

100
YEARS



Solar Range Ni-Cd **batteries**

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Reliability inside

ALCAD

ADVANCED SOLUTIONS | ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Low maintenance Ni-Cd batteries for renewable energy applications and stand-alone hybrid systems

Battery systems have a difficult job maintaining reliable service in isolated locations and hostile environments. Demands upon them fluctuate widely and charging depends entirely on irregular and unpredictable weather patterns.



For renewable energy applications

In remote outdoor installations, Alcad Solar is the natural choice for:

- Photovoltaic applications
- Stand-alone hybrid systems
- Renewable energy applications

The solution is Alcad Solar

Alcad Solar storage batteries are purpose built to operate in these conditions. The range provides totally reliable service and very low maintenance which achieves a low life-cycle cost.

Efficient and reliable in tough conditions

Managing complex charging patterns is essential for efficient running of a hybrid system. Alcad Solar will continue to operate at any state of charge.

Over-compensation for unpredictable charging conditions with high charging voltages is unnecessary.

Alcad Solar's typical charging voltage of 1.5 V per cell minimises water-consumption, eliminating unscheduled service calls. The battery reaches a high state of charge without boost or reconditioning charges.

Alcad Solar range Ni-Cd batteries are compatible with all current photovoltaic charge regulators and conventional industrial battery chargers.

Extreme operating temperature

Alcad Solar's robust construction and stable electrochemistry enable it to operate comfortably within a temperature range of -20°C (-4°F) to +50°C (+122°F) and will tolerate extremes of -50°C (-58°F) to +70°C (+158°F). For operation in temperatures below -20°C (-4°F), a special, higher density electrolyte is used.

Alcad Solar will deliver 80% capacity for a 120-hour discharge even at -40°C (-40°F).

