

# Lithium battery precursor production in the Balkans

Is lithium a key mineral in the Western Balkans?

The interest in developing lithium deposits in the Western Balkans is part of a wider push to exploit the mineral across Europe. Demand for the world's lightest metal, lithium, is forecast to grow strongly in the coming decade as car manufacturers ramp up production of electric vehicles (EVs).

Is there a lithium project in the Western Balkans?

The interest in developing lithium deposits in the Western Balkans is part of a wider push to exploit the mineral across Europe. Further north, European Metals Holdings is developing the Cinovec lithium and tin project in Czechia, which it says has the potential to be the lowest-cost hard rock lithium producer in the world.

Will Albania build its first lithium ion battery plant?

Chief Executive Officer Bruno Papaj said the firm signed a memorandum of understanding with an Indian investor on the construction of Albania's first lithium ion battery plant. The facility is planned to come online within two years, with 100 MW in annual capacity.

Will ElevenEs source lithium materials from Serbia?

Asked about whether the company intends to source lithium materials from Serbia, founder and CEO Nemanja Mikac told Balkan Green Energy News that the plan is to import the commodities. ElevenEs requires lithium iron phosphate for cathodes, he stressed. Mikac noted that Rio Tinto's project is on hold in Serbia.

Are lithium ion batteries a strategic technology?

The transition to electric and hybrid vehicles is making lithium ion batteries a strategic technology, as other available solutions are still in their infancy. The administration in Brussels is counting on the countries that it sees as reliable to provide the critical materials for the energy transition.

Where can lithium be found in Europe?

This being the case, a growing number of companies are looking to develop lithium deposits across Europe, including in the Western Balkans, specifically Serbia, and more recently Bosnia too. International mining Rio Tinto is developing the Jadar lithium-borates project at a deposit it discovered in the Jadar river valley in 2004.

We aim to achieve this vision by recycling lithium batteries - shredding, sorting and refining active battery components into battery grade chemicals for sale to lithium battery precursor manufacturers.

ElevenEs has developed its own lithium iron phosphate (LFP) technology for batteries for electric cars, buses, trucks, forklifts, other industrial vehicles and energy storage systems. Backed by EU funds, it will build Europe's first factory of the kind in Subotica, Serbia, aiming to reach a capacity of 16 GWh per year.

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Europe is already an important centre for EV manufacturing, which requires lithium for lithium-ion (L-ion) batteries that are also used in electronics and energy storage for renewables.

LIB industry has established the manufacturing method for consumer electronic batteries initially and most of the mature technologies have been transferred to current state-of-the-art battery production. Although LIB manufacturers have different cell designs including cylindrical (e.g., Panasonic designed for Tesla), pouch (e.g., LG Chem, A123 Systems, and ...

Lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>, LFP) has long been a key player in the lithium battery industry for its exceptional stability, safety, and cost-effectiveness as a cathode material. Major car makers (e.g., Tesla, Volkswagen, Ford, Toyota) have either incorporated or are considering the use of LFP-based batteries in their latest electric vehicle (EV) models. Despite ...

Compared with other energy storage technologies, lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) have been widely used in many area, such as electric vehicles (EV), because of their low cost, high voltage, and high energy density. Among ...

Successfully creating a battery production line in Africa means creating local supply and demand. James Frith, head of energy storage at BNEF pointed out that for regions to successfully attract battery components or cell manufacturing they need to have either a supply of key raw materials or local demand for batteries. "If they have access ...

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Western Balkans has crucial EV battery ingredient - lithium. The interest in developing lithium deposits in the Western Balkans is part of a wider push to exploit the mineral across Europe. Demand for the world's lightest metal, lithium, is forecast to grow strongly in the coming decade as car manufacturers ramp up production of electric ...

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The project aims to export around 10,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate annually by 2032 -- enough to make between 150,000 and 200,000 rechargeable batteries, according to experts.

The first work package seeks to establish a pilot Lithium-Ion Battery electrolyte precursor (LiPF<sub>6</sub>) manufacturing plant in Europe. The purpose of the project is to consolidate the necessary technology and to develop the entire sustainable supply system, paving the road for the first-in-its-kind commercial production out of a European facility .

Annual lithium-battery demand will grow rapidly, topping 4.5 terawatt-hours (TWh) annually by 2035. Meeting this demand requires unprecedented but achievable increases in metals, precursor and cell production. By 2025, there will be over 3TWh of nameplate cell manufacturing capacity, if manufacturers successfully execute their growth plans. Total metals ...

The EU is lowering environmental standards for mining lithium and other materials for the energy transition, but the Western Balkans and other third countries are set to take an even heavier burden.

Vega Solar and Indian company Sainik Industries - Getsun Power agreed to build the first lithium ion battery factory in Albania. It would have 100 MW in annual capacity.

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