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SPRUSON & FERGUSON

AUSTRALIA

PATENTS ACT 1990

PATENT REQUEST: STANDARD PATENT

I/We, the Applicant(s)/Nominated Person(s) specified below, request I/We be granted a patent for the invention disclosed in the accompanying standard complete specification.

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[54] Invention Title:

External Backup Power Supply

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Oneac Corporation

By:

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IRN: 191700

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DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF A
CONVENTION APPLICATION FOR A PATENT
In support of the Convention Application made for a
patent for an invention entitled:

Title of Invention

EXTERNAL BACKUP POWER SUPPLY

Full name(s) and
address(es) of
Declarant(s)

I/We Charles W. Pearson, President
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do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-

Full name(s) of
Applicant(s)

1. I am/We are the applicant(s) for the patent

(or, in the case of an application by a body corporate)

1. I am/We are authorised by

ONEAC CORPORATION

the applicant(s) for the patent to make this declaration on
its/their behalf.2. The basic application(s) as defined by Section 141 of the
Act was/were made

Basic Country(ies)

in United States of America

Priority Date(s)

on September 7, 1990

Basic Applicant(s)

by Thomas McCartney

Full name(s) and
address(es) of
inventor(s)3. I am/We are the actual inventor(s) of the invention referred
to in the basic application(s)

(or where a person other than the inventor is the applicant)

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(respectively)

is/are the actual inventor(s) of the invention and the facts upon
which the applicant(s) is/are entitled to make the application are
as follows:The said applicant is the assignee of the
actual inventor.

Set out how Applicant(s)
derive title from actual
inventor(s) e.g. The
Applicant(s) is/are the
assignee(s) of the
invention from the
inventor(s)

...
...

4. The basic application(s) referred to in paragraph 2 of this
Declaration was/were the first application(s) made in a Convention
country in respect of the invention(s) the subject of the application.Declared at Liberty- this 30th day of August 1991
ville, Illinois

 Signature of Declarant(s)
 Charles W. Pearson



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(56) Prior Art Documents
AU 637556 75957/91 H02J 9/06
AU 252150 15171/62 H02J 9/06
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(57) Claim

1. An external DC (direct current) power supply for supplying DC power to a supported device having an AC input connector adapted for connecting the supported device to an AC voltage source and the supported device including an internal voltage rectifier connected to the AC input connector, comprising:
 - an AC (alternating current) voltage source;
 - voltage rectifier means coupled to said AC voltage source for rectifying said AC voltage source;
 - energy storage means coupled in parallel with an output of said voltage rectifier means for providing a predetermined DC voltage threshold level;
 - connector means for applying a DC power output of said parallel combination of said rectifier means and said energy storage means to the voltage rectifier of the supported device, said connector means being connected to the AC input connector of the supported device;
 - said energy storage means supplying current only when said voltage rectifying means provides a rectified voltage level below said predetermined DC

voltage threshold level thereby providing backup DC power to the supported device; and

 said AC input connector of the supported device being connected only to said external DC power supply.

8. A method for supplying DC (direct current) power to a supported device having an AC input connector adapted for connecting the supported device to an AC voltage source and having an internal rectifier connected to the AC input connector, comprising the steps of:

 rectifying an AC voltage source with a rectifier circuit for providing a rectified voltage signal having a threshold RMS value;

 providing an energy storage device in parallel with said rectifier circuit for supplying current only when said rectified voltage signal is below a predetermined DC voltage threshold level; and

 applying a DC power output of said parallel combination of said rectifier circuit and said energy storage device to the voltage rectifier of the supported device.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FOR A STANDARD PATENT

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Invention Title: External Backup Power Supply

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-

5845/5

EXTERNAL BACKUP POWER SUPPLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates generally to standby power systems for supplying power to a supported system or device, such as a computer or telephone switching equipment when an AC (alternating current) normal operating supply has a power outage or the AC line voltage drops below a predetermined and adjustable 10 minimum voltage. More particularly, the present invention relates to an external backup power system for supplying DC (direct current) backup power without requiring modification of the supported device.

