



A123 battery systems company

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A123 Systems, LLC, a subsidiary of the Chinese Wanxiang Group Holdings, is a developer and manufacturer of lithium iron phosphate batteries and energy storage systems.

The company was founded in 2001 by Yet-Ming Chiang, Bart Riley, and Ric Fulop. By 2009, it had about 2,500 employees globally and was headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Its original product technology was based upon materials initially developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In November 2005, the company announced a new, faster-recharging lithium-ion battery system based on doped nanophosphate materials licensed from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

BAE Systems announced that, from 2008, it would offer A123 Systems' lithium-ion battery technology as part of its HybriDrive Propulsion System used in the 2008 version of the Daimler Orion VII hybrid electric buses. As of September 7, 2009, more than 3,000 of the buses were in service.

In May 2008, the United States Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded the company a US\$12.5 million grant to develop its lithium-ion battery technology for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

In April 2009, Chrysler Corp. announced a contract with A123 to supply batteries for their ENVI EV vehicles.

In August 2009, the company received a US\$249 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program (ATVMLP) to build production facilities in Romulus and Livonia, Mich. after it received a US\$125 million in tax credits and incentives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation in spring and a US\$10 million grant from the state in fall 2008.

In 2009, the company was included on the Guardian's "Global Cleantech 100" list. Later, A123 was selected to Technology Review Magazine's list of the 50 Most Innovative Companies 2011.

In December 2009, the company formed a joint venture with Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC), the largest automaker in China. This was the first joint venture between a Chinese automaker and a non-Chinese battery supplier. The new venture is called Advanced Traction Battery Systems (ATBS).

In August 2010, A123's co-founder Professor Yet-Ming Chiang spun off a new company from A123 named



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24M Technologies, which makes technology that combines concepts in current lithium-ion batteries with flow batteries, where tanks of liquid electrolytes combine to create an electric current.

In 2010, A123 received a US\$249 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for building battery production facilities. Approximately \$129 million of the grant was used to build a 550 MWh battery plant in Livonia and another in Romulus. An untapped \$120 million grant was abandoned by A123 by May 2012.

In September 2010, the company opened the largest lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility in North America in Livonia, Michigan. When fully operational, the factory is expected to be capable of producing battery packs for the equivalent of up to 30,000 electric cars per year.

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