

Flow battery technology cape town

In what could be an important breakthrough in South Africa's transition to EV's (electric vehicles), the technology described below could hold enormous promise.

Forgetting for a moment the two negative aspects of EV's in SA - initial cost and how the government will "reclaim" lost fuel revenues amounting to hundreds of billions of Rands, the role out of charging infrastructure particularly in rural areas and Eskom's inability to provide a stable electricity supply, could be addressed in whole or in part by this Australian development. Ed.

They claim it can handle all the requirements of EV charging but can also be scaled up to suit a wide range of projects, from residential through to large grid-scale industrial and agricultural needs.

"The VRFB's long life, exceeding 20 years, makes it one of the most sustainable and long-lasting ways of storing renewable energy. At the end of the battery's mechanical life, the vanadium electrolyte can be reused indefinitely."

VSUN Energy, the renewable energy generation and storage subsidiary of Perth-based Australian Vanadium Limited, is collaborating with its Singaporean partner V-Flow Tech and EV specialists Gemtek on the project.

ASX-listed AVL is developing the Australian Vanadium Project south of Meekatharra. The Australian Vanadium Project is more than a vanadium mine, comprising a value chain spanning mining, manufacturing and downstream processing.

AVL Managing Director Vincent Algar said the initiative is part of the company's strategy to further develop the market for the battery storage technology in Australia and elsewhere.

"The intent is for Australian Vanadium to not just sell vanadium into the metals sector internationally, but to be fully vertically integrated onshore here in Australia. In doing so, we are able to reduce the cost of these batteries while adding local value, content and job creation," said Mr Algar.

"While we are still in the development phase of the mining project, we are building a vanadium electrolyte manufacturing facility near Kwinana, which is expected to be in production by mid-2022 with an annual production of 33MWh.

The new factory is located in Cape Town and established in close partnership with American Tower Corporation (ATC) in Africa. With a yearly production potential of more than 300,000 batteries, the facility further increases Polarium's presence in sub-Saharan Africa.



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After having been strategic partners since 2017, ATC Africa signed a multimillion-dollar lithium-ion battery bulk purchase agreement with Polarium in 2021, securing thousands of lithium-powered backup solutions for ATC Africa's markets over the coming years. This deepened partnership has enabled Polarium to establish a new factory in South Africa, which when fully operational will be able to produce more than 300,000 batteries per year, equivalent to 4 Gigawatt hours.

"The inauguration of our South African manufacturing facility is yet another milestone for Polarium, and a continuation of our longstanding strategic partnership with ATC. Not only will we increase our worldwide manufacturing capacity, but we will also increase our operational agility and bring production closer to our end-markets and customers on the African continent." says Stefan Jansson, CEO of Polarium.

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