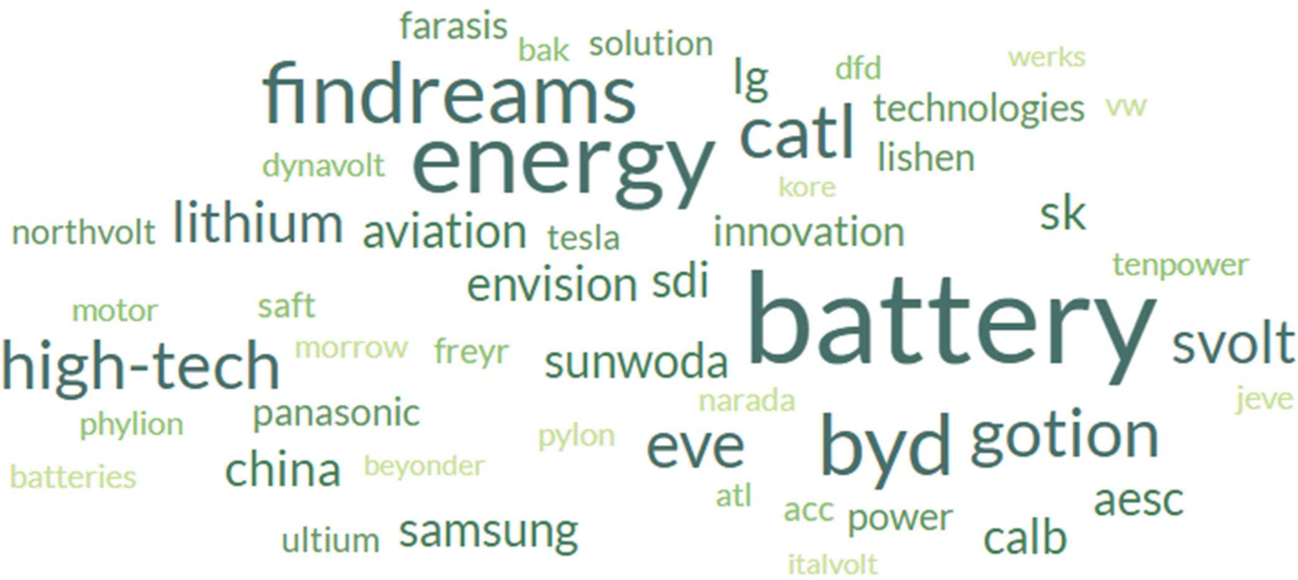
Clagora Analytics

2025-07-15



The digest focuses on key areas significant to battery value chain

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Contents

1. **Rock Tech Lithium Clarifies Lopare Resource and Updates Arcore Deal**

   Rock Tech Lithium has issued a clarification regarding its Lopare Lithium Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The company noted that the resource estimate disclosed earlier was historical in nature and not compliant with current Canadian NI 43-101 standards. The estimate was based on a previous JORC-compliant report and needs additional work for validation. Rock Tech acknowledged it currently lacks access to the Lopare site, which limits its ability to independently verify the data. As part of a broader strategic plan, the company also updated stakeholders on its proposed transaction with Arcore AG. This deal aims to integrate the Lopare lithium asset with Rock Tech's Guben Converter in Germany. Closing is targeted for Q3 2025, subject to due diligence, financing, and regulatory approvals. The company is actively working on technical, legal, and funding steps to finalize the agreement. CEO Mirco Wojnarowicz emphasized the move aligns with Rock Tech's vision for a European lithium supply chain.
   https://rocktechlithium.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/MInfoEng_ArcoreProgress.pdf

2. **Chinese Firms Power Nigeria's Lithium Boom and EV Ambitions**

   Chinese companies are rapidly expanding their footprint in Nigeria's lithium and electric vehicle (EV) sectors. Over 80% of funding for four major lithium processing plants in the country comes from Chinese investors. These include a $600 million facility near Kaduna and a $200 million plant near Abuja, with two more planned in Nasarawa. The investments mark a shift from raw mineral exports to domestic value addition through refining, technology transfer, and job creation. Chinese firms are also exploring EV assembly ventures in Nigeria, aligning with the country's green industrial goals. The Nigerian government is supporting this shift through reforms such as export bans on unprocessed minerals and formalizing artisanal mining. While these partnerships promise growth, they also raise concerns about economic dependency and environmental safeguards. The success of these projects will depend on effective regulation and community involvement. Nigeria aims to emerge as a key player in Africa's clean energy future.
   https://african.business/2025/07/resources/chinese-companies-grab-stake-in-nigerias-lithium-and-ev-future

3. **Argosy Minerals Readies for Lithium Surge Amid Market Rebound**

   Argosy Minerals (ASX: AGY) has entered a trading halt ahead of a pivotal capital raise, designed to support its Rincon lithium project in Argentina. The move follows a landmark agreement to supply 60 tonnes of battery-grade lithium carbonate (99.5% purity) to a Hong Kong-based chemical company under a fixed-price, Shanghai Metals Market-linked contract. Delivery is set FOB Buenos Aires, with 30% upfront and the balance due before shipping. The placement, minimally $2 million and managed by Evolution Capital, has already attracted strong interest from battery-sector investors. Multiple parties have accessed Argosy's data room, seeking strategic partnerships. Management describes Argosy's portfolio as particularly appealing amid renewed lithium sector sentiment, with the Hong Kong deal underscoring external confidence. MD Jerko Zuvela emphasised that Argosy stands to benefit from the EV and lithium upswing, given their solid project fundamentals and development milestones achieved thus far. The company is among a select group exporting premium battery-quality lithium carbonate. These developments position Argosy well for a rebound in lithium demand following a prior industry slowdown. With the capital raise, Argosy aims to advance Rincon toward full-scale production and capitalise on improving market conditions.
   https://www.argosyminerals.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2912183.pdf

