

BATTERIES AND CHARGERS FOR MODERNISING FUTURE GLOBAL DEFENCE PROGRAMMES

An interview with Peter Coplestone,
Lincad's Operations Director



Q. Why is Lincad currently investing in a large-scale upgrade programme of its UK facilities?

A. These improvements are all part of our programme of preparing for future demand and growth. Over the past few months, we have invested in upgrading our manufacturing and engineering facilities and head office building. Additionally, we have purchased new automated cell testing equipment to ensure the performance and quality of batteries supplied to our customers. We are doing all this so that we remain ready to meet increased global demand for our military batteries and chargers for all types of defence missions such as on the battlefield, peacekeeping operations and dealing with natural and environmental disasters.

Q. As Defence modernises, how will Lincad evolve to keep up with future military battery requirements?

A. The Lincad team are constantly updating and evolving our range of military batteries and chargers to meet the requirements of today and the future. At Lincad we can

use any cell technology, which means we can adapt to meet future requirements. We see our batteries as mission centric and playing a key part in future technology-connected defence forces. There are many developing technology advances in the defence arena particularly within autonomous systems.

Q. Why do you continue to see demand from the defence sector for lithium-ion batteries?

A. Lithium-ion batteries are currently the most cost effective and most suitable cell type for the defence market. In our view lithium-ion batteries are the most energy and power efficient option for defence applications. In the future that could well change as new cell types come to market and we stand ready to adapt to meet any such changes.





Q. How is Lincad working towards meeting the challenges of future soldier needs?

A. We continue to make lighter, more energetic and more powerful batteries for man-portable soldier equipment. All our batteries and chargers are designed to be suitably ruggedised and simple to use. The Lincad R&D team are currently working on battery solutions for integrated man-worn batteries and are also looking at developing a single power source for soldiers in the field.

Q. Is Lincad developing batteries for military robotics?

A. We already have lots of experience in manufacturing batteries for robots. For many years we made the battery system for the CUTLASS bomb disposal robot. So yes, robotics is an area we are watching closely and expect to see growth.

Q. Will there be increased demand for batteries for military autonomous vehicles?

A. We believe in the future that robots are likely to replace humans in a number of military scenarios. There will be remotely piloted military vehicles of all types as we enter the era of robotic warfare. This will in turn result in an increased requirement for mission critical batteries and chargers.

Q. Will Lincad see growth outside the UK in the future?

A. Although the majority of our work is here in the UK for the MOD and leading defence primes, we also currently provide batteries and chargers to defence organisations in a number of different countries globally. As armies modernise, we aim to match or exceed their requirements to continue to provide the best state-of-the-art batteries and chargers for their missions. ●

