



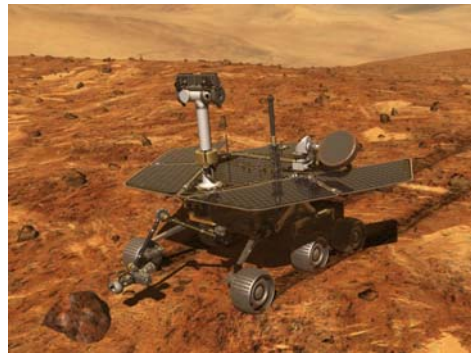
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YARDNEY'S LITHION BATTERY TECHNOLOGY ENABLES NASA TO STRETCH THREE-MONTH MARS MISSION TO OVER THREE YEARS

Advanced Lithium-Ion Batteries Provide Dependable Power and Long Life

Pawcatuck, CT – January 24, 2007 -- Yardney Technical Products, Inc., based in Pawcatuck, Connecticut, has celebrated the remarkable milestone of completing three successful years of Mars Exploration Rover operations. There are two rovers operating on opposite sides of Mars, both powered by Lithion batteries, a product line of Yardney. 'Spirit' landed January 3, 2004, and 'Opportunity' landed January 24, 2004. There is currently no end in sight for the mission, which was originally expected to last only three months.



Mars Exploration Rover

Courtesy of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

In 2001 NASA awarded Yardney a contract to develop the batteries that would power the two rovers, which were launched in 2003. Each rover has two batteries. They provide power at night when there is no sunlight for the solar panels to convert to electricity. They are also used during the day when the Rover is doing a task that requires more power than the solar panels can deliver. The batteries are redundant, so if one battery fails, the Rover can operate using the other, although no such failure has occurred so far throughout the missions.

The battery assembly (below) measures approximately 16" by 4" by 4" and weighs about 17 pounds, which is about 5% of the total rover weight. It had to be built to take the vibration and acceleration of launch, eight months of travel in the cold of space to reach Mars, and more punishment through the landing phase, which included a jarring free-fall drop to the surface, bouncing and rolling within a protective cocoon of airbags. After all that, the batteries came through with flying colors, providing all required power until the solar cells could be deployed. And since then, despite being intended to operate for



Mars Exploration Rover Battery

Photo courtesy of Yardney Technical Products, Inc.

only 90 days, they have withstood the repeated rigors of over 1,000 frigid Martian nights, and endured three Martian winters - despite never having been intended to have to go through even one.

"We build in extraordinary performance and reliability into every battery we make," said Vince Yevoli, President of Yardney. "Our reputation as a leader in the high-tech battery industry has been built on that for more than 60 years. We know there's no way to make a service call to Mars, so everything has to work properly from the start, and keep right on working without interruption. That's what Yardney is all about."

Lithion is a product line of Yardney Technical Products, Inc., a veteran-owned small business located in Pawcatuck, CT. Yardney is a technology-driven company that focuses on advanced battery technologies for research and product development in high performance applications. Yardney provides highly reliable, compact, and powerful electrical power sources for mobile platforms. These systems have proven successful on mini-sub, aircraft, satellites, and roving the surface of Mars. The company has distinguished itself since 1944 in the design, development, and manufacture of advanced battery technologies for Aerospace, the Department of Defense, and industrial/commercial applications. For example, Yardney recently delivered the largest Lithium-ion battery ever made, a 1.2 Mega-Watt-hour system, which provides all power for the US Navy's ASDS mini-sub. In addition to the Lithion product line of Lithium-ion batteries, current Yardney specialty battery technologies also include Silver-Zinc and metal-air chemistries. For more information, go to www.yardney.com or www.lithion.com.

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