2. Description of the Prior Art

15 Backup power systems are increasingly used for applications, such as computer, security, data processing and communications equipment to avoid interruptions resulting from a primary AC power source. Various arrangements have been employed to provide a backup or 20 standby power supply.

Standby supply systems are disclosed in United States patents 3,790,822; 4,401,895; 4,327,298; 4,313,060; 4,362,951; 4,366,389; 4,395,639; 4,400,626; 4,647,787; 4,468,571 and 4,885,521. Disadvantages of 25 the known arrangements include complexity, expense and unreliability. Many of the known arrangements require modifications and/or direct wiring interconnections within the power supply circuit of the supported device,

such as disclosed by United States Patents 4,401,895; 4,327,298 and 4,885,521.

United States Patent 4,313,060 discloses a continuous-type uninterruptible power supply including a controlled ferroresonant regulator and rectifier combination supplying independent DC outputs and driving an inverter. The inverter is arranged to provide a plurality of AC and DC outputs.

US Patent 4,885,521 discloses a supplemental battery backup power system for computer systems that, in the absence of AC line voltage, supplies DC voltages directly to the computer DC power bus and by-passes the internal, AC, computer power supply. A special harness assembly connects the supplemental battery backup power system with a personal computer. The harness assembly must be adapted for an output array of voltages and currents in a specific, physical arrangement of a power input connector for a specific computer processing unit to which the backup power is supplied.

It is desirable to provide an external backup power system capable of simply and effectively supplying DC (direct current) backup power to a supported device without requiring any modification of the supported device. It is important to provide such backup power supply that can be used with a various devices and that is inexpensive.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an external DC power supply capable of reliably, effectively and efficiently supplying power to an AC power supply of a supported system when a primary AC operating supply drops below a predetermined and adjustable minimum voltage.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is disclosed an external DC (direct current) power supply for supplying DC power to a supported device having an AC input connector adapted for connecting the supported device to an AC voltage source and the supported device including an internal voltage rectifier connected to the AC input connector, comprising:

an AC (alternating current) voltage source;

voltage rectifier means coupled to said AC voltage source for rectifying said AC voltage source;

energy storage means coupled in parallel with an output of said voltage rectifier means for providing a predetermined DC voltage threshold level;

connector means for applying a DC power output of said parallel combination of said rectifier means and said energy storage means to the voltage rectifier of the supported device, said connector means being connected to the AC input connector of the supported device;

said energy storage means supplying current only when said voltage rectifying means provides a rectified voltage level below said predetermined DC voltage threshold level thereby providing backup DC power to the supported device; and



said AC input connector of the supported device being connected only to said external DC power supply.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is disclosed a unitary external DC (direct current) power supply for supplying DC power to a supported device having an AC input connector adapted for connecting the supported device to an AC voltage source and having an internal rectifier connected to the AC input connector, comprising in combination:

a housing for containing said unitary external DC power supply;

an AC (alternating current) voltage source connected to said unitary external DC power supply;

full wave voltage rectifier means of said unitary external DC power supply contained within said housing and coupled to said AC voltage source for rectifying said AC voltage source and providing at its output a rectified AC voltage having a threshold RMS value;

energy storage means contained within said housing and coupled in parallel with an output of said voltage rectifier means for providing a predetermined DC voltage threshold level;

connector means associated with said housing for providing a DC power output of said parallel combination of said full wave voltage rectifier means and said energy storage means to the voltage rectifier of the supported device, said connector means being connected to the AC input connector of the supported device; and

said energy storage means supplying current only when said voltage rectifying means provides a rectified voltage level below said predetermined DC voltage threshold level thereby providing backup DC power to the supported device.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is disclosed a method for supplying DC (direct current) power to a supported device having an AC input connector adapted for connecting the supported device to an AC voltage source and having an internal rectifier connected to the AC input connector, comprising the steps of:

rectifying an AC voltage source with a rectifier circuit for providing a rectified voltage signal having a threshold RMS value;

providing an energy storage device in parallel with said rectifier circuit for supplying current only when said rectified voltage signal is below a predetermined DC voltage threshold level; and

applying a DC power output of said parallel combination of said rectifier circuit and said energy storage device to the voltage rectifier of the supported device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention, together with the above and other objects and advantages, may best be understood from the following detailed description of the



embodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawing,
wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an external DC power supply in accordance with the principles of the 5 present invention;

