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Rao Surampudi is the Manager of the Power Systems Program Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). He has over 40 years research and development experience in the development of advanced power generation and energy storage technologies for various aerospace and terrestrial applications. He led the development of primary lithium batteries and rechargeable Li-Ion Batteries for NASA and DOD applications and Direct Methanol Fuel Cells for terrestrial applications. He has also supported a number of flight missions including Mars Path Finder, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Exploration Rovers and Mars Science Laboratory. He has authored/co-authored more than two hundred publications/presentations and over thirty patents. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Indian Institute of Technology. He is the recipient of the prestigious NASA Exceptional Technology Achievement Medal and several other awards from NASA and JPL.