4. **Piedmont Lithium Lists Kings Mountain Site for Sale**

   Piedmont Lithium has announced plans to sell its Kings Mountain property in North Carolina, originally acquired for a proposed lithium processing facility. The site is now considered surplus to the company's strategic needs following a shift in development focus. With a listing price of around $3.6 million, the sale is part of Piedmont's efforts to streamline operations and reallocate capital more efficiently. The company intends to concentrate resources on advancing its flagship Carolina Lithium project. The Kings Mountain parcel was once part of a broader integrated production vision but no longer aligns with Piedmont's updated priorities. This move reflects a broader trend of lithium developers optimizing portfolios amid changing market dynamics. Proceeds from the sale are expected to support progress on core infrastructure and project milestones. The decision highlights Piedmont's strategic flexibility and commitment to long-term value creation. Investors and industry observers will be monitoring how the company redirects funds to maintain momentum.

https://finance.yahoo.com/news/piedmont-lithium-puts-kings-mountain-174835842.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

5. **India's Strategic Lithium Play with Argentina**

India and Argentina have struck a potentially transformative lithium cooperation deal, as detailed in the video analysis. The agreement centers on India securing access to Argentina's lithium-rich reserves—a critical step in bolstering its green energy ambitions. It includes exploration rights for several lithium blocks in Argentina's Catamarca province. The partnership aims to reduce India's dependence on China for essential battery metals. By tapping into Argentina's expertise and low-cost production capacity, India expects to secure a stable supply of battery-grade lithium. The deal supports India's broader goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and scaling up electric vehicle manufacturing. Analysts highlight that this partnership marks a shift toward vertically integrated supply chains for critical minerals. The move is part of India's broader diplomatic push into Latin America, aligning foreign policy with industrial strategy. This could reshape global lithium trade flows and deepen India–Argentina economic ties. The video concludes that successful implementation may offer a blueprint for future South–South cooperation in green technologies.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiWpqytjk38

6. **Bolivian Lawmakers Clash Over Russian Lithium Deal**

Tensions erupted in Bolivia's Lower Chamber on July 9 as lawmakers nearly came to blows over controversial lithium production agreements. At the center of the dispute is a deal between Bolivia's state-owned Yacimientos de Litio Boliviano and Russia's Uranium One Group to build a lithium extraction plant in the Uyuni salt flats. Members of the ruling MAS party and opposition clashed in a heated commission meeting, even overturning a table. The bill must first pass at the commission level before full congressional approval. The government claims Bolivia will retain 51% of the profits, but dissenting lawmakers argue the deal lacks fair terms. Representatives from the mineral-rich Potosí region are demanding stronger safeguards and more equitable benefits. Critics fear that without revisions, the deal may exploit national resources. Supporters argue it will boost social and economic development. The clash highlights growing national debate over how Bolivia manages its lithium wealth. The outcome could reshape Bolivia's role in the global energy transition.
https://x.com/cgtnamerica/status/1943520624502038588

7. **Rwanda Makes Major Lithium Discovery in Boost to Green Economy**

Aterian PLC, a UK-based critical minerals explorer, and global mining giant Rio Tinto have announced a significant high-grade lithium discovery in Rwanda's Southern Province. The drilling, part of their HCK Joint Venture, began in September 2024 and revealed promising results, including a 6.9-meter interval grading 2.11% lithium, with a richer 3.45-meter section at 3.20%. Only two of twelve identified zones have been explored so far, suggesting vast untapped potential. Following the discovery, Rio Tinto exercised its Stage 1 earn-in rights, securing a 51% stake with an option to raise it to 75% after investing $7.5 million over three years. Aterian's CEO stressed the need for further drilling to understand the deposit's scale and consistency. A detailed technical review is ongoing to shape the next exploration phase, with major decisions expected by the end of 2025. The HCK license area spans 2,750 hectares and includes 19 lithium-bearing pegmatite zones, also rich in tantalum and cesium. Rwanda's mining sector, which employs over 72,000 people, plays a vital role in the national economy and has the potential to generate $150 billion in revenue. This lithium find is a strategic win for Rwanda's ambitions in the global clean-energy and electric vehicle supply chain.
https://aterianplc.com/announcements/7048686

8. **Nevada Lithium Project Delayed as Prices Plunge**

The Rhyolite Ridge lithium-boron project in Nevada has been delayed again due to a sharp decline in global lithium prices, triggered by slowing electric vehicle demand and market oversupply. Developer Ioneer Corp has postponed construction until at least March 2026, after its major backer Sibanye-Stillwater withdrew a $490 million investment. Lithium prices, once soaring near $80,000 per tonne in late 2022, have fallen to around $9,000 per tonne as of July 2025. Despite the setback, Ioneer still plans to begin production by 2028, backed by a nearly $1 billion federal loan. The company is now seeking a new equity partner to move the project forward. Rhyolite Ridge is one of only two major lithium-boron deposits globally, providing valuable mineral diversity. With estimated production costs at $5,200 per tonne, it could become one of the world's lowest-cost operations. A recent resource update increased reserves to 247 million tonnes, extending the mine's life to 95 years but also

raising capital needs to $1.67 billion. While short-term challenges remain, long-term prospects look promising as demand for green energy minerals grows.
https://nevadacurrent.com/2025/07/11/nevada-mine-delayed-amid-lithium-price-slump/

9. NLC India in Advanced Talks with Russian Firm for Lithium Sourcing

NLC India Ltd is in advanced discussions with a Russian state-owned company to jointly acquire a lithium mining block in Mali, West Africa. This move marks NLC's strategic diversification from coal and power into critical minerals vital for electric vehicle batteries. The partnership would allow NLC to secure long-term lithium supply and support India's push to reduce import dependency in the energy transition space. The collaboration also aligns with India's broader goals of boosting domestic battery manufacturing. NLC has recently expanded into other minerals like phosphorite and limestone in Chhattisgarh. A successful deal in Mali would offer India direct access to overseas lithium reserves. The company's financial strength, with a fourfold profit increase in Q4 FY25, supports its international expansion plans. This venture is part of India's larger effort to establish resilient supply chains for key clean energy materials. The deal could play a pivotal role in achieving national energy security targets. If finalized, it would further deepen India-Russia economic cooperation in strategic resources.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/nlc-india-in-advanced-talks-with-russian-firm-for-sourcing-lithium/articleshow/122414815.cms

