental conditions, overdischarge – cell mismatch study, matrix design performance and safety characterization, internal short test method standardization, implantable on-demand internal short circuit device
  – Technology improvements – safer electrolytes, electrode improvements – tested in ≥ 2 Ah to confirm safety

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Sample Testing and Acceptance For COTS Li-ion Batteries

New Battery

Engineering / Certification Test
Qualification Test of Batteries
Flight Acceptance Test of Batteries

Cell and Battery Test
Environment Test

Performance
Abuse

Lot Testing

Subsequently procured Lot / Batch of Batteries

Lot Sample Test
Flight Acceptance Test

Critical engineering /qualification tests on batteries and cells
Sample Testing and Acceptance Process for NASA/Custom Designed Li-ion Batteries

1. Test
2. Design
3. Retest

- Cell Selection
  - Test – functional, relevant environment, safety
    - Battery Design and Assembly
      - Battery Engineering/Certification Test (cell, module and battery level)
        - Battery Qualification Test (flight environment with margin)
          - Flight Acceptance Test (includes cell, module and battery tests)
Sample of Strong Correlation between soft short test failures and cell defects

Measure OCV over 14 days after deep discharge within manufacturer’s specifications

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