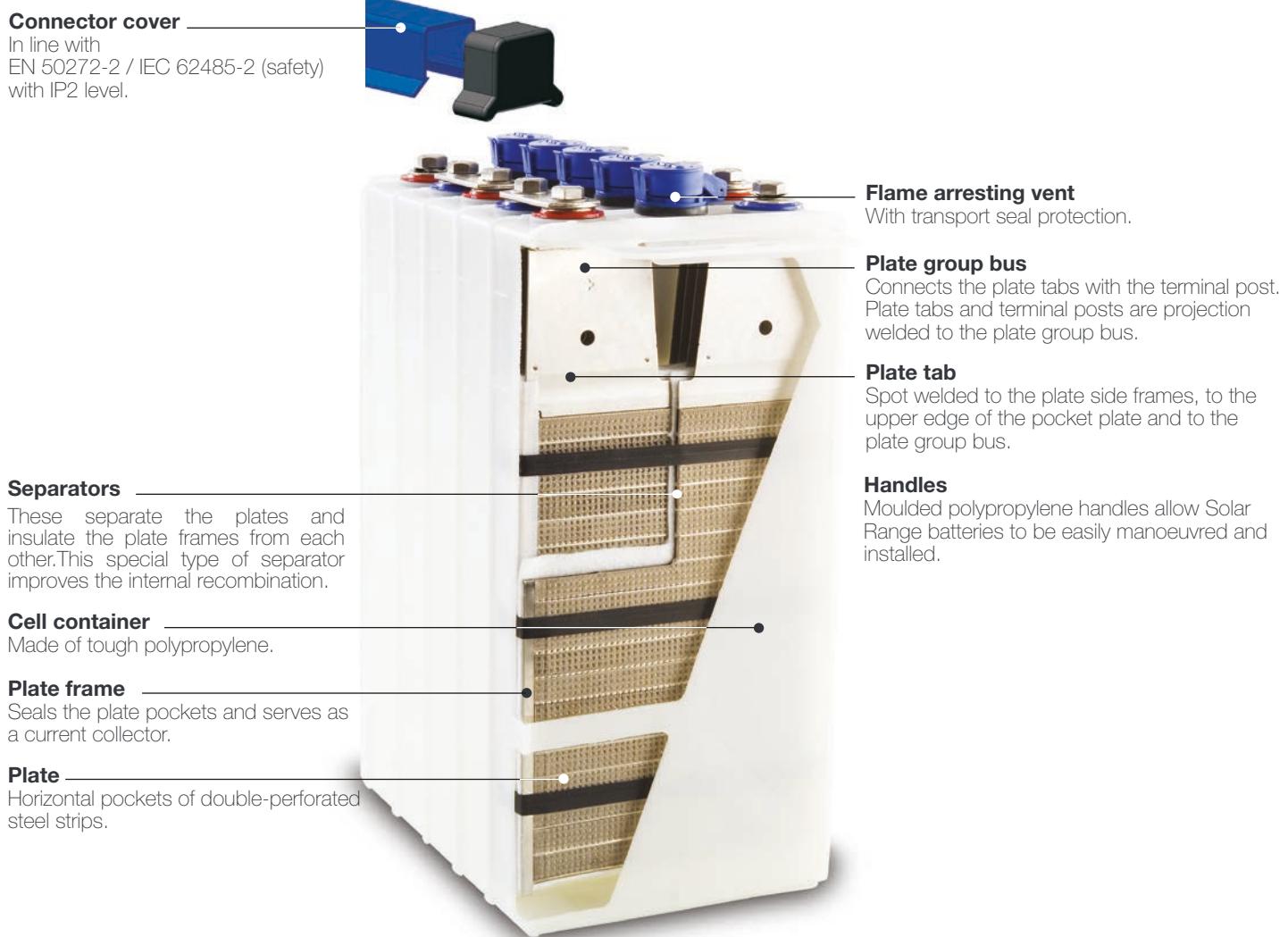
Long-term low maintenance

The low life-cycle cost Alcad Solar range battery is a reliable long-term investment. It is constructed to resist electrical and physical abuses and therefore requires very low maintenance. In return it will provide totally reliable service at a predictable cost over 20 years.

Additionally, Alcad Solar's reliability reduces demands on expensive diesel generators, thereby contributing to the overall system running cost reduction.

Low life-cycle cost

Long maintenance intervals, Ni-Cd's inherent safety and total reliability combine to make Alcad Solar an exceptionally low life-cycle cost solution.



Ni-Cd endures...

Alcad Solar batteries are built around Alcad's proven Ni-Cd pocket plate technology. Active materials and nickel-plated steel components plus gas recombination technology give maintenance intervals of more than 6 years, reducing operating costs to a minimum.

...where lead acid cannot

Nickel-cadmium technology is inherently safe and resistant to over-, under- and complete discharging. Even at temperatures below -20°C (-4°F), Alcad Solar continues to perform without risk of corrosion or sulphation when cycled at low state of charge.

Alkaline electrolyte will not freeze and remains stable during operation. Lead acid batteries suffer from plate degradation, shortened life and risk of sudden death in similar conditions.

Alcad Solar Ni-Cd continues operating in conditions where lead acid cannot.

Alcad recycles

Alcad recycle old batteries as part of their responsibility to safeguard the environment.

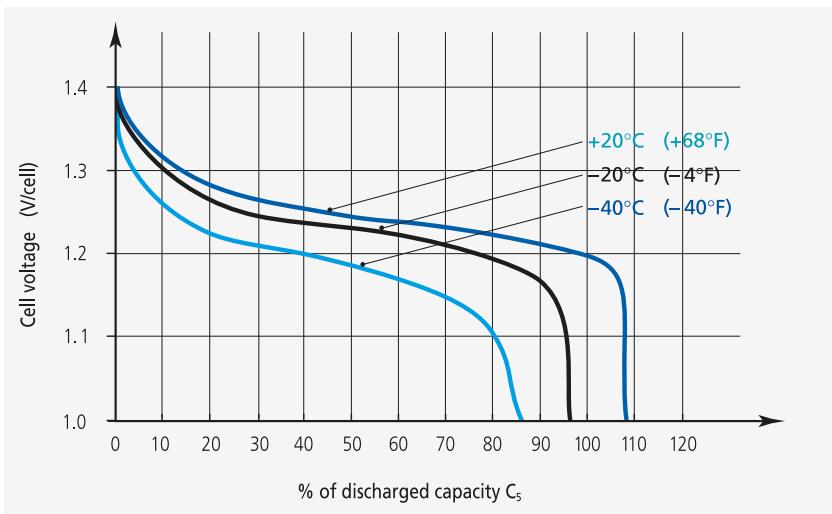
Automated water filling system

Alcad's water filling system is available as an option for Solar cell range. It enables automatic, fast and accurate topping-up, further extending maintenance intervals.