10. Russia Seizes Key Ukrainian Lithium Deposit Amid Ongoing Conflict

Russian forces have seized control of Ukraine's second-largest lithium deposit located near Shevchenko village in the Donetsk region. The 100-acre site is known for its high lithium concentrations, making it one of Ukraine's most valuable strategic mineral assets. This capture occurred during Russia's summer offensive and threatens Western investment plans in Ukraine's critical minerals sector. A U.S.–Ukraine partnership aimed at developing Ukraine's lithium resources is now at risk due to the loss of this site. One American firm with prior rights to the deposit warned that further Russian advances could lead to the loss of more key mineral zones. The seizure also diminishes Ukraine's economic leverage in international negotiations, particularly with the U.S. Despite this setback, Ukraine recently approved private investment in the Dobra lithium field to sustain development efforts. Analysts caution that continued Russian territorial gains may severely impact Ukraine's clean energy future. The incident underscores how resource control is becoming a central factor in the ongoing geopolitical conflict.
https://www.nairaland.com/8473591/russia-seizes-second-largest-lithium

11. Pioneer Lithium Acquires Gaobis Uranium Project in Namibia

Pioneer Lithium has signed an agreement to acquire 100% ownership of the Gaobis Uranium Project in southern Namibia from Ropa Investments. The project, located near Pioneer's existing Warmbad site, spans approximately 350 km², creating a combined landholding of over 620 km². Historical drilling at Gaobis has shown promising shallow uranium mineralisation, including intercepts of 23.9 meters at 100 ppm and 22.6 meters at 141 ppm U_3O_8. The area also features strong radiometric anomalies extending over 1.7 km, indicating further exploration potential. Namibia's supportive mining regulations and low 3% uranium royalty make the region attractive for development. The acquisition cost is relatively low at $50,000, split into two payments. Pioneer plans a structured exploration program, including regulatory approvals, geophysical studies, and drilling. The deal strengthens Pioneer's position in the global uranium market amid rising demand for nuclear energy. Completion is expected by Q2 2025, integrating Gaobis into Pioneer's growing uranium portfolio. This move supports the company's strategy to capitalize on the global clean energy transition.
https://clients3.weblink.com.au/clients/pioneerlithium/headline.aspx?headlineid=61272231

EV's and Batteries

12. ProLogium Surpasses 2.4 Million Shipments of Lithium Ceramic Batteries

ProLogium Technology has reached a major milestone with over 2.4 million units of its next-generation lithium ceramic batteries shipped since production began in 2013. A key driver was its Taoyuan gigafactory in Taiwan, which delivered more than 500,000 units in just 18 months. These batteries are being used across electric vehicles, wearables, industrial systems, and automotive electronics. The technology features a solid-state electrolyte design that offers superior safety, fast charging, high energy density, and thermal stability. ProLogium is also preparing to build a new gigafactory in Dunkirk, France, with construction slated for 2026 and mass production by 2028. Its unique battery architecture combines the benefits of both solid-state and traditional liquid batteries while addressing cost and interface challenges. The company holds over 900 patents and has supplied more than 12,000 battery samples to global OEMs. This achievement reinforces ProLogium's leadership in advanced battery innovation. It also supports the broader shift toward safer and more efficient green energy solutions worldwide.

https://prologium.com/prologiums-next-generation-lithium-ceramic-battery-shipments-surpass-2-4-million-units-a-new-milestone-in-the-commercialization-of-green-energy-technologies/

13. Morrow and SEEL Join Forces to Advance LNMO Battery Cell Technology

Morrow Technologies AS, a unit of Morrow Batteries ASA, has partnered with SEEL (Swedish Electric Transport Laboratory) to accelerate the development of lithium-nickel-manganese-oxide (LNMO) battery cells. The collaboration falls under the EU's IPCEI initiative, which supports strategic innovations in battery technology across Europe. The project aims to develop and validate advanced accelerated-aging protocols to better predict battery performance and lifespan under real-world conditions. Morrow will lead the cell development, while SEEL will provide its state-of-the-art testing infrastructure. RISE Research Institutes of Sweden will support rigorous scientific validation. This joint effort is expected to shorten development timelines and improve both safety and reliability of LNMO cells. LNMO chemistry is seen as a promising alternative for cost-effective and cobalt-free batteries. The partnership marks a step forward in strengthening Europe's battery ecosystem. It also supports the broader goal of advancing sustainable electric mobility and energy storage solutions.

https://news.morrowbatteries.com/pressreleases/morrow-and-seel-partner-to-advance-lnmo-battery-cell-technology-under-ipcei-3395144

14. CATL Unveils First "Factory-in-Factory" Setup for Aito EV Batteries

CATL has launched its first "factory-in-factory" battery production lines inside Seres' Chongqing plant to directly supply EV batteries for Aito, a premium car brand by Seres and Huawei. The facility includes two advanced Cell-to-Pack 2.0 lines, fully managed by CATL within Seres' premises, aimed at speeding up battery delivery and reducing vehicle wait times. Described as CATL's most intelligent and digitally advanced line, the setup supports real-time coordination between battery production and vehicle assembly. This initiative stems from a 2022 agreement for CATL to supply batteries for all Aito models by 2027. The facility will produce both lithium-ion and sodium-ion battery packs, including CATL's new Freevoy sodium-ion technology. These batteries are designed to support ultra-fast 12C charging, enabling charge times of just a few minutes. CATL is also working on a photovoltaic energy system to power the plant sustainably. This model reflects a shift toward tighter integration between battery makers and automakers. It positions CATL as a leader in vertically integrated EV battery supply solutions.

