

The German Government Announces the Launch of a Research and Production Facility for Industrial Scale Lithium-Ion Cell Manufacturing

Lecaniche Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Leading German Cell Manufacturers to Support the Development of the Facility



Consortium partners hand over Memorandum of Understanding to Federal Minister

DALLAS and YVERDON LES BAINS, Switzerland, 24 January 2019: Leclanché SA (SIX: LECN), one of the world's leading energy storage solutions companies, today announced that it is to participate in the industrial consortium which will support and operate a Battery Cell Research Production Centre, a new research and large-scale industrial manufacturing plant for lithium-ion cells, based in Germany.

The Battery Cell Research Production Centre is an initiative launched by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)^[1] and will receive an investment of 500 million EUROS. It is part of a strategic drive to develop a German-based mass production of lithium-ion cells necessary to meet the demands of the electrification of transport and storage systems.

As the largest cell manufacturer within the consortium, with world leading in-house technologies from electrochemistry to energy management systems software, Leclanché will be playing a leading role by bringing industrial scale cell manufacturing know-how. The consortium's objectives with the facility are to ensure it acts as an enabler for the development of mass industrial production based on state-of-the-art cell chemistry and cell design.

Other participating companies include BMZ Group/ Terra E, Customcells, EAS and Liacon.

The project is a significant win for the German Ministry of Education and Research, Germany, and for Europe at large who need the participation of leading lithium-ion players to build a European-based industry capable of minimising dependence on Asian battery manufacturers.

Leclanché announced in December 2018 that it would triple current factory capacity to over 3 million cells per year, or 1 GWh per year by 2020. The production of its proprietary cells, Lithium Titanate Oxide (LTO) and Lithium Graphite/NMC, is based in Willstätt, Germany which is currently the largest lithium ion pouch cell production facility in Europe operating since 2012 with a capacity of over 1 million cells. The ramp-up of cell production comes on the back of significant orders in the e-transport sector including e-buses, 2-3 wheelers, and electric vehicles in India and Europe, and major breakthroughs in the marine sector with orders exceeding 45 MWh. Leclanché recently achieved the important milestone of 100 MWh of projects around the world.

About the participating companies and other members of the Consortium:

BMZ Group/Terra E

The BMZ Group is a global player in the production of lithium ion system solutions. The group is headquartered in Germany and has production facilities in China, Poland and the USA as well as subsidiaries in Japan and France. In addition, there are research and development locations worldwide. Around 3,000 employees work for the BMZ Group worldwide.

Customcells

Customcells is a worldwide operating high-tech company with approx. 40 employees. We develop and produce battery electrodes, lithium-ion battery cells and energy storage systems under the slogan "Special applications are our standard". More than 450 customers in more than thirty countries rely on Customcell's technology, which includes renowned technology leaders in electromobility and other industries (e.g. oil and gas industry, chemical industry and industry-related research institutes). Our company sees itself as a first mover in the megatrend "energy storage". Technology development, cell design and production are carried out on a small and medium scale. Customcells is growing strongly with production facilities in Schleswig-Holstein and expansion plans in southern Germany.

EAS Batteries

EAS Batteries GmbH has been producing large-format lithium-ion cells and lithium-ion batteries at its Nordhausen site for more than 20 years with approx. 40 employees. The EAS technology is characterized by above-average power densities and is mainly used in hybrid electrical applications. The high safety and performance of the EAS systems are particularly sought after in the fields of shipping, construction machinery, rail vehicles and mining vehicles as well as in the aerospace industry. Since 2017, EAS Batteries has been part of the MONBAT Group, the third largest battery manufacturer in the world.

Liacon GmbH

Liacon GmbH is currently setting up a lithium-ion cell production facility near Dresden, in Ottendorf-Okrilla, with a production capacity of up to 300 MWh per year. Production will start in the first half of 2019. In addition, the company maintains a research and development group in Itzehoe. The company currently employs approximately 40 people at both sites.

About Leclanché

Headquartered in Switzerland, Leclanché SA is a leading provider of high quality energy storage solutions designed to accelerate our progress towards a clean energy future.

Leclanché's history and heritage is rooted in over 100 years of battery and energy storage innovation and the Company is a trusted provider of energy storage solutions globally. This coupled with the Company's culture of German engineering and Swiss precision and quality, continues to make Leclanché the partner of choice for both disruptors, established companies and governments who are pioneering positive changes in how energy is produced, distributed and consumed around the world.

The energy transition is being driven primarily by changes in the management of our electricity networks and the electrification of transport, and these two end markets form the backbone of our strategy and business model. Leclanché is at the heart of the convergence of the electrification of transport and the changes in the distribution network. Leclanché is the only listed pure play energy storage company in the world, organised along three business units: stationary storage solutions, e-transport solutions and specialty batteries systems. Leclanché is listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange (SIX: LECN).

SIX Swiss Exchange: ticker symbol LECN | ISIN CH 011 030 311 9

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You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of Leclanché regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that Leclanché's products will achieve any particular revenue levels. Nor can there be any guarantee that Leclanché, or any of the business units, will achieve any particular financial results.

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[1] <https://www.bmbf.de/de/weitere-500-millionen-euro-fuer-batterien-made-in-germany-7711.html>