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The "holy grail" of EV battery tech may arrive sooner than expected, promising more range and faster charging. According to BYD head scientist and engineer Lian Yubo, solid-state EV batteries could be in wide use in five years.

Speaking at the 2024 World New Energy Congress in China on Friday, Lian said he expects the advanced new batteries to be used in luxury EVs in the next few years.

Lian explained that as the battery technology develops, it will gradually roll out to middle and lower-priced electric cars in five years. BYD is advancing solid-state EV batteries, Lian added.

However, high production costs and complicated integration remain challenges. Friday's conference was the first time a BYD executive has publicly discussed the new tech as the EV/battery giant looks to secure a leadership role in the auto industry's future.

CATL, the world's largest EV maker (37.8% market share), said it aims to produce all-solid-state EV batteries by 2027, but initially in small batches. The company said high production costs could remain a challenge.

Lian said BYD will continue to develop LFP batteries, which will contribute to the advancement of solid-state EV batteries rather than become obsolete in the next 15 to 20 years. The batteries will likely be used in different segments.

Other automakers are joining the race for advanced batteries as well. For example, China's NIO began offering its new ET7 sedan with a 150 kWh semi-solid-state battery for daily rentals in June.

The tech remains costly. As NIO's co-founder Qin Lihong explained, the battery pack costs about the same as an ET5 model, at around \$42,500 (RMB 298,000), including the battery.

Most all industry experts say 2030. So this seems fair. Just keep in mind the chemistry will only get better each year after that. Weight and range will improve dramatically. ICEV markets will plummet after mass solid state batteries.

Mercedes unveiled new all-solid-state batteries with Factorial earlier this month. With a "breakthrough" energy density of 450 Wh/kg, Factorial claims the new batteries can extend EV range by 80%. The company aims for over 600 miles of driving range with 40% weight savings.

Peter Johnson is covering the auto industry's step-by-step transformation to electric vehicles. He is an experienced investor, financial writer, and EV enthusiast. His enthusiasm for electric vehicles, primarily Tesla,



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is a significant reason he pursued a career in investments. If he isn't telling you about his latest 10K findings, you can find him enjoying the outdoors or exercising

BYD is expected to launch its next-gen Blade EV battery later this year. The battery will promote more range at an even lower cost. Will the new battery be BYD's X-factor in its "liberation battle" over gas-powered vehicles?

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Web: <https://www.hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

