

Editorial Announcement

Discussions on the Lead/Acid Battery

Paradoxically, the lead/acid battery has enjoyed over a century of commercial success, although the chemical, electrochemical, and physical characteristics of its preparation and operation continue to bewilder and fascinate the enquiring research scientist and technologist alike.

The fact that the lead/acid system, despite its physicochemical complexity, works so well under widely diverse conditions has been both its strength and its weakness. The ease with which the lead/acid battery outpaced its competitors, to gain and to maintain the lion's share of the rechargeable battery market, encouraged the view that searching for a complete understanding of its chemistry was an academic challenge but not a commercial necessity. Thus an industry folklore developed within which procedures and beliefs on battery production and performance have been steadfastly handed down from one generation to another. Some of this doctrine has been dispelled by detailed studies in recent years, but many myths still persist — perhaps to the detriment of the battery, perhaps not.

Given the increasing demand for better performance, the emergence of new markets, and the failure of alternative battery systems to achieve commercial viability, the time has come to “clear the ground” on the scientific and empirical knowledge accrued to date on the lead/acid battery.

The Editors have decided that this Journal should assist in the development of a scientific base for the production and performance of the lead/acid battery. Accordingly, a new section has been created that is dedicated exclusively to all aspects of lead/acid science. Contributions are therefore invited and must take the form of discussion papers; brevity is encouraged. In the interests of achieving free and open debate, the papers will be subjected only to the necessary editorial procedures and will not be refereed. Papers will be limited to ten printed pages. All contributions should be directed to the Asia-Pacific Editor, Dr D. A. J. Rand.

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