

## Improving Energy Efficiency using Pure-Lead Battery Technology



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### Definition of the Problem (or...What you already know)

- Data center operating costs are a significant portion of their total cost of ownership (TCO)
- Cooling/Chilling costs are major contributor to power usage
  - Cooling = 30% (varies by locale and season) (1)



**Total Operating Costs** 



#### **Limitations on Higher Temperature**

- Potential cost savings
  - 1 degree = 4-5% savings in energy costs (2)
- Until now, conventional batteries would not tolerate ambient temperatures above 77 degrees F
- Battery life reduced ½ for every 10 degrees C
- Battery warranties reduced or voided at high temps

#### **Example Battery Warranty Statements**

Normal battery float/cycle life may be expected only when the battery is operated under the aforementioned temperature conditions. If operation of the battery is not within these parameters, the <u>battery warranty shall be null</u> and void.

The <u>Warranty Period will be reduced 50%</u> for every 8 degrees Centigrade increase in operating temperature above 25°C (base temperature).

BATTERY OPERATING TEMPERATURES Annual average battery temperature 77°F(25°C) Cell temperature not to exceed for more than 30 days per year 89°F(32°C)



#### **UPS Market Growth**

#### North American UPS Battery Sales – Pure-Lead is part of growth of UPS VRLA market



Source: Battery Council International (BCI)

C&D Technologies **Proprietary Information** 



#### **Lead Acid Battery Basics**













#### **Lead Acid Plates**

 Almost all have a solid metallic grid to carry the current ...

# ...filled with a lead oxide paste to create the current





#### **Significance of Pure Lead Raw Materials**

- 'Pure-Lead' means using virgin, or freshly mined lead as the raw material for internal components
- Both positive and negative plates are essentially all lead
  - Grids
  - Active material plate paste
- Making the plates out of pure lead changes how they age



#### **How Lead Acid Batteries Fail**

- **Positive Grid Corrosion = major mode of failure**
- Grid corrosion is well understood, easy to control and predictable
- Is mainly a function of:
  - Grid alloy
  - Specific gravity of electrolyte
  - Temperature
  - Float voltage







#### **Pure Lead Grid Advantages**

- Pure lead reduces grid corrosion
  - Grain boundaries
  - Corrosion rate









PbO<sub>2</sub>/PbSO<sub>4</sub><sup>--</sup>

**Corrosion layer** 

#### **Active Material Paste**

BUT... This Grid Corrosion is only ½ the Story: Improvement in the grid will not improve how the active material paste ages

- For full benefits, the entire plate must be made from pure lead
  - The oxide used in the paste must be made from pure (virgin) lead
  - The oxide manufacturing step must be tightly controlled
    - Particle size distribution is critical
    - Oxide density is key metric



#### **Active Material Paste**

- Factory paste processing methods must be optimized for pure lead raw materials
  - Paste mixing time and temperatures
  - Plate pasting method
  - Plate curing
    - Forms the basic crystal structure defines cycle life and aging characteristics
  - Formation process defines how the batteries perform on a discharge



#### **Effect of Pure Lead on paste**





# Paste is 40-60% porous – the underlying crystal structure determines the life of the battery



#### **Cell Failures from Poor Plate Processing**

#### Poor paste processing can cause early failures



Sediment and plate deconstruction to cause early cell failure

#### **Dramatic Pure Lead Improvements**





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#### **Summary of Pure Lead benefits**

#### **Desired Benefits**

- Reduced grid corrosion
- Reduced side reactions
- Reduced internal heat
- Slower aging mechanisms
- Higher tolerance to heat

- Lasts 2X longer in normal operation
- Lasts longer in high temperature
- 2X longer shelf life



#### What this means to Data Centers

- Batteries last longer
  - Full 5 year warranty at 77 F (12 volt batteries)
- Battery rooms can be operated at higher temperatures
  Full 3 years at 90 F
- Cost savings using 'Pure'Lead' lead-acid
  - One battery replacement in 10 yr datacenter lifecycle
  - Significant cooling savings for battery room

**'Pure-Lead' lead-acid can provide significant energy and/or battery cost savings to data centers** 



#### **Questions?**



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