

# αlpha-Engineered Li-M Anodes

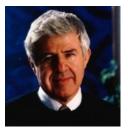
# ENABLING NEXT GENERATION BATTERIES

Summer 2020

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## αlpha-En



 αlpha-En was founded in 2013 by Jerome I. Feldman (who patented the soft contact lens and surgical staples to name two disruptive products) to bring to market a significant discovery in the world of advanced batteries.



- αlpha-En's patented, unique, pioneering and proprietary room temp. process to produce high purity lithium was invented by Lawrence Swonger in 2013. By background, Larry is a mechanical engr. with 25 years experience in design of production processes and automation. He proudly served in US navy for 8 yrs. and 2 yrs. on a submarine as a supervisor of nuclear propulsion plant and related systems.
- αlpha-En's is listed on OTCQB market under the ticker ALPE.
- αlpha-En has received a patent for its breakthrough technology of producing pure Lithium Metal (LiM) and since filed for other patents
- αlpha-En technology is addressing a market which is growing at an incredible pace. Electric vehicle market, consumer electronics & backup storage is the key to the world's future and αlpha-En wants to be a significant part of that future.

# $\alpha$ lpha-En's TECHNOLOGY

# αlpha-En'S NANO ENGINEERED LI-M ANODES

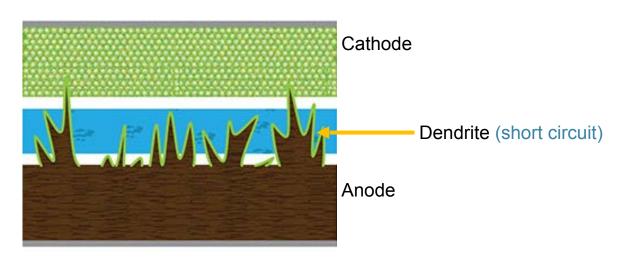
#### Could be a critical component in next generation batteries:

- Thin Li layers could allow for more precise and efficient battery configurations
- Low temperature and environmentally friendly production process could lower costs
- Purity of Li could improve battery performance and life



# PURITY - WHY IT MATTERS

dendrite /ˈdendrīt/, a crystal or crystalline mass with a branching, treelike structure. From Greek dendrites 'treelike,' from dendron 'tree.\* \* Google.





Actual lithium dendrites growing from an anode surface. Image from: R.R. Chianelli, J. Cryst. Growth, 1976, 34, 239-244. \*\*

- Other non-lithium elements (e.g., K, Na, Ca, N) are found in existing battery-grade lithium metal. SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory \*
- Formation of dendrites, which are microscopic fibers that can expand into the electrolyte, in some instances shortcircuit the battery causing premature failure or "thermal runaway".
- Lawrence Livermore National Lab researchers report dendrites nucleate inside a Li-M electrode at the site of impurities. \*\*\*
- Reduction of other metallic elements in Li-M may enhance Li-M anodes for advanced batteries.
- \* HTTP://ein.iconnect007.com/index.php/article/90840/next-gen-lithium-batteries-that-prevent-fires/90843/?skin+ein
- \* HTTPS://areweanycloser.wordpress.com/2013/06/21/dendritic-lithium-and-battery-fires/
- \* Dendrites of Substance structures underneath dendrites formed on cycled lithium metal electrodes, Nitash P Balsata et. al. Nature Material published online
- \* 24 November 2013.

# αlpha-En's PROCESS

# αlpha-En has developed a patented process to refine naturally occurring lithium compounds into:

- Pure lithium with a highly consistent morphology
- In very thin films (< 10 microns)
- Using a scalable green production technology

αlpha-En'S PROCESS	EXISTING PROCESS
Higher Purity	Lower Purity
99.996%	99.90%
LiM Produced at Room Temperature	Li-M Produced at Very High Temperatures
Process conducted at 20°-30°C	Electrolysis of molten salts at ~450°C
Chlorine Gas Free	Chloride Process Step
No toxic byproduct	Chlorine gas byproduct adds cost
Feedstock Flexibility	Requires battery grade feedstock
Uses Low Grades of Lithium Carbonate	Higher raw material cost

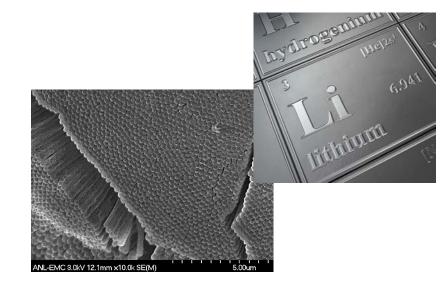
# dipha-En'S PROCESS HAS BEEN VALIDATED BY LEADING RESEARCH LABS

