

Süd-Chemie and Evonik agree on supply partnership for novel battery materials

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Süd-Chemie AG, Munich and Evonik Industries AG, Essen have agreed to enter into a supply partnership aimed at using novel materials in the next generation of lithium-ion batteries for automobiles and other industrial applications. By entering into this agreement, both enterprises have laid the foundation for the preferred delivery by Süd-Chemie to Evonik of the high performance energy storage material of the future, lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO₄, also referred to as LFP), to be used in rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. The use of lithium iron phosphate in lithium-ion batteries will significantly improve the conditions for a swift and wide-scale introduction of more powerful electric drives for the next generation of hybrid and electric-drive vehicles.

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Süd-Chemie will be responsible for manufacturing the high-grade lithium iron phosphate in line with the required specifications, and for technical customer service. With the aid of the cathode material lithium iron phosphate, Evonik intends to develop to market maturity high-powered cell components for both mobile and stationary applications via its subsidiary Evonik Litarion GmbH, focusing initially on the European market.

The main features of lithium iron phosphate which make it especially suitable for use in lithium-ion batteries are its high energy density, its high cycle stability, long life and above all, the intrinsic safety of the material.

Under the LITARION® brand, Evonik Litarion GmbH produces electrodes that make a significant contribution to enhancing the performance of lithium-ion batteries. Evonik has also developed a novel ceramic separator named SEPARION® to significantly boost both the efficiency and safety of large-scale lithium-ion cells. Li-Tec – a joint venture operated by Evonik Industries (50.1%) and Daimler AG (49.9%) – makes use of the key chemical cell components supplied by Evonik Litarion to produce large-scale lithium-ion battery cells for automotive and industrial applications at the partners' joint production site in Kamenz, Saxony.

Company information

Evonik Industries is the creative industrial group from Germany which operates in three business areas: Chemicals, Energy and Real Estate. Evonik is a global leader in specialty chemicals, an expert in power generation from hard coal and renewable energies, and one of the largest private residential real estate companies in Germany. Our strengths are creativity, specialization, continuous self-renewal, and reliability. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world. In its fiscal year 2008 about 41,000 employees generated sales of about €15.9 billion and an operating profit (EBITDA) of about €2.2 billion.

Evonik Industries has been producing specialty chemical products in China since the early 1990's, with wide-ranging trading relations already in place prior to this. The Group now has a total of 19 companies and 15 production sites in the region. In fiscal year 2008, 4,000 employees generated sales of over €820 million. Evonik regards China as one of the driving forces of the global economy, and we consequently intend to increase our business in Greater China to around €2 billion in the medium term.

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