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### DoD Funds Battery Battle

By CRAIG RUBENS,  **GIGAOM**  
Published: November 13, 2008

The Department of Defense is funding both sides of a new battle, not one between countries, but between battery technologies — lithium ion and lead acid. This week the department announced investments aimed at the development of automotive batteries that employ both technologies: \$2.4 million to [International Battery](#) for lithium-ion batteries that can be swapped in for lead-acid batteries by soldiers in the field, and [\\$2 million](#) to [Firefly Energy](#) for lightweight lead-acid batteries made with carbon foam.

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International Battery is designing its Lithium Ion 6TLi Battery to be the same size as currently deployed lead-acid batteries so that soldiers can swap them out on location. The Oakland, N.J.-based company says its battery has four times the energy, half the weight, a significantly longer life and enhanced combat readiness as compared to the current lead-acid battery systems.

# TV News Coverage from WFMZ TV 69News





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## Local Plant gets Multi-Million Dollar Defense Contract

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A Lehigh County company is being called to duty by the U.S. Military. International Battery will produce lithium ion batteries for soldiers to use on missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. And as WFMZ's Jackie Shutack explains, this is green technology that could change the way we drive some day. Reporter: These batteries will soon power up the U-S military... Produced by Upper Macungie Township-based International Battery.. they give 4 times the energy as a regular lead acid battery.

John Kaufman/CEO, International Battery: "This may be a game changer as far as 15-20% of the overall fuel used on the battlefield."

REPORTER: CEO John Kaufman says this technology is ideal for American troops operating out of hum-vees with lots of equipment to charge.

John Kaufman/CEO, International Battery: "Because these batteries have so much more energy - they don't have to run their vehicles continually to charge their batteries

Reporter: Monday afternoon.. Congressman Charlie Dent -- who helped secure the \$2.4 million contract -- touted the global benefits of this new technology.

Congressman Charlie Dent: "It's zero emissions! so all of a sudden you've got an environmental benefit, you've got an energy self sufficiency benefit, and it's just a win win situation."

Reporter: "The U-S Military is so interested in these lithium ion batteries because they're light, and they're also environmentally friendly."

John Kaufman/CEO, International Battery: "We don't leave our lead acid batteries on the battlefield - we bring them back and reprocess them and that's a big big cost to the US government." >> Reporter: These batteries should be installed in military vehicles within the next year... Eventually, Kaufman hopes the average consumer will drive a car containing this technology. He estimates this business growth will bring roughly 45 more jobs to the Lehigh Valley. In Upper Macungie Township.. Lehigh County.. Jackie Shutack, 69 News.

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Presentation to  
International Battery, Inc.

You can view the Press Release online by copying and pasting the link below into your browser window.

- <http://www.autoenews.co.uk/newsAEBBridge.php?linkID=86638>
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