15. Ecobat Sells Italian Recycling Operations to Haiki

Ecobat, a global battery recycling leader, has completed the sale of its Italian business to Haiki+, an Italy-based environmental services firm. The transaction includes facilities in Marcianise, Paderno Dugnano, and Bologna, marking Ecobat's full exit from the Italian market. This move is part of Ecobat's strategic plan to streamline its global operations and focus on core markets. CEO Tom Slabe stated the divestment will optimize their geographic footprint and enhance shareholder value. Ecobat expressed confidence in Haiki's ability to sustainably grow the acquired operations. The deal includes both battery and polypropylene recycling assets. Financial advisory was provided by Pirola Corporate Finance, with ADVANT Nctm acting as legal counsel. Haiki aims to scale its presence in Italy's circular economy sector through this acquisition. The sale follows Ecobat's earlier exit from France, reinforcing its global restructuring strategy. Both companies are now better positioned to focus on their respective regional strengths and growth plans.

https://ecobat.com/2025/07/ecobat-completes-sale-of-italian-business-to-haiki/

16. SVOLT Thailand Factory Reaches 10,000 EV Battery Pack Milestone

SVOLT's joint venture plant in Chonburi, Thailand, has successfully produced its 10,000th EV battery pack as of June 30, 2025, marking a key milestone in its regional growth. The facility operates two advanced production lines for CTP and LCTP/HEV packs and uses eight integrated digital systems, achieving a 99.9% yield rate. With 50% of production steps fully automated—including plasma cleaning and OCV testing—the plant ensures high efficiency and low defect rates. It also offers full traceability from raw materials to finished products, improving inventory control. The factory supplies battery packs for popular EVs in Thailand, such as the ORA Good Cat and Haval H6 PHEV. SVOLT plans to expand into energy storage systems and lightweight power modules designed for Southeast Asia. The site benefits from Thailand's EV 3.0 policy, local certifications, and logistics access via Laem Chabang Port. It also supports solar-storage-charging pilot programs and local workforce development. This milestone reflects SVOLT's commitment to innovation and sustainable battery manufacturing. The factory is set to become a key hub for energy solutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

https://batteriesnews.com/svolt-thailand-factory-hits-10000th-ev-battery-pack-milestone/

17. Ford's Michigan EV Battery Plant on Track for Federal Tax Credits

Ford Motor Company confirms that its $3 billion EV battery plant in Marshall, Michigan—currently around 60% complete—is poised to qualify for federal production tax credits under new federal budget legislation. The plant, backed by licensing from Chinese battery giant CATL, had faced uncertainty under earlier draft rules that would have disqualified projects using foreign-linked technology. Revised legislation now allows Ford to retain eligibility, highlighting "effective control" over operations as a key qualifier. The Marshall facility, expected to begin producing lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) battery cells in 2026, will employ approximately 1,700 workers. Analysts estimate Ford could receive up to $35 per kilowatt-hour for cells and $10 per kilowatt-hour for battery packs—potentially totaling $900 million in credits based on planned capacity. Ford executives view this as crucial for keeping EV prices competitive and securing U.S. manufacturing momentum. The plant has previously seen reduced state-level incentives as Ford adjusted output projections amid softer EV demand. Ford Executive Chair Bill Ford has emphasised that altering tax-credit policy midstream would jeopardize the entire investment. Industry groups, including the Alliance for Automobile Manufacturers, applaud the legislation for safeguarding domestic advanced manufacturing. Overall, the decision strengthens Ford's EV strategy and reinforces American leadership in battery production.

https://batteriesnews.com/ford-says-michigan-ev-battery-plant-on-track-for-production-tax-credits/

18. Century Lithium Applauds First Phosphate for LFP Battery Cell Breakthrough

Century Lithium has commended First Phosphate Corp. for successfully producing commercial-grade LFP 18650 battery cells using lithium carbonate sourced from Century's Angel Island project in Nevada. The battery cells also used phosphoric acid and iron powder from First Phosphate's Quebec facilities, highlighting a fully North American supply chain. Assembly was carried out at Ultion Technologies' pilot plant in Las Vegas, validating the compatibility of Century's lithium in LFP battery applications. Century's CEO Bill Willoughby expressed pride in the milestone and reaffirmed ongoing support through continued innovation and project development. The collaboration marks a significant step toward strengthening North America's domestic battery materials ecosystem. It also bridges mining, chemical processing, and cell manufacturing within a single continent. LFP batteries are increasingly viewed as a cornerstone of future electric mobility and energy storage. Century's demonstration plant continues to progress through engineering and permitting phases. This achievement boosts regional supply chain resilience and reflects growing independence from foreign battery materials.

https://www.centurylithium.com/news/century-lithium-commends-first-phosphate-in-making-lfp-battery-cells-using-century-lithium-material

19. EU Commits €852 Million to Six Innovative EV Battery Projects

The European Commission has announced a €852 million investment to support six cutting-edge electric vehicle battery projects across France, Germany, Sweden, and Poland. The funding, part of the EU's Innovation Fund under the "IF24 Battery" call, aims to boost advancements in battery cell chemistry, manufacturing, and recycling technologies. Selected projects include ACC's NMC cell line, Verkor's automated gigafactory, Cellforce's high-performance cells, Leclanché's PFAS-free production, Volvo-backed NOVO One, and LG Energy Solution's cylindrical cell expansion. Together, these initiatives will add around 56 GWh of annual battery production capacity by 2030. They are expected to cut 91 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions over ten years. Emphasis is placed on sustainability, with features like AI integration, water-based chemistries, and pre-recycling capabilities. Projects were chosen for their innovation, maturity, emissions impact, cost-effectiveness, and supply chain resilience. Funds will be distributed in phases, covering both capital and operational costs. The effort supports the EU Green Deal and bolsters Europe's competitiveness in the global battery industry.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1727

20. SQM Lithium Ventures Invests $3M in Electric Cargo Bike Startup Vok Bikes

SQM Lithium Ventures has invested $3 million in Estonian electric cargo bike developer Vok Bikes as part of its Series A funding round. The funding will support the scaling of Vok's production and its expansion into European and global markets. Vok Bikes is known for its proprietary 4-Drive electric drivetrain, which offers car-like performance, 64% lower operating costs, and 44% faster deliveries than small vans. The European EV market's 20% growth over the past two years has been driven by EU carbon-neutral goals, fueling demand for clean urban transport solutions. SQM led the $6 million round with participation from Metaplanet and SmartCap. Vok CEO Indrek Petjärv noted growing demand among fleet operators and a substantial pipeline of vehicles awaiting delivery. The investment is SQM's first in Europe, marking a strategic step in expanding its sustainable mobility portfolio. SQM CEO Mark Fones called the deal a milestone in promoting electromobility. The partnership reflects a growing focus on innovative, efficient logistics in urban transportation. Vok Bikes aims to be a leading force in the future of last-mile delivery.

https://vokbikes.com/articles/vok-bikes-raises-6m-series-a-funding-to-replace-city-vans-across-europe/