FIG. 2 is an electrical schematic diagram representation of the external DC power supply of FIG. 1 together with an AC power supply of a supported system;

FIG. 3 is chart providing exemplary voltage 10 waveforms to illustrate how operating power is supplied by the external DC power supply of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 4-9 are electrical schematic diagram representations of alternative external DC power supplies arranged in accordance with the principles of the 15 present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawing, in FIGS. 1 and 2 there is illustrated an external DC power supply generally designated by the reference numeral 10. The external DC power supply 10 is a separate module including a 20 housing 12. At its INPUT, the external DC power supply 10 includes an AC input plug 14 for connecting to a primary AC line input and at its OUTPUT, the external DC power supply 10 includes an AC output receptacle 16 for 25 connecting to an AC input plug 18 of a supported device generally designated as 20. Additionally, a safety adapter (not shown) could be used between a nonstandard output receptacle 16 and the AC input plug 18 to prevent use of the supply 10 by a non-compatible device 20.

As shown in FIG. 2, the DC power supply 10 includes a bridge rectifier 22 including four diodes 24, 30, 26, 28 and 30, and a series connected combination of a battery 32 and a diode 34 connected across the + and - center connections of the bridge rectifier 22. At the junction V_D of diode 34 and the + center connection of the bridge rectifier 22, a predetermined DC voltage 35 threshold level or amplitude is selectively provided by

the rating of the battery 32. Battery 32 supplies battery current only when the RMS value of the AC line input supply drops below the predetermined threshold amplitude at junction V_D as illustrated in FIG. 3.

5 Although various different arrangements can be used within the supported device, the conventional source of AC line voltage is full-wave rectified at its input to provide a DC voltage. Typically, the supported device includes a bridge rectifier 36 including four
10 diodes, as shown. The rectifier 36 is connected in parallel with a filtering capacitor 38 providing a rectified DC voltage input V_C to a DC-to-DC converter 39. Many different types of DC-to-DC converters are used to provide an array of DC output voltages at various cur-
15 rent to be distributed within a particular supported de-
vice 20.

Any suitably rated diode can be used for the diodes 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, for examples, such as a device type 1N4722 or 1N1204 having a reverse breakdown rating of 400 volts and a conduction current rating of 3 amperes and 12 amperes, respectively. Various commercially available batteries can be used for the battery 32 that can either be of the rechargeable type or primary cells to be thrown away when discharged. For examples, rechargeable lead-acid or gel-type cells, such as sold by Panasonic Corp. and others can be used for the battery 32. The battery 32 can include multiple 12 volt units that can be stacked to provide the selected voltage V_D in conjunction with the diode 34.

30 FIG. 3 provides exemplary voltage waveforms to illustrate the operation of the external DC power supply
10. At the top chart, voltage levels are represented in Kilovolts versus time in seconds. A first line labelled AC LINE INPUT illustrates near opposite ends a normal sinusoidal AC line voltage with a central zero level power outage portion shown. Next at a line labelled V_D , the corresponding voltage levels at V_D in FIG. 2 across

the OUTPUT of the external DC power supply 10 are illustrated. At the lower chart, voltage levels are represented in volts versus time in seconds. In the lower chart a line labelled V_C represents the corresponding supply voltage, and a line labelled I_B represents the corresponding battery supply current applied to the DC-to-DC converter 39 indicated at V_C across the filtering capacitor 38 in FIG. 2. As shown, normally no DC current is supplied by the battery 32. This is because the supported power supply 20 draws its current only at the peaks of the AC cycle. Following a power outage when the voltage V_C drops to a selected threshold level, DC current is supplied essentially instantaneously by the battery 32 through the diode 34 without requiring any switching between the conventional source of AC line voltage and the external DC power supply 10.

