

question: ***“Is the future of the lead battery industry reliant on changing people’s opinions (of it being a health risk) or on technological advancements (so it’s performance can compete with lithium-ion)?”***

Ian Klein and Dr Rainer Bußar: R&D managers at Penox’s. Penox has developed specialised chemicals dedicated to energy storage solutions since 2005.

“The future of the lead-acid battery industry will highly depend on the economic success and the ability of the industry to provide sustainable customer value— a reliable and cost-efficient product, designed for different market needs.

“Markets are driven by technical needs and regulated by political decisions as well. The future, therefore, depends on a combination

of advancements in critical performance parameters on one side, and public perception of risks, related to lead-acid batteries, on the other.

“Politics always depends on the public opinion and votes of the people. The latter develop their opinion based on public information and campaigns driving political initiatives. If such communication initiatives are not based on a fair comparison of facts, they will fail— at least after some time. Hence, it is important that the lead-acid battery industry supports an open and honest communication policy, which also addresses weaknesses of the present technology. At the same time, focus should be on solutions for these shortfalls.

“For instance, the recent discussion of ecological damage and risk for the health of people in the recycling of lead-acid batteries in certain countries requires political attention and actions by the lead-acid battery industry in parallel. Solutions to recycling lead-acid batteries with minimal environmental impact do exist, and have to

be promoted strongly, and furthered by the entire lead-acid battery community. Therefore, the future risk associated with lead-acid batteries can be significantly decreased worldwide— which is a message of hope.

“In short, a technology can never rely only on a sound or good performance, but also needs a good public reputation. Keeping both requires constant development, as well as adjustment of the technology on changing needs and also on changing political targets.”



Source: Penox



Ian Klein



Rainer Bußar

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