From a report in June 2017 by Argonne National Lab:

### ABSTRACT

#### Novel room-temperature electrodeposition method

- A layer of Li-metal onto a conductive substrate from an aqueous lithium source through a Li-ion conducting separator
- Control of process parameters yields uniform, densely-packed dendrite-free lithium metal nanorods
- Precise control over lithium morphology is expected to improve battery performance as a result of uniform Li-metal dissolution during the battery discharge



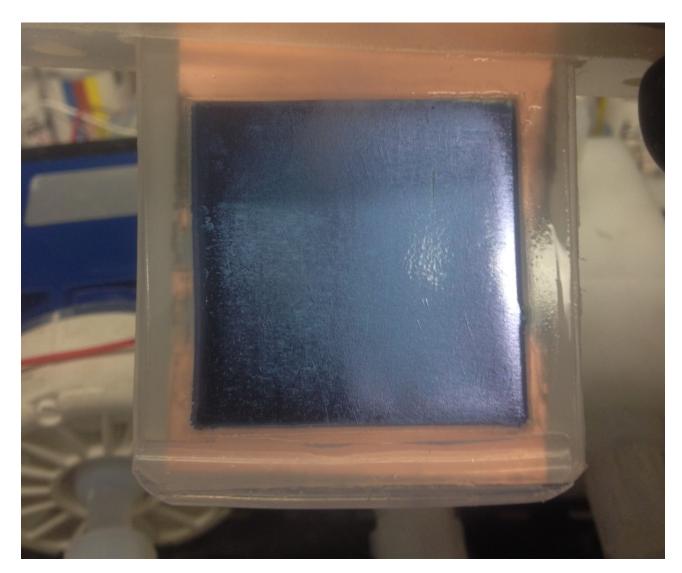
# CONCLUSION

- We produce high-purity lithium metal via roomtemperature electrodeposition in a process that eliminates energy-intensive steps and does not require or release noxious chemicals (i.e. chlorine).
- This clean technology is instrumental for the profitability of battery companies by reducing raw material and energy cost in the lithium metal anode production process

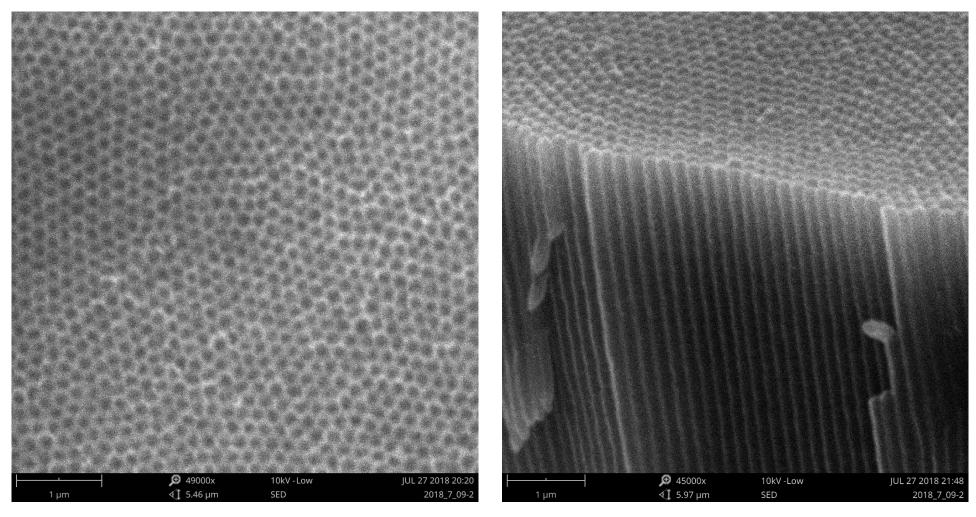
# αlpha-En's PRODUCT

# αlpha-En'S INITIAL PRODUCT

A Key Application of αlpha-En's process is to produce nano-engineered Li Metal anodes