In FIG. 4, there is shown an alternative external DC power supply, generally designated by the reference numeral 40, together with the supported device 20. External DC power supply 40 uses an alternative rectifier than the bridge rectifier 20 in FIG. 1. The same reference numerals are used in FIG. 4 for similar components of FIG. 1. External DC power supply 40 includes a split phase transformer 42 in parallel with a pair of oppositely polled diodes 44 and 46, as shown. The series connected battery 32 and diode 34 is connected between a center tap of the split phase transformer 42 and at the anode junction connection of the diodes 32 and 34 to provide similar backup power functions as the external DC power supply 20.

In FIG. 5, there is shown an alternative external DC power supply generally designated by the reference numeral 56 together with the supported device 20. The same reference numerals are used in FIG. 5 for similar components of FIG. 1. External DC power supply 56 further includes a transformer 58 having its primary winding 60 connected across LINE and NEUTRAL of the AC

line input voltage. The secondary winding 62 of the transformer 58 provides an AC voltage supply to a battery charger 64. The battery charger 64 is connected in parallel with a battery 66 for charging the battery 66.

5 The battery 66 is connected in series with a DC converter 68 and diode 74 for providing the desired voltage level at the junction V_D . For example, a 12 volt battery 66 can be used with the DC converter 68 adapted for providing a 120 volt DC level at its output.

10 In FIG. 6, there is shown an alternative external DC power supply generally designated by the reference numeral 76 together with a supported device 20A including a voltage doubler arrangement. The same reference numerals are used in FIG. 6 for similar components of FIGS. 1 and 5. External DC power supply 76 is similar to the supply 56 of FIG. 5 further adapted for selective operation with either an AC line input supply of 120 volts nominal or 240 volts nominal. The external DC power supply 76 further includes a DC converter 69 providing double the voltage amplitude of the DC converter 68 of FIG. 5. For example, the DC voltage output of converter 69 can be about 240 volts as compared to a DC voltage output of 120 volts for the DC converter 68. The external DC power supply 76 further includes a manually operable switch 78 for use in conjunction with a manually operable switch 80 provided within the supported device 20. A pair of additional capacitors 82 and 84 of the external DC power supply 76 are connected in series across the center connections of the bridge rectifier 22. Nominal voltage selecting switch 78 is connected between the junction of capacitors 82 and 84 and the NEUTRAL of the AC line input. The supported device 20A includes a pair of capacitors 86 and 88 in conjunction with the switch 80, as shown.

35 In operation the nominal voltage selecting switch 78 is closed for an AC line input supply of 120 volts nominal with the supported device switch 80 in the

closed position. The nominal voltage selecting switch 78 is opened for an AC line input supply of 240 volts nominal with the supported device switch in the open position.

5 In FIG. 7, there is shown an alternative external DC power supply generally designated by the reference numeral 90 together with a supported device 20B adapted for 3-phase operation. At its input, the external DC power supply 90 includes a 3-phase AC plug 92 for 10 connection with the 3-phase AC line supply. A 3-phase AC plug 94 of the supported device 20B is connected to a corresponding receptacle 96 of the external DC power supply 90, as shown. The external DC power supply 90 includes a 3-phase bridge rectifier 98 including six 15 diodes 100, 102, 104, 106, 108 and 110. The external DC power supply 90 includes a series connected combination of a battery 112 and a diode 114 connected across the 3-phase bridge rectifier 98.

20 The supported device 20B includes a 3-phase bridge 118 including six diodes 120, 122, 124, 126, 128 and 130 with a filtering capacitor 132 connected across the 3-phase bridge 118. The parallel combination of the series connected battery 112 and diode 114 and the 3-phase rectifier 98 is connected via receptacle 96 and 3-phase plug 94 to the 3-phase bridge 118, as shown. The external DC power supply 90 provides similar backup power functions for 3-phase operation as the external DC power supply 20.