21. Belgium's novali Wins Funding for Next-Gen Lithium Metal Battery Development

Belgian battery developer novali has secured funding for a pioneering research initiative to advance next-generation lithium metal battery cells. The project will harness Sc.AI, a general-purpose scientific reasoning engine, to automate the entire research workflow—from exploring concepts and generating hypotheses to running simulations and refining outcomes. By leveraging Sc.AI's autonomous capabilities, novali aims to design high-performance, production-ready lithium metal battery cells with greater speed and efficiency. The initiative represents a bold step toward accelerating innovation in battery chemistry and cell design. Automating the scientific discovery process is expected to reduce the time and cost typically associated with advanced materials research. This support further strengthens novali's position in the global race to develop solid-state and lithium metal battery technologies. It also reflects increasing investment focus on Europe's clean energy and advanced battery capabilities. The project highlights the role of AI-driven science in transforming energy storage research and development. As experts prioritize high-energy-density battery solutions, novali's automated approach could serve as a blueprint for future materials breakthroughs.

https://www.marklines.com/en/news/329078

22. Chinese Battery Makers Accelerate Expansion in Southeast Asia

Chinese lithium battery manufacturers are rapidly expanding into Southeast Asia to counter domestic overcapacity, trade risks, and to secure upstream resources. In June 2025, three leading firms made major announcements: EVE Energy committed 8.65 billion yuan to a new plant in Malaysia, Shenzhen Senior launched a separator facility in Johor, and CATL began building a $6 billion integrated battery and nickel complex in Indonesia. These moves leverage the region's low costs, rich mineral reserves, and to China. Second-tier players like SVOLT, REPT Battero, Gotion, Sunwoda, and CosMX are also scaling up in Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia with large-scale production lines. Key raw material suppliers, including Huayou Cobalt, GEM, SEMCORP, and Capchem, are following suit to complete the supply chain. Chinese automakers such as BYD, Changan, and Great Wall are also setting up local assembly plants to support battery integration. Southeast Asia is projected to account for 30% of global lithium battery production by 2030. However, challenges remain, including tariff barriers and intellectual property risks. This strategic shift positions Southeast Asia as a vital hub in the global EV battery ecosystem.

23. Electrovaya Secures UL2580 Certification for 448 Advanced Battery Models

Electrovaya has achieved UL2580 safety certification for 448 models of its next-generation 24V, 36V, and 48V lithium-ion battery systems. These certified models include both the current 47Ah cells and the new 54Ah version, which is set to enter production in 2026 at the company's Jamestown, New York facility. The UL2580 certification confirms compliance with rigorous safety standards, including tests for fire propagation, shock, vibration, and short circuits. Electrovaya's new battery systems feature higher energy density, faster charging, and improved performance, particularly for material-handling and industrial vehicle applications. The systems are designed for enhanced ergonomics and longer operational life. CEO Dr. Raj DasGupta emphasized the significance of UL2580 as a trusted industry benchmark that reinforces Electrovaya's leadership in battery safety and innovation. The new battery models will be available to customers later this year. This milestone supports the company's Infinity battery platform and its growing presence in the electrification of heavy-duty equipment. Electrovaya continues to expand its portfolio to meet the evolving needs of safety-critical energy storage applications.

https://electrovaya.com/press/electrovaya-achieves-ul2580-certification-for-over-400-next-generation-lithium-ion-battery-models/

24. Zimbabwe Celebrates Breakthrough in Lithium-Ion Battery Development

Zimbabwe has achieved a major milestone in clean energy innovation with the successful development of its own lithium-ion battery by state-owned Verify Engineering. After a year-long test run, the prototype showed zero failure, confirming its reliability and performance. Initiated by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, the project aims to reduce dependence on imported battery materials. With US$500,000 already invested in research, the next phase requires US$28 million to build a large-scale manufacturing plant. The battery is designed to last up to ten years under normal use. Zimbabwe, home to Africa's largest lithium reserves and the fifth-largest globally, plans to locally source up to 80% of the required raw materials. This breakthrough is seen as a catalyst for industrialization, local manufacturing, and increased exports. The government and scientific community have hailed the project as a step toward economic self-reliance and green energy leadership. Verify Engineering is now focused on scaling up production and commercializing the technology.

https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/zimbabwe-celebrates-lithium-ion-battery-breakthrough/

25. LG Energy Solution Bets on Pouch LFP Cells for the ESS Market

LG Energy Solution has decided to enter the fast-growing energy-storage-system arena with pouch-format lithium-iron-phosphate cells instead of the market-dominant prismatic design. The company is leveraging its existing pouch infrastructure because it lacks the large-format prismatic lines its rivals already operate. Production of the JF1, JF2, and higher-capacity JF2S cells is under way in Michigan, Nanjing, and Wroclaw. Globally, over 80 % of ESS deployments rely on 280 Ah-plus prismatic cells, a space led by Chinese suppliers that furnished more than 90 % of U.S. ESS batteries last year. Prismatic cells offer integrated vents, fuses, and casings for safety but are heavier, while lightweight pouch cells require extra pack-level safeguards against thermal runaway. Cost pressure is driving prismatic capacities ever higher—some rivals now exceed 580 Ah—so LG Energy Solution is elongating its pouch format to keep pace. The firm is also developing prismatic batteries for electric vehicles and must soon decide whether to adapt that format for ESS use. For now, its pouch-first approach allows a rapid market entry but forces the company to equal the safety and cost metrics set by prismatic leaders.

https://www.thelec.net/news/articleView.html?idxno=5340

26. Nobian and Veolia Partner to Boost Sustainable Lithium Production in Europe

Nobian has partnered with Veolia Water Technologies to commercialize a patented process for converting lithium chloride into battery-grade lithium hydroxide monohydrate (LHM). The innovative method combines electrolysis and crystallization to produce high-purity LHM more efficiently and sustainably. Veolia validated the process at pilot scale using its proven HPD™ evaporation and crystallization technology. The collaboration aims to scale up production to meet growing demand for lithium in the European battery market. The effort aligns with Europe's strategy to reduce import dependence and build a domestic critical minerals supply chain. Initial deployment will leverage Veolia's and Nobian's existing low-capex chlor-alkali facilities in the Netherlands and Germany. The next phase involves engaging suppliers, investors, and industrial partners to accelerate adoption. Both companies see the partnership as a key step in advancing sustainable, low-carbon lithium production. The initiative supports Nobian's "Grow Greener Together" and Veolia's "GreenUp" sustainability goals. This alliance strengthens Europe's position in the global energy transition.

