

Democratic republic of the congo battery storage

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Phone and electric car batteries are made with cobalt mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Cobalt Red author Siddharth Kara describes the conditions for workers as a “horror show ...

Through this MOU, the United States will support the commitment between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia to develop jointly a supply chain for electric vehicle batteries.

London and Kinshasa, November 24, 2021 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) can leverage its abundant cobalt resources and hydroelectric power to become a low-cost and low-emissions producer of lithium-ion battery cathode precursor materials.

As a first step, they want to set up a special economic zone where the raw material is turned into preliminary products for the battery supply chain. So far, raw materials sourced in Congo have...

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) could become a major low-cost and low-emission producer of lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery precursors, says research company BloombergNEF in a report, but the country must move beyond the simple export of raw materials.

It would cost \$39m to build a 10,000-metric-tonne cathode precursor plant in the DRC, the report says. This is almost three times cheaper than building a similar plant in China (\$112m). Cathode precursors are the intermediate material between raw and finished cathodes, which are used in Li-ion batteries. Due to the DRC's proximity to cathode raw materials and abundant hydroelectric power, a precursor plant there is also expected to produce 30% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than one in China.

European battery cell manufacturers rely heavily on China for battery precursors. However, the raw materials are often imported from Africa and refined before export to Europe. The DRC currently produces 70% of global cobalt but only captures 3% of the Li-ion battery value chain. To move up the value chain, the DRC should engage with a broader range of processes such as smelting and refining, BloombergNEF suggests.

Onshoring more of the value chain would help to advance renewable energy technologies, accelerate industrialisation and create jobs for millions of young Africans, the report concludes.

Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria and Togo have officially expressed their interest in joining the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium. This was on 3 December 2023, the fourth day of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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The BESS Consortium is an initiative of the Global Leadership Council, a high-level coalition of world leaders brought together by the Global Energy Alliance (GEAPP) to serve people and the planet. It includes leaders from multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, international agencies, non-governmental organisations, business leaders and government representatives.

The member countries of the BESS consortium pledge to participate in efforts to achieve energy storage commitments of 5 gigawatts (GW) by the end of 2024. This, in turn, will provide a roadmap for the eventual storage of 400 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

The BESS Consortium comes at a time when Africa is resolutely focused on setting up a sustainable value chain for the production of electric batteries. On 27 March 2023 in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Congolese Minister for Industry and his Zambian counterpart for Trade and Industry signed a memorandum of understanding to launch a pre-feasibility study for a battery and electric vehicle value chain project.

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