30 In FIG. 8, there is shown an alternative external DC power supply generally designated by the reference numeral 136 together with the supported device 20. The same reference numerals are used in FIG. 8 for similar components of FIG. 1. External DC power supply 136 includes a capacitor 138 replacing the battery 32 and diode 34 combination of FIG. 1. The capacitor 138 provides a backup current source for a time period of a selected number of cycles proportional to its energy 35

storage capacity. A 250 volt or 450 volt rated capacitor having a capacitance rating in a range between 250-10,000 microFarad advantageously is used for the capacitor 138. Various commercially available capacitors can 5 be used for the capacitor 138, for example, such as, an aluminum electrolytic type Series 36DX sold by Sprague, Inc.

In FIG. 9, there is shown an alternative external DC power supply generally designated by the 10 reference numeral 146 together with the supported device 20. The same reference numerals are used in FIG. 9 for similar components of FIGS. 1 and 8. External DC power supply 146 further includes a resistor 148 and a diode 150 in combination with the capacitor 138, as shown. 15 The resistor 148 provides a path for slowly charging the capacitor 138 during normal operation of the AC line input. The capacitor 138 is discharged through the diode 150 when the AC line input power fails.

In FIG. 10, there is shown an alternative external DC power supply generally designated by the 20 reference numeral 156 together with the supported device 20. The same reference numerals are used in FIG. 10 for similar components of FIG. 1. External DC power supply 156 includes a second bridge rectifier 158 including 25 four diodes 160, 162, 164 and 166. The bridge rectifier 158 is connected at its input to an alternative AC power source. The series connected combination of the battery 32 and diode 34 is connected across the + and - center connections of the bridge rectifier 158. External DC 30 power supply 156 provides backup battery power to the supported device 20 in the event of failure of both the normal AC line power and the alternative AC power source. The normal AC line power and the alternative AC power source are not required to be synchronous or to 35 have the same frequency.

In summary, multiple external DC power supply arrangements have been provided for simply and

economically providing backup power for various types of supported devices. A significant advantage of all of these external DC power supplies is that the need for access to wiring within a particular supported device is

5 eliminated.

While the invention has been described with reference to details of the illustrated embodiment, these details are not intended to limit the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1 1. An external DC (direct current) power
2 supply for supplying DC power to a supported device
3 having an AC input connector adapted for connecting the
4 supported device to an AC voltage source and the
5 supported device including an internal voltage rectifier
6 connected to the AC input connector, comprising:

7 an AC (alternating current) voltage source;
8 voltage rectifier means coupled to said AC
9 voltage source for rectifying said AC voltage source;

10 energy storage means coupled in parallel with
11 an output of said voltage rectifier means for providing
12 a predetermined DC voltage threshold level;

13 connector means for applying a DC power output
14 of said parallel combination of said rectifier means and
15 said energy storage means to the voltage rectifier of
16 the supported device, said connector means being
17 connected to the AC input connector of the supported
18 device;

19 said energy storage means supplying current
20 only when said voltage rectifying means provides a
21 rectified voltage level below said predetermined DC
22 voltage threshold level thereby providing backup DC
23 power to the supported device; and

24 said AC input connector of the supported
25 device being connected only to said external DC power
26 supply.

1 2. An external DC power supply as recited in
2 claim 1 wherein said voltage rectifier means is a diode
3 bridge rectifier.

1 3. An external DC power supply as recited in
2 claim 1 wherein said voltage rectifier means includes a
3 split phase transformer connected in parallel with a
4 pair of oppositely poled diodes.



1 4. An external DC power supply as recited in
2 claim 1 wherein said an AC (alternating current) voltage
3 source is a 3-phase AC line supply and said voltage
4 rectifier means includes a six diode bridge rectifier.

1 5. An external DC power supply as recited in
2 claim 1 wherein the supported device includes a voltage
3 doubler arrangement and said external DC power supply
4 further comprises a voltage doubler arrangement.

1 6. An external DC power supply as recited in
2 claim 5 wherein said voltage rectifier means is a bridge
3 rectifier and wherein said voltage doubler arrangement
4 of said external DC power supply includes a switch
5 moveable between an opened position and a closed
6 position, a pair of capacitors connected in series and
7 said pair of series connected capacitors connected in
8 parallel with said energy storage means and connected
9 between + and - center connections of said bridge
10 rectifier; and said switch connected between a junction
11 of said series connected capacitors and a neutral AC
12 source connection.



