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FB Deploys UltraBattery Technology to NAFTA through East Penn

Furukawa Battery has entered into an exclusive UltraBattery Technology Transfer agreement with East Penn Manufacturing Co., Inc., a U.S. battery manufacturing company. The UltraBattery, which will be manufactured by East Penn in NAFTA, combines an enhanced power negative electrode in a lead-acid battery.

The new technology enhances the ability of the battery to accept and deliver high levels of power with low levels of electrical resistance similar to a supercapacitor. Traditionally, supercapacitor and lead-acid batteries are separate components relying on electronic controllers and complex algorithms to switch power between both units. This new technology eliminates the need for this additional electronic control and multiple energy storage devices.

The UltraBattery is ideal for Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs), which rely on a battery-operated electric motor to meet peak power needs during acceleration and recapture energy normally wasted through braking to recharge the battery. In certain life cycle tests, this new battery, invented by CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization), the Australian national science agency, and developed/manufactured by Furukawa Battery, has exceeded the life cycles of its Nickel Metal Hydride counterpart for HEV applications. In addition to higher cycles, the UltraBattery utilizes a less cost-intensive technology and is easier to recycle than Nickel Metal Hydride and Lithium-Ion batteries.

The ALABC (Advanced Lead-Acid Battery Consortium) tested the UltraBattery in a Honda Insight and it went past the 160,000 kilometer mark without any conditioning or equalization treatment. At Furukawa Battery, we strongly believe in the future of lead-acid technology. This revolutionary lead-acid battery as well as other advancements in new battery technology helps prove that our beliefs are well founded. We are excited to explore its use in more than just HEVs, especially in application where the batteries continually operate at a partial state of charge.

East Penn is a leading manufacturer of high quality lead-acid batteries and accessories for the automotive, telecommunications, UPS, commercial, marine, and motive power markets. East Penn is one of the largest battery manufacturers in NAFTA. For more information contact East Penn Manufacturing Co., Inc., Lyon Station, PA 19536 or visit the company web site at www.dekabatteries.com.