

From motorboat to sweeper

A battery system for various applications

It would be very beneficial if completely different electrical types of vehicle such as forklift trucks, lightweight vehicles, sweepers and floor cleaning machines as well as motorboats could be powered by a standardised battery system. The batteries could then be used in all applications up to a home energy storage system in a cost efficient and environmentally efficient way. No sector-specific development is necessary. Scientists from the research and subject area Technical Design at the Institute for Design Technology and Technical Design (IKTD) at the University of Stuttgart are jointly working with nine reputable partners from research, industry and standardisation on making this vision possible.

Through the development of a standardised basic model on the basis of modern lithium-ions technology, the battery system could be put together depending on the application and the requirements in accordance with the modular principle. Only the outer interfaces of the modules are standardised, the interior is not specified. Thus new battery cells and cell formats can also be integrated at a later stage. In this way the use is possible for many different applications. If a battery is not used in a mobile way, the integration in a home energy storage system is conceivable.

Easy to use and manufacturer-independent design

The researchers from IKTD are concentrating on developing using the module according to ergonomic standards and ensure that even lay people are able to use it confidently. A possible change of battery should be able to be done by hand or alternatively in an automated way. Everybody should be able to operate the battery system intuitively.

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Moreover, the team from IKTD is designing a manufacturer-independent, specifiable and timeless design. In this way individual creative leeway is on offer for companies that wish to use this. In spite of the standard with clear recognition value for operating personnel, manufacturers should have the possibility for their own design integration in the corresponding product system. Since along with the ergonomics the design of the module is significant for the broad acceptance of a standard battery system.

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Associated partners: DKE Deutsche Kommission Elektrotechnik, Forschungsvereinigung Antriebstechnik e. V. (FVA).

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