Lithium Australia produces high-purity battery material using proprietary SiLeach process

Lithium Australia NL (ASX:LIT) has successfully generated lithium phosphate from waste materials using its 100% owned SiLeach® process.

Furthermore, LIT has, together with ANSTO, developed a simple means of removing impurities from the lithium phosphate resulting in an exceptionally high-purity refined product, suitable for the manufacture of lithium ion batteries (LIBs), and in particular, those with lithium iron phosphate (LFP) chemistry.

The company had earlier produced LFP batteries from unreffned, SiLeach generated lithium phosphate.

READ: Lithium Australia achieves significant lithium recovery from SiLeach pilot-plant

The lithium phosphate refining process was developed to ensure consistency of quality for the production of high performance LFP batteries.

The performance of batteries made from the refined lithium phosphate product has been tested at LIT’s wholly owned VSPC cathode powder pilot plant in Brisbane, Australia.

The refined lithium phosphate was used to manufacture cathode powder and subsequently LFP coin cells which were then subjected to a standard testing regime and the results compared with industry benchmarks and VSPC’s most advanced cathode powders.

Importantly, the results indicate the refined lithium phosphate is an ideal component for the manufacture of high-performance LFP cathode powders.

LIT is confident that LFP products produced using lithium phosphate, refined with the processed developed by LIT/ANSTO will have significant advantages when compared with those produced using a more conventional lithium carbonate, or lithium hydroxide precursor.

READ: Lithium Australia discovers lithium target at Lake Johnston

LIT managing director Adrian Griffin said: “The lithium phosphate refining process is cheap, effective and provides the means to produce high-purity materials with consistent quality.

“These properties are of paramount importance as we work with leading Chinese battery producer, DLG, to commercialize VSPC cathode powder.

READ: Lithium Australia to set up Lithium Australia DLG venture with Chinese
battery producer DLG

"When compared with other lithium chemicals, high-purity lithium phosphate is a winner when it comes to producing LFP batteries, providing two of the fundamental components for the generation of the cathode while simultaneously eliminating the requirement for lithium carbonate or lithium hydroxide.

"This is a real winner."

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