https://www.nobian.com/news/nobian-joins-forces-with-veolia-to-advance-lithium-production-for-batteries

27. Honeywell Acquires Nexceris' Li-Ion Tamer for Advanced Battery Fire Safety

Honeywell has acquired the Li-Ion Tamer business from Nexceris, integrating its cutting-edge off-gas detection system into Honeywell's Building Automation segment. This technology provides early warning—up to 30 minutes—of thermal runaway events in lithium-ion battery systems by detecting pre-fire gas emissions. The acquisition builds on a five-year strategic partnership and adds more than 30 patents to Honeywell's fire detection portfolio. It enhances safety solutions across sectors like energy storage, EV charging, data centers, and smart buildings. Honeywell anticipates the integration to be immediately accretive to earnings and to strengthen its position in the fast-growing battery safety market. With lithium-ion battery demand expected to grow over 30% annually to reach $400 billion by 2030, proactive fire safety is increasingly vital. Li-Ion Tamer will be incorporated alongside Honeywell's VESDA smoke detection and connected life-safety platforms to offer comprehensive protection. The move aligns with Honeywell's strategy of expanding its automation and life-safety technologies. It also reinforces Honeywell's leadership in early warning systems, combining hardware, IoT, and data analytics for enhanced customer protection.

https://investor.honeywell.com/static-files/18574064-973b-4537-9157-8666ec25f6dd

LFP-ESS and Start ups

28. LG Energy Solution Targets ESS with Pouch-Style LFP Batteries

LG Energy Solution is strategically shifting to pouch-format lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cells for its energy storage system (ESS) lineup, diverging from the prismatic standard dominating the market. Faced with limited prismatic cell availability and production capacity, the company is leveraging existing pouch-cell infrastructure across plants in Michigan, Nanjing, and Wroclaw. Its JF series pouch cells (JF1, JF2, JF2S) are optimized for higher capacity by stretching the pouch design. Globally, prismatic cells—especially large-format 280 Ah units—account for over 80% of ESS setups, with Chinese manufacturers supplying more than 90% of U.S. installations. LG's pouch-LFP strategy aims to offer a strong alternative through pouch scalability and efficient cell design, while competitors like Samsung SDI stick with prismatic formats. By distinguishing its ESS offering, LG is betting on pouch-based LFP to enhance performance and flexibility in the growing global energy storage market

https://www.thelec.net/news/articleView.html?idxno=5340

29. PowerChina Breaks Ground on World's Largest Grid-Connected Battery Project

PowerChina has begun construction on a massive 1 GW/6 GWh lithium iron phosphate (LFP) energy storage project in Ulan Chab, Inner Mongolia. Set to become the world's largest power generation-side battery system, the facility spans 46.7 hectares and features 1,200 ultra-large 5.016 MWh battery units and four 250 MVA transformers. With an investment of approximately CNY 6–6.3 billion (US$833–877 million), the project is scheduled for completion in just 214 days. Once operational, it will run under a 20-year maintenance contract. The advanced system will provide critical grid services such as peak shaving, frequency regulation, and capacity support. Located at 1,700 meters altitude with over 3,000 hours of annual sunshine, the site is ideal for solar energy integration. This initiative supports Inner Mongolia's renewable energy target of over 50% by 2025. It also strengthens North China's grid reliability amid rising clean energy adoption. The project marks a significant step in global energy storage innovation.

30. 400 MW/1.6 GWh Energy Storage Station Breaks Ground in Shanxi

Construction has started on a standalone 400 MW/1.6 GWh battery energy storage system in Fanzhi County, Xinzhou City, Shanxi Province, under Ganfeng's Shenzhen Yichu Energy. The CNY 2 billion investment project is expected to generate CNY 300 million annually once operational. It will become North China's largest shared energy storage station, central to the regional power system. Annual CO_2 emissions could be cut by over 500,000 tonnes—equivalent to planting 2,800 hectares of forest. The facility will deliver more than 500 million kWh of grid regulation capacity each year, enhancing renewable energy integration. It features Ganfeng's 5 MWh container-based system with next-gen 314 Ah LFP cells incorporating dual-layer coating for improved durability and lifecycle. These cells offer high cycle life and long service duration, ensuring system reliability. The project supports cleaner power in northern Shanxi and the wider Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei region, bolstering grid resilience. It signifies a major step toward large-scale application of advanced battery technology in China.

31. Power Queen Launches Smart 12V 100Ah Low-Temperature Lithium Battery

Power Queen has unveiled a next-generation 12V 100Ah low-temperature smart lithium battery built on $LiFePO_4$ technology. Designed for use in RVs, solar systems, marine applications, trolling motors, and home backup, the battery delivers 1,280Wh of usable energy with a 10-year lifespan and over 4,000 cycles at full depth of discharge. Weighing just 23 pounds, it offers double the capacity of comparable lead-acid batteries in a compact, lightweight design. The smart battery features a Bluetooth-enabled 100A BMS with over 23 protections, including low-temperature charging cutoff and automatic recovery functions. It supports reliable operation in temperatures as low as -20°C, ideal for harsh environments like ice fishing or off-grid winter travel. Users can monitor battery health, voltage, and charge levels in real-time through a mobile app. The battery supports multiple charging methods, including solar, alternator, and standard AC, with rapid 1C charging capability. This launch signals a major leap in safe, intelligent, and durable portable power. Power Queen is positioning the product as a game-changer for year-round energy independence.

https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/07/10/3113585/0/en/Power-Queen-Unveils-Revolutionary-12V-100Ah-Low-Temp-Smart-Lithium-Battery-Ushering-in-a-New-Era-of-Energy-Freedom.html?f=22&fvtc=7

