



Brian Soden, Lincad's Managing Director, answers questions about the company's recent product launches.

Q. Lincad has recently launched a number of new products. Can you provide a brief overview?

In May and June of this year, we added three new products to our range of battery chargers. These include our flagship Fast Charger which is capable of the independent recharge and management of up to four batteries at one time. Designed primarily to significantly reduce the charging time of our own suite of LIPS (Lithium Ion Power System) batteries, the Fast Charger can be used to recharge batteries of any existing technology from 9 to 36 Volts.

We have also introduced the Power Scavenger, our latest battery charge management concept, which can recharge a wide range of batteries in the field. Configured originally as an exclusively solar charge management device, the Power Scavenger's expanded functionality allows for polarity independent connection to any DC source within defined limits.

Finally, there is the Caravel Mk2 which can effectively halve charging times of existing in service chargers at the same time as delivering improved efficiency and greater flexibility in the battery types that can be recharged, making it possible to bring an entire battery fleet under the management umbrella of a single charging unit.

Q. Who are these products primarily aimed at?

Our main customer is the UK MoD. All of these products have been designed for use by British armed forces, building on our long record of applying the latest battery technologies to reduce the burden on soldiers in the field. Having said that, many of our batteries and chargers have been adopted by other armed forces internationally, so there is always a potential export market for our latest products.

Q. Are all of your products developed for specific customer applications?

Not entirely. We do offer a wide range of off-the-shelf products. But in many cases we are developing specialist solutions to meet the precise power management demands of specific customers. The MoD is obviously a very important customer for us and their requirements can be very specific but so too are the demands of a number of other Lincad customers. For example, we have developed batteries to power remote operating vehicles used for explosive ordnance disposal and an underwater remote operating vehicles used in the petrochemical industry.

Q. What sort of facilities are required for product development work of this nature?

To stay at the forefront of battery design and manufacture, we have invested in building up our in-house expertise in electronic hardware and software development as well as cell chemistry and we are continuously investigating established, new and emerging technologies. We also have extensive experience in developing products where electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) may be critical and we have the resources to undertake extensive computer modelling to optimise product design before the product reaches the test house. In addition, we have our own state-of-the-art PCB manufacturing and inspection equipment.

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