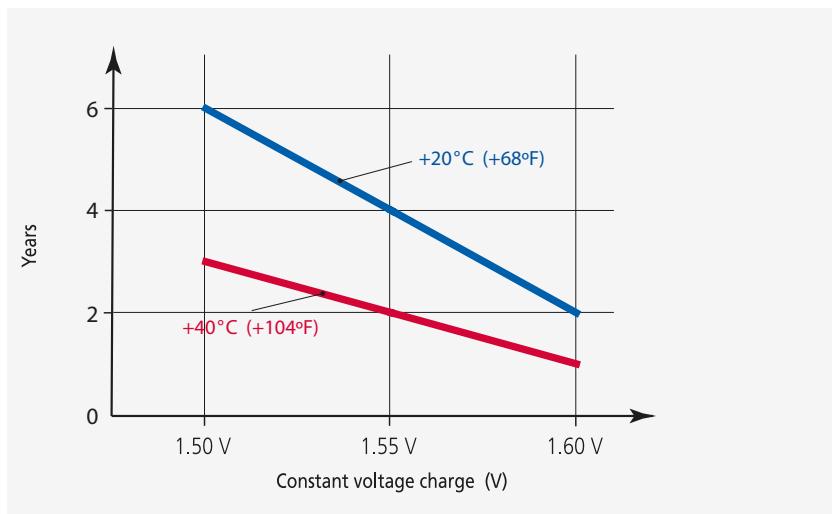
Meeting international standards

Alcad Solar has been developed in line with the safety requirements of EN 50272-2 / IEC 62485-2, and components used (such as insulated cable connectors and end lug covers) are defined to ensure high protection against electric shocks (IP2 level).

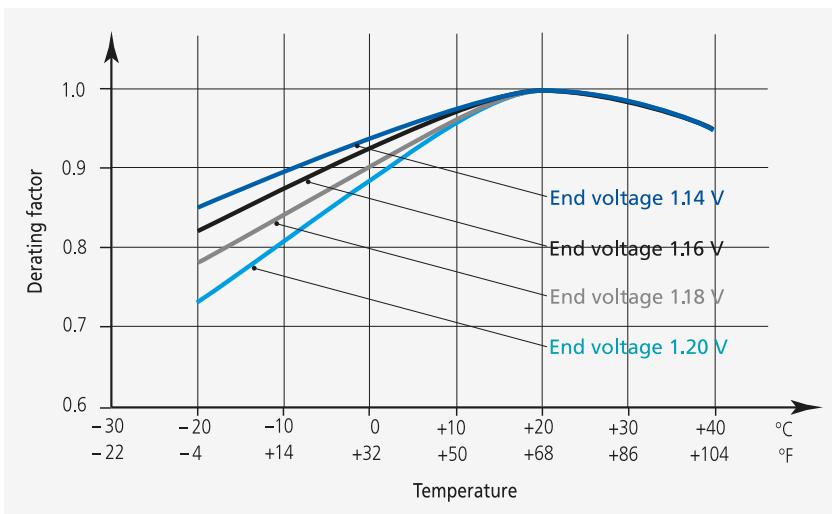
Alcad Solar features Alcad's highly efficient internal gas recombination pocket plate technology – meets IEC 62259 – and electrode design optimised for photovoltaic applications.



**Discharge curves at 1/120 C_{120} A according to temperature.
Battery fully charged.**



**Typical water replenishment at
+20°C (+68°F) and +40°C (+104°F).**



**Derating factor according to
temperature and end voltage.
For typical solar application with
3 or more days back-up time.**

Battery sizing

Alcad engineers will work with you to calculate the optimum size of battery for your application. They will consider location, operating temperature, anticipated discharge requirements and your system's charging capabilities.

The battery size or Ampere-hours (Ah) required will depend on average load and minimum back-up time or autonomy. Capacity should be sufficient to sustain days of discharge with minimum support from the renewable energy source.

With daily limited time for charging, batteries are not always able to reach full charge. By operating the system so that it approaches, but rarely reaches full capacity, water consumption and maintenance are reduced considerably. By adhering to the recommended charging voltage provided in Table 1, the battery should reach 95% state of charge under average operating conditions.

Initial calculations

Most installations are 12, 24 or 48-volt systems. Typically for these system voltages 9, 18 and 36 cells are used. However, depending on various conditions these numbers may be adjusted by one or two cells.

First, determine the number of cells by establishing:

- Maximum permitted charging voltage
- Daily depth of discharge
- Minimum permitted end voltage

Second, check if "ideal" operating conditions can be established, by consulting Table 1.

Third, check in the cell performance tables the cell type giving the selected current in relation to the end voltage and the back-up time.

Additional sizing considerations

Operating temperature will influence available capacity. While Ni-Cd batteries are less affected by temperature variations than lead acid, it may still be advisable to include derating factors in sizing calculations according to the temperature and end voltage. Refer to derating factor curves on page 4.

Other factors such as design margin, battery aging and future load extension may be included for the battery sizing.

Alcad's optimum sizing method is:

I load
x 1/temperature derating factor
x 1/charge derating factor*
x requested design margin
= current value to select in the performance table

*The typical value is 95% when using the recommended charge voltage

Table 1. Recommended charging voltage

Battery system	12 V	24 V	48 V
Number of cells	9	18	36
5-10% daily depth of discharge	13.5 V	27 V	54 V
10-15% daily depth of discharge	13.95 V	27.9 V	55.8 V
15-25% daily depth of discharge	14.4 V	28.8 V	57.6 V



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Reliability inside

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