

# ENABLING NEXT GENERATION ENERGY STORAGE

Room Temperature Production of High Purity Lithium Metal & Associated Products

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# COMPANY UPDATE

### ALPHA-EN 2017 MILESTONES

- Continued progress on technology development
  - Entered "Phase 2" of commercial scale up work at Argonne Nationals Labs
- Raised \$1.8 million in capital in May
- Moved into new Yonkers lab in May
- Announced a research partnership with Mercedes-Benz in August
- Won US Department of Energy Technology Commercialization Award with Argonne for \$750,000 (solid state battery)
- Hired Sam Pitroda, a seasoned technology executive as CEO in
  November









#### **Argonne National Laboratory**

- Build and test next- generation batteries
- Optimize alpha-En's Lithium into next generation battery process (Solid Electrolyte)
- Process scale-up
- Help alpha-En productionize, including developing techoeconomic model

#### **Princeton University/Mercedes Benz**

• Research collaboration using alpha-En's process to create a battery

#### alpha-En's Internal Lab

- Focused on improving current process
- Creating Lithium in different form factors
- Integrate our Lithium into an existing Li-ion battery manufacturers facility







Mercedes-Benz

alpha-En

## R&D OBJECTIVES

ALPE process has been proven to produce pure lithium deposited on a "bench" scale

#### **Current R&D focused on**

- Optimizing components and materials for commercial use
- Scaling up process for production in commercial quantities
- Demonstrating use in Li-M batteries
- Solid state battery development

#### Goals

- 1. Demonstrate commercial viability of ALPE process to produce Li for:
  - Li-M Thin Film Anodes
  - Li Compounds
  - Li-M Batteries

#### Then

1. Pursue licensing and JV opportunities with battery suppliers, makers and users for commercial electronics, EV's and energy storage



## ALPHA-EN FACILITY

- ALPE leased a 8,000 sq. foot facility in Yonkers, NY outside of Manhattan
- Moved in May 31, 2017
- Old Otis Elevator building repurposed and renovated for ALPE corporate HQ and outfitted to be our new R&D center



# ALPE PROCESS

## REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS FOR REFINING LITHIUM



Heavy Industry



**TRADITIONAL PROCESS** 

High Energy Operation



**Bulk Lithium Ingots** 

Environmentally Friendly

Clean Process: Eliminates Hazardous Byproducts

High Purity Li-M deposited directly from standard Lithium Carbonate at Reduced Cost



Clean Operation



Efficient Process



Nano Technology

## TRADITIONAL LITHIUM METAL PRODUCTION VS. ALPE: PROCESS COMPARISON











ALPE PROCESS	TRADITIONAL PROCESS
<b>High Purity</b>	<b>Conventional Purity</b>
99.996%	At Best: 99.000%
<b>Produced at Room Temperature</b>	<b>Produced at High Temperatures</b>
Process conducted at 20°-30°C	Electrolysis of molten salts at ~750°F
<b>Chlorine Gas Free</b> Lithium Carbonate feedstock eliminates chlorine gas by-product	<b>Requires Intermediate Lithium</b> Chloride Process Step Chlorine gas byproduct which is post-processed into commodities
Feedstock Flexibility: Can Use Lower	Requires battery grade feedstock at
Grades of Lithium Carbonate	higher raw material cost (and still lower
Reduces raw material costs	purity than ALPE Process)
<b>Battery Production Efficiency</b> Cellular and Vertical Manufacturing integration into the battery factory, reducing capital, logistics and inventory costs	<b>Produced Remote from End Use</b> Industrial refining process not suitable for co-location into battery plant

## ALPE PROCESS PRODUCES HIGH QUALITY THIN FILM OF PURE LITHIUM

Thin films could be the key to next-generation batteries.

# Commercial Alloy vs alpha-En Morphology



## PURITY - WHY IT MATTERS

den·drite /'dendrīt/, a crystal or crystalline mass with a branching, treelike structure. From Greek dendritēs 'treelike,' from dendron 'tree.\* \* Google.



SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory \*



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.
- Formation of dendrites, which are microscopic fibers that can expand into the electrolyte, in some instances short-circuit 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.

<sup>\*</sup> HTTP://ein.iconnect007.com/index.php/article/90840/next-gen-lithium-batteries-that-prevent-fires/90843/?skin+ein

<sup>\*</sup> HTTPS://areweanycloser.wordpress.com/2013/06/21/dendritic-lithium-and-battery-fires/

<sup>\*</sup> Dendrites of Substance structures underneath dendrites formed on cycled lithium metal electrodes, Nitash P Balsata et. al. Nature Material published online

<sup>\* 24</sup> November 2013.

## ALPE PROCESS HAS BEEN VALIDATED BY LEADING RESEARCH LABS

# αlpha-En From a report in June 2017 by Argonne National Lab:

## ABSTRACT

#### Lithium metal as an anode in batteries

- Lightest and most electropositive metal
- Commercially produced via high temperature electrolysis of molten mixture of LiCl and KCl

#### 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, denselypacked dendrite-free lithium metal nanorods
- Precise control over lithium morphology is expected to improve battery performance as a result of uniform Limetal dissolution during 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 key to profitability for battery companies by reducing raw material costs associated with lithium metal anode.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN PLACE

- ALPE engaged the K&L Gates law firm in 2014 to implement IP strategy.
- Initial 2013 ALPE patent portfolio was broadened and strengthened and now includes filings for international markets.
- The Company is securing additional IP related to other aspects of its core technology.
- ALPE has filed process and use patents totaling over 100 claims, and continues to innovate.





# THE LITHIUM BATTERY MARKET



### INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS





#### SENIOR MANAGEMENT

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Sam Pitroda, CEO

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



#### Jerome I. Feldman, Founder & Chairman

Founder of National Patent Development and developer of technologies including soft contact lenses and supersized staples



#### **Lawrence Swonger, CTO & Lead Inventor** Mechanical engineer with over 20 years of process design and automation experience



#### Jim Kilman, Vice Chairman

Former Vice Chairman of Investment Banking at Morgan Stanley



Nat Wasserman, CFO Former Partner at Deloitte and Touche

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**Stephen O'Brien** City University of New York



**Jack Marple** Former Technology Fellow at Energizer Battery

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