32. Minnesota Greenlights 475 MW of New Solar and Storage Projects

Minnesota's Public Utilities Commission has approved two major clean-energy developments totaling 475 MW capacity. The Iron Pine Solar Project in Pine County will deliver 325 MW and include a new 1-mile 230 kV transmission line to Xcel Energy's grid. Meanwhile, the Northern Crescent Solar Project will generate 150 MW and integrate a 50 MW lithium iron phosphate battery storage system. These projects underwent extensive environmental reviews and public engagement before receiving approval. Construction is expected to begin in 2025, with commercial operations anticipated by late 2026 for Northern Crescent and late 2027 for Iron Pine. Together, they will deliver over 500 million kWh of grid regulation annually, bolstering stability, reliability, and resilience. The initiatives support Minnesota's goal of 100% clean energy by 2050, while creating jobs, enhancing local tax bases, and benefiting rural communities. Regulators note that solar-plus-storage solutions are vital to modernizing the grid and managing peak demand. These additions mark a significant step toward the state's clean energy objectives.

https://www.renewableenergyworld.com/solar/utility-scale/minnesota-regulators-approve-over-475-mw-of-new-solar-and-storage-project

33. SK On Signs MoU with L&F to Secure LFP Cathode Materials for North America

SK On has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with South Korean materials company L&F to secure a stable supply of lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathode materials for the North American energy storage market. The agreement sets the stage for long-term collaboration on volume, timing, and production scaling. L&F plans to expand its LFP cathode output to 60,000 tonnes initially, with room for further growth based on demand. This partnership aligns with SK On's strategy to localize LFP battery production in North America by converting existing manufacturing lines. The move targets rising demand in the U.S. for energy storage systems, especially for AI data centers and renewable energy integration. U.S. ESS capacity is projected to grow from 19 GW in 2023 to 250 GW by 2035. LFP batteries already represent around 80% of the global ESS market due to safety and cost advantages. SK On also plans to finalize supply agreements with North American customers later this year. The deal strengthens SK On's position in the U.S. battery market and supports eligibility for federal manufacturing incentives.

34. ICL Acquires Lavie Bio Assets from Evogene to Boost Ag-Biologicals Strategy

ICL, a global specialty chemicals company, has acquired the majority of operations and assets from Lavie Bio, the ag-biologicals subsidiary of Evogene. The deal includes Lavie Bio's proprietary Biology Driven Design (BDD) technology, microbial library, product pipeline, and key personnel. It also provides ICL access to the MicroBoost AI platform, which enhances microbial discovery for agriculture. Existing partnerships and commercial agreements of Lavie Bio remain with Evogene, offering future revenue opportunities. Evogene's CEO described the sale as a strategic move to monetize subsidiary value and focus on its computational biology platforms. ICL's R&D team plans to integrate Lavie Bio's assets into its global agronomy network to accelerate next-gen biological product development. This acquisition follows ICL's 2024 purchase of Brazilian firm Nitro 1000 and its investment in a biologicals research center. The transaction strengthens ICL's innovation pipeline and leadership in the rapidly growing ag-biologicals sector. Analysts see the deal as well-timed, with the global ag-biologicals market projected to reach $19.6 billion by 2027. Evogene will now concentrate on advancing its core tech-driven business segments.

https://agfundernews.com/speciality-chemicals-manufacturer-icl-buys-lavie-bio-activity-from-evogene-in-latest-deal-for-ag-biologicals

35. Epsilon Advanced Materials Secures $420 Million EXIM Support for U.S. Graphite Plant

Epsilon Advanced Materials Inc. has received a non-binding Letter of Interest from the Export–Import Bank of the United States for up to $420 million in debt financing. The funding, under the "Make More in America" initiative, would support construction of a synthetic graphite facility in Leland, North Carolina. The plant is expected to produce 30,000 tons of battery-grade synthetic graphite annually by 2027, with plans to double capacity to 60,000 tons by 2030. This material will be enough to power approximately one million electric vehicles per year. The project is aimed at strengthening U.S. battery supply chains and reducing dependence on Chinese graphite imports. Epsilon's Managing Director Vikram Handa emphasized the importance of local graphite production for clean energy and national security. A full loan application will be submitted later in 2025, followed by due diligence. If approved, the funding will enable Epsilon to deliver essential anode materials to American EV and battery makers. The move reflects growing federal support for domestic energy material manufacturing.

https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250709962100/en/Epsilon-Advanced-Materials-Inc.-Receives-Letter-of-Interest-for-up-to-%24420-Million-in-Debt-Financing-from-Export-Import-Bank-of-the-United-States

36. LG Energy Solution Returns to Profit on U.S. LFP Battery Demand and Tax Credits

LG Energy Solution (LGES) reported a strong recovery in Q2 2025, posting an operating profit of ₩492 billion, up 152% year-over-year, despite a 9.7% drop in revenue to ₩5.6 trillion. The turnaround was largely driven by U.S. tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act, which contributed significantly to the profit margin. Without the production subsidy, profit would have been just ₩1.4 billion. The company saw increased orders from U.S. automakers anticipating tariff changes, prompting a ramp-up in lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cell production at its Michigan plant. LGES also trimmed 2025 capital expenditures by 30% and paused its Arizona ESS plant to focus on projects eligible for U.S. incentives. Despite this positive momentum, the company faces ongoing challenges including sluggish EV demand and a 30% decline in lithium prices this year. LGES is also investing in upstream lithium sourcing from Australia and the U.S. to reduce volatility. Additionally, it is developing next-generation cylindrical and 4680 cells to stay ahead in performance and efficiency. The results highlight the strategic importance of U.S. localization and LFP technology in the evolving battery market.

https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250708PD233/lges-profit-lfp-battery-demand-usa.html

37. Tesla Strengthens Partnership with CATL to Dominate North American ESS Market

Tesla is expanding its collaboration with CATL by agreeing to supply lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery cells from its Sichuan plant—produced at CATL's Salt Lake City facility—for energy storage systems (ESS) in the U.S. This move reinforces Tesla's push to lower battery costs and improve supply chain resilience, leveraging the safety and affordability of LFP chemistry. It comes as Tesla shifts more battery sourcing to LFP, joining other OEMs in diversifying beyond nickel-based chemistries. Eastern and Western supply chains are now increasingly linked, with more localized production designed to benefit from U.S. incentives and reduce geopolitical risk. CATL's North American expansion aligns with rising ESS demand, especially from data centers and grid operators seeking dependable, scalable storage. Tesla also gains a stronger position to compete with established battery suppliers like LG Energy Solution. With both companies investing in domestic LFP capacity, the partnership could reshape the North American battery supply landscape. This collaboration highlights the growing importance of LFP batteries for stationary storage—and the critical role strategic alliances play in deepening supply chain integration.