1 7. A unitary external DC (direct current)
2 power supply for supplying DC power to a supported
3 device having an AC input connector adapted for
4 connecting the supported device to an AC voltage source
5 and having an internal rectifier connected to the AC
6 input connector, comprising in combination:

7 a housing for containing said unitary external
8 DC power supply;

9 an AC (alternating current) voltage source
10 connected to said unitary external DC power supply;

11 full wave voltage rectifier means of said
12 unitary external DC power supply contained within said
13 housing and coupled to said AC voltage source for
14 rectifying said AC voltage source and providing at its
15 output a rectified AC voltage having a threshold RMS
16 value;

17 energy storage means contained within said
18 housing and coupled in parallel with an output of said
19 voltage rectifier means for providing a predetermined DC
20 voltage threshold level;

21 connector means associated with said housing
22 for providing a DC power output of said parallel
23 combination of said full wave voltage rectifier means
24 and said energy storage means to the voltage rectifier
25 of the supported device, said connector means being
26 connected to the AC input connector of the supported
27 device; and

28 said energy storage means supplying current
29 only when said voltage rectifying means provides a
30 rectified voltage level below said predetermined DC
31 voltage threshold level thereby providing backup DC
32 power to the supported device.



1 8. A method for supplying DC (direct
2 current) power to a supported device having an AC input
3 connector adapted for connecting the supported device to
4 an AC voltage source and having an internal rectifier
5 connected to the AC input connector, comprising the
6 steps of:

7 rectifying an AC voltage source with a
8 rectifier circuit for providing a rectified voltage
9 signal having a threshold RMS value;

10 providing an energy storage device in parallel
11 with said rectifier circuit for supplying current only
12 when said rectified voltage signal is below a
13 predetermined DC voltage threshold level; and

14 applying a DC power output of said parallel
15 combination of said rectifier circuit and said energy
16 storage device to the voltage rectifier of the supported
17 device.

1 9. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein
2 said step of applying a DC power output of said parallel
3 combination of said rectifier circuit and said energy
4 storage device to the voltage rectifier of the supported
5 device includes the step of:

6 connecting said parallel combination of said
7 rectifier circuit and said energy storage device to the
8 AC input connector of the supported device.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 8 further
2 includes the step of:

3 providing a housing for enclosing said
4 parallel combination of said rectifier circuit and said
5 energy storage device.



1 11. A method as recited in claim 10 further
2 includes the step of:

3 providing a connector extending from said
4 housing for connecting to a primary AC line input; and
5 providing a receptacle with said housing for
6 connecting to the AC input connector of the supported
7 device.

1 12. An external backup DC power supply
2 substantially as described and as shown in the
3 accompanying drawing.

13. A method for supplying DC power to a supported device having an AC input connector adapted for connecting the supported device to an AC voltage source and having an internal rectifier connected to the AC input connector, said method being substantially as described and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

Dated 30 July, 1993
ONEAC Corporation

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant/Nominated Person
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External Backup Power Supply

Abstract of the Disclosure

An external DC (direct current) power supply (10) is provided for
5 supplying backup DC power to a supported device (39) having an AC input
connector (18). The power supply (10) includes an AC (alternating
current) voltage source (14). A voltage rectifier (22) is coupled to the
AC voltage source (14) for rectifying the AC voltage source (14). An
energy storage device (32) coupled in parallel to the voltage rectifier
10 (22) provides a predetermined DC voltage threshold level. A connector
(16) of the external DC power supply (10) applies a power output of the
parallel combination of the voltage rectifier (22) and the energy storage
device (32) to the AC input connector (18) of the supported device (39).

The external DC power supply (10) is capable of reliably,
15 effectively and efficiently supplying backup power to the AC power input
(18) of a supported system (39) without requiring any special wiring or
modification of the supported system (39) using only the AC input plug
(18) for connection to the supported system (39).

Figure 1

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