4cm x 4cm Li-M anode on a copper substrate



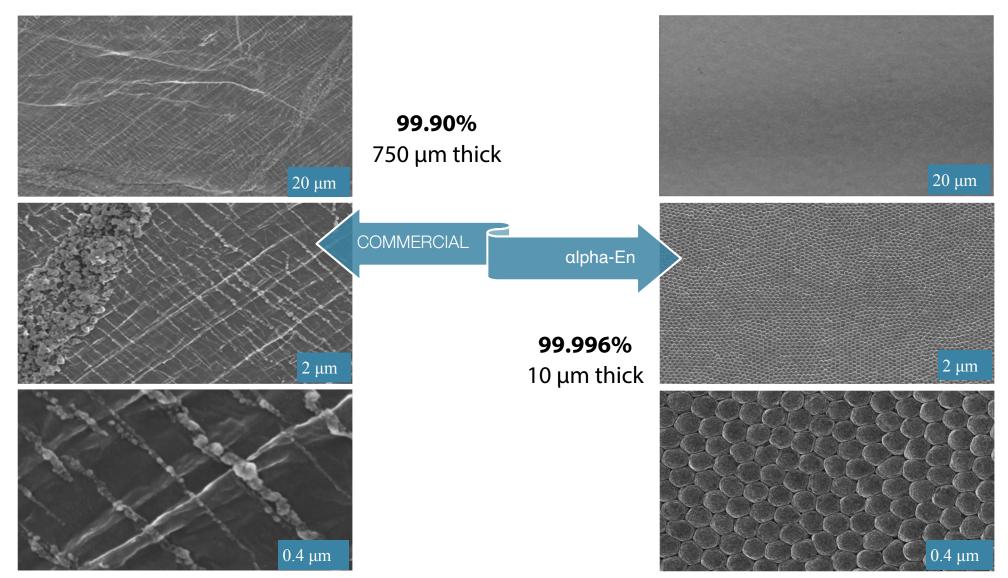
Top view at 49000x

Side view at 45000x

# MORPHOLOGY OF EXISTING Li FOILS VS alpha-En's Li-M

#### **Commercially available lithium foils**

alpha-En's Li-M on copper



# alpha-En's DEVELOPMENT

# alpha-En'S R&D PARTNERSHIPS









#### αlpha-En's Partners

From 2014 through 2018 αlpha-En partnered with several universities and labs to develop its process.



- αlpha-En's own laboratory in its 8,000 sq. foot facility in Yonkers, NY began operations on May 31, 2018
- αlpha-En's state of the art research laboratory includes equipment for Li-M anode fabrication and testing
- αlpha-En's own staff of scientists and lab technicians now conduct almost all of its R&D activities.

## αlpha-En's TECHNICAL ROADMAP (short-term)

#### > Anode Development

- Currently developing LiM anodes up to 70mm x 70mm, Intermediate goal to pioneer100mm X 100mm deposition
- Li thickness: focusing on thin lithium films from 1um to 35 um
- Uniformity typically for a 20 um thick film ~ 15%
- Dual sided Li-M Anodes
- Dev on Li-ion anode replacement, Li-metal w/ solid electrolyte and Li-Sulphur battery technologies with partners
- Electrolyte Improvement
  - Trying with different electrolytes for faster deposition Currently 5-12 um/hr
  - Morphologies exclusive control over morphology (rods, etc) of the deposited Lithium
  - Surface chemistry/composition control SEI layers
  - Trying new additives with existing electrolytes during deposition and cell cycling
  - Add electrolyte monitoring for electrolyte maintenance

#### > Substrates

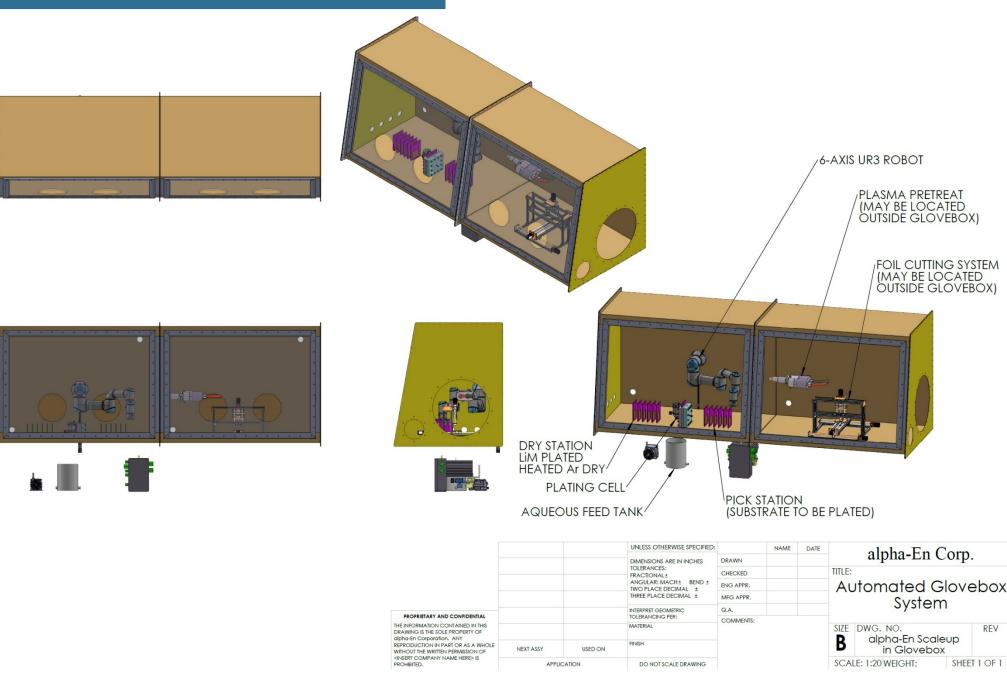
- Different substrates: current dev with copper & graphite copper mesh, nickel and others are slated for dev. work.
- Improvements to (and streamlining of) copper cutting and pre-cleaning processes plasma pretreat

