

by Craig Johnston

This writer never carried a car battery to power a television news camera, but he worked with people who had memories of doing so. The author did see NiCad battery technology seemingly stand still for 20 years, then witnessed a dizzying acceleration of battery technology driven by consumer electronics' demand for smaller, longer-lasting power sources.

If battery technology has been revolutionary over the past dozen years, then NAB2004 will see what might be the mother-of-all-revolutions in camcorder power supplies.

Jadoo Power Systems, Inc. will debut its NABII fuel-cell power for ENG cameras, using rechargeable hydrogen power cells. They are touted to run a camcorder or other field equipment more than two-times longer than batteries. The fuel cells are designed to attach in the same manner as a standard camera battery.



Jadoo's fuel cells use the same technology as hydrogen powered cars, electrochemically combining hydrogen and oxygen to make electricity and water. The process is silent, and the cells are refilled using standard, industrial grade hydrogen. The Jadoo refill station can refill four of the cells in an hour; additional modules can expand the refill station to handle 24 cells at once without sacrificing refill time.