

Press release

On January 24, 2008, the Bolloré Group officially opened its first supercapacitor industrial production unit at Ergué-Gabéric, near Quimper.

BatScap, a subsidiary of the Bolloré Group employing more than 150 researchers, engineers and technicians has developed high-performance energy storage components which are now set to enter mass production.

At this stage, the total investment is €36 million. The first industrial production line, with a maximum capacity of one million units per year has been installed at the Bolloré group's Ergué-Gabéric site, alongside the production units for capacitor components, of which Bolloré is the world's leading producer. This initial production line covers a surface area of 2 100 m² and currently employs around 50 people.

Supercapacitors absorb and supply high amounts of electrical power over a very short time (a few seconds or tens of seconds). This new generation of components has a key role to play in the development of environmentally-friendly transport systems for the future.

- Each time a vehicle brakes, part of the energy normally dissipated into the atmosphere as heat is recovered and stored in the supercapacitors, in order to be re-used later.
- When the vehicle is stationary, the thermal engine (petrol or diesel) is turned off automatically.
- When the brake pedal is lifted, an electrical system powered by the supercapacitors activates the vehicle and gently starts the heat engine.
- During transportation, the supercapacitors stabilise the onboard power supply voltage, providing assistance to the battery when electrical power is being drawn off, and contributing additional power during acceleration.

The savings in fuel and the resulting reductions in CO₂ and microparticles can exceed 20%.

In town centres, a tram need no longer be permanently connected to its overhead wires and may cover several hundred metres using only the energy from the supercapacitors.

The energy recovery function of supercapacitors is also extremely useful in the industrial field, to optimise the energy consumption of handling equipment, cranes and lifts.

Finally, thanks to their reaction time, which is almost instantaneous, supercapacitors make it possible to secure power supplies for critical applications (computer rooms, telecommunications, etc) during brief power outages.

BatScap is participating in numerous cooperation projects with automotive OEMs and tier one suppliers, in addition to public transport vehicle producers (buses, trams and trains).

About batScap

BatScap (www.batscap.com) is a subsidiary of Groupe Bolloré (www.bollore.com) . BatScap is specialized in the design and manufacture of Lithium Metal Polymer batteries and supercapacitors for industrial use.

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