38. Kapec Valeo to Build EV Battery System Plant in Daegu-Gyeongbuk Free Economic Zone

Kapec Valeo, a key subsidiary of PHC Group, has signed an investment memorandum of understanding with the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Free Economic Zone Authority, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, and the city of Yeongcheon. The company plans to invest 160 billion KRW over the next five years to construct an electric vehicle battery system (BSA) manufacturing facility in the Yeongcheon High-Tech Park District. This facility will assemble complete battery cell groups with battery management systems and components for use in EVs, energy storage systems (ESS), and smart mobility applications. At least 100 new jobs are expected to be created through the project. The initiative is seen as a significant boost to the local e-mobility industry and value chain. Kapec Valeo, which already operates production sites in Gumi and Seongju and maintains its R&D center in Daegu, is expanding its presence in the region. Local officials emphasized the strategic importance of this investment in revitalizing the industrial ecosystem of the Free Economic Zone and attracting more future mobility busines

https://kr.people.com.cn/n3/2025/0710/c208059-20338606.html

Anode Materials

39. POSCO Future M Secures Second Japanese Battery Client for Anode Materials

POSCO Future M has signed a new supply contract to provide natural graphite anode materials to a major Japanese battery manufacturer, marking its second such deal after Panasonic. The materials will be produced at the company's Sejong factory and used in electric vehicle batteries made in Japan. While specific details on the contract's size and duration remain undisclosed, the deal signifies a strategic step in diversifying POSCO Future M's customer base in the Japanese market. The company has developed a broad portfolio of both natural and artificial graphite anodes, and is also advancing silicon-based alternatives. POSCO Future M is enhancing supply chain independence by securing raw materials from regions outside China and establishing local production of intermediate materials. For artificial graphite, it uses coke derived from domestic steel operations. The company also emphasized ongoing efforts to boost price competitiveness through process innovation. This contract reinforces POSCO Future M's role as a leading anode material supplier in the global battery market.

Salt and Electrolyte

40. PGT Expands Gunsan Plant to Become Asia's Top Lithium Salt Producer

Specialty chemical maker PGT is ramping up production of lithium hexafluorophosphate—critical for EV battery electrolytes—by expanding its Gunsan, South Korea plant. The facility's capacity increases from 5,000 t to 15,000 t annually by 2026, ranking among the largest in Asia. This scale-up addresses global demand and shifts in supply chains due to trade tensions and strategic resource diversification. PGT uses modular continuous production technology, enhancing cost, labor, and efficiency advantages over traditional setups. After completing plant certification and safety inspections, full-scale production has commenced following pilot testing and customer trials. The expansion supports PGT's IPO ambitions, with Series C/D funding already secured and plans to launch on Korea's main stock exchange in late 2025 or early 2026. Future goals include supplying global battery manufacturers with high-quality lithium salt and securing strategic investments. This move positions PGT as a key supplier in the EV battery materials market and strengthens Korea's role amid the shift away from China-centric supply chains.

Technology and Regulatory

41. Pakistan and China Launch Joint Lithium Battery Research Centre

Pakistan and China have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint research centre on lithium battery technology at the University of Sargodha. The partnership will focus on key areas such as material science, energy storage systems, and advanced battery chemistry. Both institutions plan to exchange faculty and researchers, jointly supervise students, and host seminars and workshops. They will collaborate on joint research projects and patent development while introducing new academic programs to build specialized capacity. A coordination committee with equal representation will oversee progress and meet annually. The initiative reinforces both countries' commitment to clean energy and sustainable mobility innovation. It will enhance Pakistan's R&D infrastructure through access to Chinese expertise and resources. This strategic move also supports broader academic and industrial ties under China-Pakistan cooperation frameworks

42. Li-S Energy Produces Australia's First Lithium Metal Foils

Li-S Energy has achieved a major milestone by producing Australia's first lithium metal foils at its Geelong manufacturing facility in Victoria. The 100-micron foils, created using in-house equipment at its 2 MWh pouch cell line, mark a key step toward domestic sovereignty in lithium battery materials. The foils offer enhanced control over thickness, purity, and safety, which are critical for high-performance battery applications. CEO Dr. Lee Finniear emphasized that the breakthrough reduces dependence on imports, cuts costs, and boosts product quality. Supported by a A$1.76 million Industry Growth Program grant, the company plans to expand foil processing capabilities with additional rolling, laminating, and coating equipment. These foils will be used in the development of lithium-sulfur and lithium-metal batteries and shared with research institutions and partners. The advancement strengthens Australia's battery supply chain and opens up new export opportunities. It also supports national goals for clean-tech innovation and manufacturing. Li-S Energy now stands as a leader in the local production of next-generation battery materials.
https://app.sharelinktechnologies.com/announcement/asx/ec968723efc61f482e8bd47e2f23175f

43. Argonne Breakthrough Enables Affordable Lithium Extraction from Water

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, in collaboration with the University of Chicago, have developed an innovative clay-based membrane capable of selectively extracting lithium ions from salt water sources such as seawater and underground brines. The membrane is made from ultrathin vermiculite clay layers reinforced with microscopic aluminum oxide "pillars" to maintain structural integrity and stability in water. It is further treated with sodium ions to impart a positive surface charge, which more effectively repels divalent ions like magnesium while allowing monovalent lithium ions to pass through. This dual mechanism—filtering by ion size and charge—offers a low-cost, efficient, and scalable alternative to traditional lithium extraction. With vermiculite costing as little as $350 per ton, this technology promises dramatically lower energy, chemical, and cost footprints. Potential applications go beyond lithium recovery, potentially enabling extraction of other critical minerals and even contaminant removal from water. This breakthrough could significantly shift the global lithium supply chain by tapping large, previously inaccessible water-based sources.
https://www.anl.gov/article/argonne-researchers-develop-new-membrane-technology-to-extract-lithium-from-water