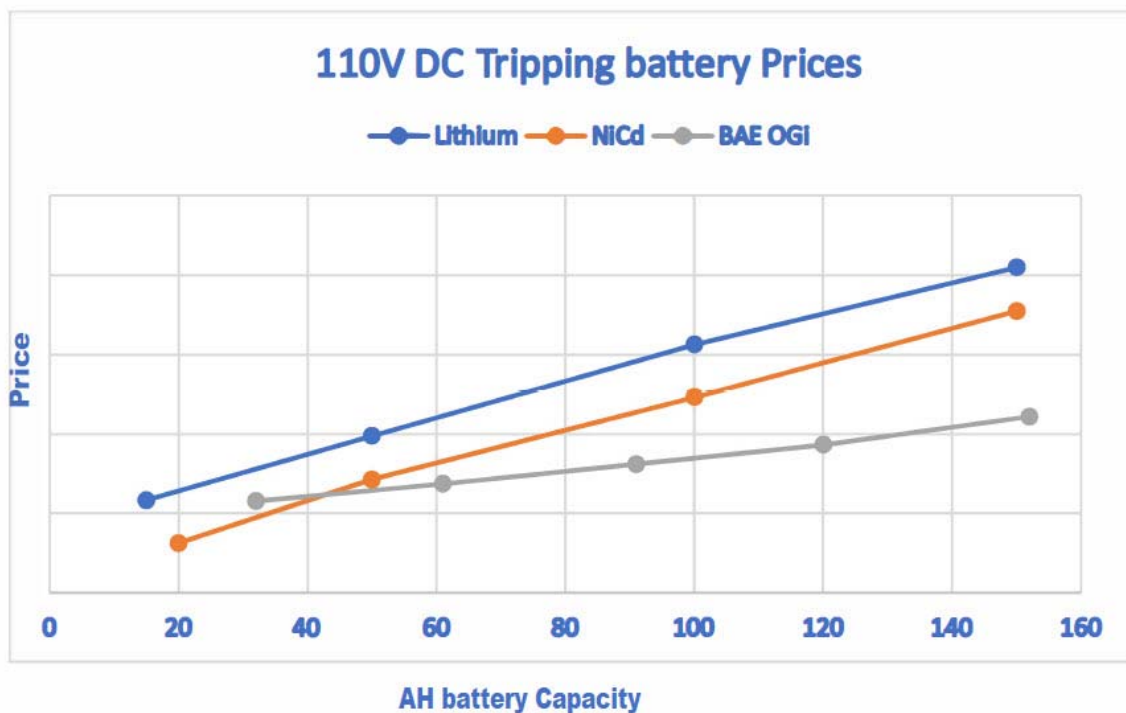


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We frequently hear the question ‘which is the best tripping battery technology’ from our clients. There are many sections to this question which have different answers including price, service life, rugged ability, simplicity of use, maintenance costs, LCC and disposal costs at end of life.

We address the main question during times of tight money conditions, namely **PRICE**. The following chart indicates the range of tripping batteries for Lithium Ion, recombination pocket plate nickel cadmium and the high performance German OGi lead acid battery with selenium alloy.



Below 50AH, the capital purchase price is cheaper in the NiCd technology. In this range small NiCd cells (10AH) are available but the lead acid sizes start at 32AH. Thereafter, above 50AH, the German BAE battery is the cheapest. The LiFe battery is the most expensive mainly due to the required safety devices necessary on each cell to prevent over and under charge and thermal runaway. LiFe is dropping in price so in the future the difference will become smaller.

All three technologies are available from Silicon Engineering, the company who installed the largest battery in Africa. Visit www.silicon-online.co.za.

Clive Rutter (Pr.Eng.)