



Government-backed consortium to develop Australian tram battery

In Australia, an ambitious \$5 million project to develop a fast-charge battery for transportation applications, trams in particular, has commenced.

Today, Lithium Australia NL (ASX: LIT) announced to the ASX that the consortium involved – which includes CSIRO, Australia’s leading scientific research organisation, and Lithium Australia subsidiaries VSPC and Soluna Australia – is to be co-funded by the Australian federal government through its Co-operative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) programme.



CSIRO brings to the project a wealth of experience in fast-charge batteries, including battery-making and testing.

VSPC, which operates a cathode powder pilot plant in Brisbane, Australia, will provide manufacturing and testing capabilities for advanced cathode materials, together with the practical experience gained by producing cathode powders currently being tested in China and Japan.

The consortium partners will be joined by the University of Queensland, which will provide the analytical nanotechnology expertise required for optimisation of the battery materials.

VSPC has specific expertise in nano-materials, including lithium ferro phosphate (‘LFP’), the cathode material of choice for this project. LFP is considered the ‘safe’ lithium-ion battery, as it is not susceptible to thermal runaway, meaning there is a very low fire risk. It is therefore the ideal starting point when developing a fast-charge battery for public transportation applications.

Evolution of the fast-charge battery will inevitably create additional opportunities in transport, energy storage and military applications. Such batteries also have the potential to eliminate ‘range anxiety’ and provide the rapid, high-capacity discharge capabilities required in industrial applications such as plant start-ups.

As a partner in the project, Soluna Australia will identify commercial opportunities for the technology being developed.

Lithium Australia, through its battery recycling subsidiary Envirostream Australia, will extend the outcome of this already significant undertaking by providing a stewardship programme to manage the battery lifecycle from cradle to grave, re-birthing the spent batteries as new components for battery manufacture. This is an integral part of Lithium Australia's environmental, social and governance ([ESG](#)) programme.

Regards

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