SPECIALTY CARBONS FOR
ADVANCED LEAD ACID BATTERIES

TIMREX®
Graphite

SUPER P®
Carbon Black

ENSACO®
Carbon Black

www.imerys-graphite-and-carbon.com
Imerys Graphite & Carbon, member of the Imerys Group, is the reference for innovative capability in the field of carbon-powder-based solutions: natural graphite and synthetic graphite powders, conductive carbon blacks, as well as silicon-carbon composites and water dispersions. High standards in terms of employee health and safety, social behaviour and environmental responsibility are core values of the company, which is capturing opportunities by developing new products and applications, investing in assets & people, and growing its commercial presence worldwide.
Carbon Additives in the Negative Electrode

**FINAL BATTERY APPLICATIONS**

- Automotive (micro HEV, e-bikes)
- Energy storage
- Industrial (fork-lifts, back-up systems, medical devices)

**CARBON ADDITIVES REQUIREMENTS & BENEFITS**

- Good wettability for paste processing and electrolyte supply to the negative electrode
- High affinity to lead for an efficient lead plating on the negative active mass (NAM) skeleton
- Good electrical conductivity to reduce electrode resistivity and represent active electrode component
- Sufficient BET specific surface area (SSA) and double layer capacitance for dynamic charge acceptance (capacitor effect)
- Sufficient purity to reduce gassing and self-discharge
- Balanced particle size distribution for homogeneous incorporation into electrode structure
- Improved cycle life
- Improved charge acceptance

In literature the following solutions are proposed:

- Low surface area carbon (graphite/expanded graphite mixed with low SSA carbon black)\[a\]
- High surface area carbon (graphite/expanded graphite mixed with high SSA carbon black)\[b\]

\[a\] D.P. Boden et al, J. Power Sources 195 (2010) 4470
\[b\] D. Pavlov et al, J. Power Sources 196 (2011) 5155

**OUR SOLUTIONS**

Imerys Graphite & Carbon offers the following specialty carbons solutions for advanced lead acid batteries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>CONTACT ANGLE (WATER) (degree)</th>
<th>BET SURFACE AREA (m²/g)</th>
<th>OIL ABSORPTION NUMBER (ml/100g)</th>
<th>SCOTT DENSITY (g/cm³)</th>
<th>PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIMREX® CyPbrid™&lt;br&gt;[#]</td>
<td>&lt;30 (ultra-hydrophilic)</td>
<td>&gt;180</td>
<td>&lt;100</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>Micron-sized aggregates of sub-micron particles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conductive carbon black</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPER P®&lt;br&gt;[#]</td>
<td>95 (mild-hydrophobic)</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>Agglomerated aggregates of nano-sized primary particles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENSACO® 350G</td>
<td>130 (hydrophobic)</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>Agglomerated aggregates of nano-sized primary particles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded graphite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMREX® BNB90</td>
<td>&lt;30 (ultra-hydrophilic)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>Micron-sized particles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

Physio-chemical properties of different carbon materials

Typical values / *Patent pending

In Figure 1: Images from contact angle measurements on dry powder of different carbon additives with water.

The hydrophilic nature of TIMREX® CyPbrid™ is demonstrated. Consequently, TIMREX® CyPbrid™ is easily mixed into the active material paste. In addition, the electrolyte supply into the negative electrode plate is assured.
Carbon particles exhibiting a high affinity to lead, i.e. high spontaneous lead uptake, are well incorporated into the lead skeleton during formation of the negative active material.

Table 2: Electro-chemical data of Imerys Graphite & Carbon’s materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>SPONTANEOUS Pb-UPTAKE FROM Pb(NO₃)₂ SOLUTION (ppm)</th>
<th>SPECIFIC CAPACITANCE (F/g)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon hybrid material</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMREX® CyPbrid™</td>
<td>5823</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conductive carbon black</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPER P®</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENSACO® 350G</td>
<td>8660</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded graphite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMREX® BN9890</td>
<td>1340</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Electrical volume resistivity (2-point) for various carbon additives measured in dry powder form with increasing pressure increments of 50-450 kg/cm² at the corresponding sample density. TIMREX® CyPbrid™ shows an intermediate behavior between the TIMREX® synthetic graphite (high crystallinity; D₉₀ = 6 micron) and ENSACO® 350G.

Figure 3: Scanning electron microscope (SEM) images on lead plating activity for different carbon additives: (a) ENSACO® 350G, (b) TIMREX® BN9890, (c) TIMREX® CyPbrid™, and (d) TIMREX® synthetic graphite (high crystallinity; D₉₀ = 6 micron). The lead plating is induced by a potential pulse on a pure carbon electrode in a 1M Pb(NO₃)₂ solution. The SEM analysis indicates nucleation and growth of homogeneously distributed fine lead particles on the surface of the TIMREX® CyPbrid™ (photo c) and the TIMREX® BN9890 (photo b) electrodes.
TIMREX® CyPbrid™ is the most suitable carbon additive for the negative electrode of an advanced lead acid battery, by combining the hybrid properties of a conductive carbon black and a graphite; resulting in excellent wettability for paste mixing, high affinity to lead for an efficient lead plating, and good electrical conductivity to improve cycle life and charge acceptance.
EUROPE, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, INDIA

Imerys Graphite & Carbon Switzerland Ltd.
“Il Centro” Via Cantonale 65, CH-6804 Bironico, Switzerland
Tel: +41 91 873 20 10, Fax: +41 91 873 20 19
graphiteandcarbon.ch@imerys.com

AMERICAS

Imerys Graphite & Carbon Canada Inc.
990 Rue Fernand-Poitras, Terrebonne, QC, J6Y 1V1, Canada
Tel: +1 450 622 91 91, Fax: +1 450 622 86 92
graphiteandcarbon.ca@imerys.com

CHINA

Imerys Graphite & Carbon
1438 Hong Qiao Road, Chang Ning District 6F,
Gubei International Fortune Centre II, CN-201103 Shanghai, China
Tel: +86 21 2223 0136, Fax: + 86 21 2223 0199
graphiteandcarbon.cn@imerys.com

SOUTH KOREA

Imerys Graphite & Carbon South Korea
7F, Gyodae Venture Tower, 64, Saimdang-ro, Seocho-gu, KR-06640 Seoul, Korea
Tel: +82 234 88 30 30, Fax: +82 234 88 30 79
graphiteandcarbon.kr@imerys.com

JAPAN & SOUTH EAST ASIA

Imerys Graphite & Carbon Japan K.K.
13F Setagaya Business Square tower 4-10-1 Yoga, Setagaya-ku, JP-158-0097 Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 4570 5410
graphiteandcarbon.jp@imerys.com

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imerys-graphite-and-carbon.com