## αlpha-En's SCALE-UP ROADMAP

Lab scale automated deposition (Phase1 - funded) (next 3-5 months)

- Produce LiM anodes up to 7.5 sq in (49 sq cm 70mm x 70mm) using automated production method
- Small robotic system for deposition to increase to 1000 anodes / month for sample production in research phase
- Key focus on improving deposition with large format, dual sided and multi-cell setup
- Second phase of scale-up is fully automated batch system (9-12-month execution to commission)
  - Key focus on end to end automation which includes substrate preparation, deposition, dry and prep before packaging for storage and shipment OR use in an inline production
  - Variable width capability
  - providing higher capacity to support current development projects with partner battery development programs for goals to 1.5-2M anodes / year (~ 5cm sq./ 10m/ 5 12-cells)
  - Seeking \$5M project in project funding
  - Modular system could be replicated for increased capacity
- $\succ$  Third phase scale-up to a roll-to-roll system , this will enable full-rate production
  - Under review, Development budget of \$2M

# αlpha-En's SCALE-UP P1 LAYOUT



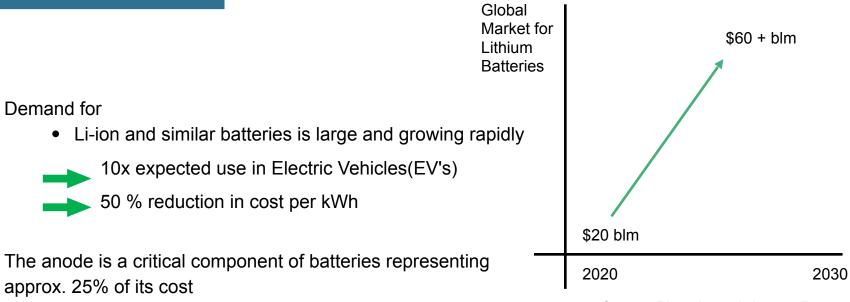
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REV

