

Experts Are Invited to Meetings in San Diego, California, and Washington, DC to Discuss Safety Testing of Batteries

Experts from around the world are invited to join a Working Group to discuss the state-of-the-art of abusive (safety) testing of batteries and capacitors. The meetings are being organized by the Annex on Electrochemistry of the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Implementing Agreement on Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (IA-HEV). Under the IA-HEV, the Annex on Electrochemistry addresses all of the issues related to Electrochemistry and Electrochemical Energy Storage Systems, from basic chemistry to the testing of systems. There is no fee to participate in this Annex or its Working Groups.

The Working Group will hold two meetings, one in January, the second in May 2006. After the first meeting, participants will be asked to collect data from their home organizations in response to questions raised in the meeting. The Working Group will disband after the second meeting. The first meeting is planned for January 30-31, 2006 in San Diego, California the same week as SAE International's Hybrid Vehicle Technologies 2006 Symposium which will be held on February 1-3. Information about the SAE Symposium may be found on the SAE's web site (www.SAE.org, follow links to the Hybrid Vehicle Symposium). The two meetings will be separate; attendance at the SAE Symposium is an option, not a requirement. The second meeting is planned for the third week of May in the Washington, DC, area. This date will allow Working Group members to attend the Advanced Automotive Battery and Ultracapacitor Conference being held in Baltimore, Maryland (www.advancedautobat.com). (Baltimore is about 50 km from Washington.) As with the January arrangements, the Working Group meeting will be independent of the AABC.

The meetings will be designed to foster open discussion and the exchange of information in a structured format. Some of the participants will give prepared talks on their testing work, but such presentations are not required. After the meetings, a summary of what was said will be prepared. To encourage candid discussions, comments recorded in the notes will not be attributed to an individual or organization.

Participation in the Working Group will offer two types of benefits, one immediate and one later, in the form of published documentation. The meetings will allow the discussion of testing procedures and results in "real time." Only occasionally do individuals involved in abusive safety testing have the opportunity to discuss and debate the best approach to a particular test with experts from multiple organizations. The Working Group meetings will provide such an opportunity.

After the second working group meeting, the Annex's Operating Agent (or organizer) will prepare a collection of published test procedures from participating organizations accompanied by notes capturing the ideas presented during the discussions. This collection of information will be available to all participants for use in their home organizations. The Working Group will collect and exchange information; the Working Group will not attempt to prepare a single testing standard. Participation in the Working Group will help an individual decide what test procedures are best for his/her organization by providing data on what is being done by others.

Individuals interested in participating in this Working Group should notify the Operating Agent by Email of their interest as soon as possible and no later than **January 9, 2006**. Please briefly describe your interests and experience. Participants in the Group will be chosen to optimize the range of attendees in terms of experience, employer, and country. Preference will be given to individuals from nations who are members of the IA-HEV, but the Operating Agent expects to be able to accommodate individuals from other countries. The Operating Agent plans to notify you of your acceptance into the Working Group and confirm arrangements within 24 hours.

The Operating Agent is

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Hotel and Other Logistical Issues

Site: Our meeting will be at the **Hampton Inn – San Diego Downtown/Airport** located at 1531 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101; telephone + 1-619-233-8408; FAX +1-619-233-8418. This is **NOT** the hotel being used for the SAE Symposium. The SAE's hotel is about one block away.

Room Booking Details: A block of rooms has been reserved at the rate of \$129 + taxes per night. This rate is for one or two persons. **Reservations should be made as soon as possible**, directly with the hotel by phone or FAX. Sometimes when the hotel is busy, they will transfer a caller to a central reservation office. Do not let them transfer you. To get our rate, you must make your reservation directly with the hotel. **The block of rooms will be released on January 13, 2006.** After that date, reservations will be on a space-available basis. The hotel expects to be sold out by the time of our meeting. Our rooms are under the name **Battery Testing Workshop**. A credit card number will be required when you make your reservation to hold your room. If your plans change, you must cancel at least 72 hours before arrival to avoid a charge. (If time zone differences make it difficult for you to make a reservation by phone, you may send your information to me and I will forward it to the hotel. They will require your name, address, credit card type (Visa, etc.), credit card number, credit card expiration date, and nights you wish to reserve.) The hotel has offered to try to extend our room rate before and after the dates of our block. If you wish to book an extended stay, book early; if there is any question about getting the quoted rate, ask the clerk to check with Mr. John Saunders. A light breakfast is included at no additional charge. The hotel offers a free shuttle van to and from the airport. To use the van, call the hotel after you have your luggage.

Meeting Schedule: Informal registration will be on Monday from 12:00 to 13:00. We will meet from 13:00 to about 17:50. On Tuesday, we will meet all day.

Topics to Be Discussed:

- Published test protocols and policies
- Details of specific abusive tests with a focus on how they are conducted
- Observed results of tests on single cells
- Observed results on tests of collections of cells with a focus on cascading events
- Effects of packaging and container design on system results

Note on the SAE Symposium: I have had conversations with the organizers of the SAE Symposium. They have limited space in their meeting room and a limited number of hotel rooms at their hotel. They expect to fill all available spaces before their meeting starts. If you are interested in attending this Symposium, it would be wise to register promptly.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the relationship between the two meetings (January and May) of the Testing Working Group?

The meetings are linked. In order to participate in the full range of discussions, individuals are urged to attend both meetings.

2. Must one attend both meetings of the Group?

No. It is recognized that some individuals who attend the first meeting will experience a change in their situation that prevents their attendance at the second meeting. Individuals who wish to attend only the second meeting will be accommodated on a space-available basis.

3. What preparation is required prior to the first meeting?

Attendees will be invited to bring previously prepared presentations and publications to share with the Group. The only other requirement is that attendees bring their general knowledge and experience and be willing to participate in discussions.

4. Who do the attendees represent?

Attendees will be viewed as speaking only for themselves. No statement will be attributed to an organization, except when the speaker chooses to link a statement to official policy; such as, "The Navy's policy on Lithium Battery Safety is"

5. Who may attend?

Individuals interested in attending must be approved by the Operating Agent. Approval is necessary to insure that the Group size remains appropriate and that the Group members have the necessary knowledge and experience. Expected attendees will include individuals from government agencies, national laboratories, universities, and industry. Industrial attendees will come from both the battery manufacturing and using communities. Attendees will be from several countries.