SHEET 1 OF 1

# αlpha-En's MARKET

# The Opportunity



Source: Bloomberg, Avicenne Energy

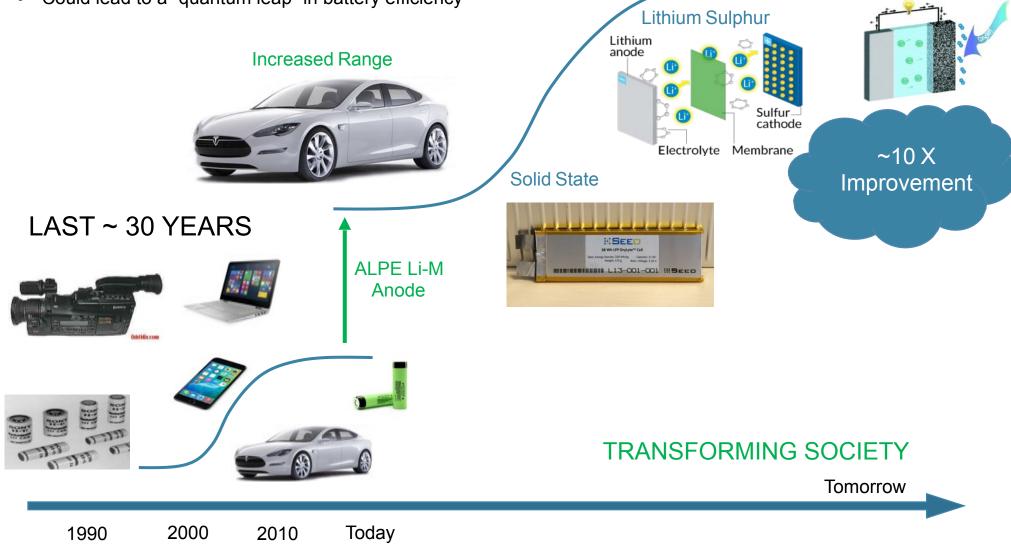


## Industry Evolution (Li batteries)

- Li lon technology is 30 years old
- Next generation technology under development and expected to commercialize over next several years
- Could lead to a "quantum leap" in battery efficiency



Lithium Air



#### Manufacturing Pure Li-M Anodes

#### Primary mandate

 Scalable production of Li-M anodes. Li-M plating of 5 to 50 microns on copper substrates (or other conductive substrate)

#### **Enhancement of Mining Operations**

#### Natural segway of αlpha-En's capability

 αlpha-En is engaged with the mining industry to apply its technology to directly extract Li prior to production of lithium carbonate, for production of Li-M anodes and other products

#### **Recycling of Li batteries**

#### Successfully tested, under review for investment

 αlpha-En is adapting its technology to meet anticipated government regulations for recycling of Li batteries. Our technology would be inserted into existing process streams to recover LiM that is currently discarded by the recyclers

#### **Battery Development**

#### Extending current capability

 αlpha-En is pursuing development of next generation batteries with its Li-M anode and various electrolyte and cathode chemistries, and cell configurations

# $\alpha$ lpha-En's DIRECTION

#### Revenues

- To date, αlpha-En has focused on researching and developing its process and has had no revenues
- During 2020, aplha-En would expect to begin generating revenues from:
  - ✓ Sale of batch-produced Li-M anodes
  - $\checkmark$  Contract R&D for bespoke applications of its process
- Over the long-term, αlpha-En anticipates a mix of revenues from:
  - $\checkmark$  Licensing its process and receiving royalty payments
  - $\checkmark$  Partnerships and JVs to manufacture Li-M anodes and other products using  $\alpha$  lpha-En's process

#### Expenses

 αlpha-En's operating cash flow (cash burn) for the 12 months ended June 30, 2019 was \$2.1 Million or approximately \$175,000 per month.

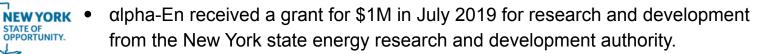
#### Funding

- For the past several years, αlpha-En has raised funds through the sale of common convertible preferred shares and warrants:
  - **√** \$3.5 Million in 2018
  - ✓ \$1Million in first half of 2019

## **NYSERDA Grant**

**NYSERDA** 

Sponsored



#### **Opportunity Zone Stats**

- Located in an Opportunity Zone as per 2017 Tax Act
- Working to be designated as a Qualified Opportunity Zone business
- Would allow favorable tax treatment for future investors

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- In January 2019, the US Patent Office granted αlpha-En a patent on "High Purity Lithium and Associated Products and Processes" which covers αlpha-En's process and products made from it.
- αlpha-En has filed a number of other US and foreign patent applications to cover its process and refinements and enhancements to it.
- αlpha-En continues to work with Barnes and Thornburg, its IP law firm, to insure protection of its intellectual property.



# $\alpha$ lpha-En's TEAM

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT



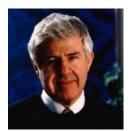
Lawrence Swonger, CTO Lead Inventor Mechanical engr. with over 20 yrs of process design and automation experience



#### Tom Suppanz, CFO

Former Investment Banker on Wall Street with over 30 yrs exp. in capital formation for small & micro-cap companies

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jerome I. Feldman, Chairman Emeritus Founder of αlpha-En Founder of National Patent Development and developer of technologies including soft contact lenses and surgical staples



#### Sam Pitroda, Chairman & CEO

Founder of various technology companies, former Cabinet Minister and Chairman of the Smart Grid task force of the government of India

# SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS



**Prof. Roald Hoffmann, Chair** Cornell University, Nobel Laureate



#### **Prof. Stephen O'Brien** City University of New York



**Prof. Dan Steingart** Columbia University



Jack Marple Former Technology Fellow at Energizer Battery



Prof. Hector Abrunã Cornell University

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