Nano One Introduces a Breakthrough in Longer Lasting Lithium-Ion Cathode Materials

written by Raj Shah | June 24, 2020 June 24, 2020 (Source) – Dr. Stephen Campbell, Chief Technology Officer of Nano One Materials Corp. (TSXV: NNO) (OTC Pink: NNOMF) (FSE: LBMB) is pleased to announce the development of a coated, single crystal cathode material for lithium ion batteries that is providing up to 4 times improvement in longevity. Furthermore, this technology is applicable to all of Nano One's cathode materials but is especially relevant to lithium nickel manganese cobalt oxide (NMC811). These latest innovations are patent pending.



Figure 1: Nano One half-cell data (1C @ 25°C) shows capacity fade

is 4x less for coated NMC811 (100-96% = 4% fade) than for uncoated NMC811 (100-83% = 17% fade)

"Nano One has developed a coated single nanocrystal cathode material," explained Dr. Campbell, "Which provides protection against undesirable side reactions and the stresses of repeated charge and discharge cycling. We are focused on optimizing this for NMC811 and I am pleased to present recent results that show how protective coatings on a robust crystal structure can make cathode powders more durable and longer lasting. Increased durability is critical in enabling extended range, faster charging and even million mile batteries for electric vehicles."

Conventional Versus Single Crystal Cathodes

Conventional cathodes consist of a dense cluster of crystalline particles (polycrystalline), made by first forming clusters of NMC precursor then milling with lithium and firing in a kiln. Protective coatings can then be formed by adding coating materials and firing again. However, the clusters expand, contract, and break apart from repeated charging, which fractures the outer coating and leaves individual crystals within the clusters exposed to deleterious side reactions.

These polycrystalline particles can be transformed into large single crystals (monocrystalline) by prolonging the firing time in the kiln. The resulting powders are less prone to cracking but excessive time in the kiln damages the lithium nickel structures, adds prohibitive process cost and requires additional steps to apply protective coatings.

In contrast, Nano One's patented One-Pot process combines all input components — lithium, metals, additives and coatings — in a single reaction to produce a precursor that, when dried and fired, forms quickly into a single crystal cathode material

simultaneously with its protective coating.



Figure 2: Nano One Coated Single Nanocrystal Cathode & Conventional Polycrystalline Cathode Particles

Dr. Campbell said, "By forming protective coatings on individual nanocrystals, Nano One eliminates process steps and is engineering new materials with enhanced durability for various applications including electric vehicles. These are positive results and we are optimizing the materials for third party evaluation on the path to commercializing this technology."

Nano One Materials Corp.

Dan Blondal, CEO

About Nano One

Nano One Materials Corp has developed patented technology for the low-cost production of high performance lithium ion battery cathode materials used in electric vehicles, energy storage and consumer electronics. The processing technology enables lower cost feedstocks, simplifies production and advances performance for a wide range of cathode materials. Nano One has built a demonstration pilot plant and is partnering with global leaders in the lithium ion battery supply chain, including Pulead, Volkswagen and Saint-Gobain to advance its lithium iron phosphate (LFP), lithium nickel manganese cobalt oxide (NMC) and lithium nickel manganese oxide (LNM) cathode technologies for large growth opportunities in e-mobility and renewable energy storage applications.

Nano One's pilot and partnership activities are being funded with the assistance and support of the Government of Canada through Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC), the Automotive Supplier Innovation Program (ASIP) a program of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), and the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Nano One also receives financial support from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP). Nano One's mission is to establish its patented technology as a leading platform for the global production of a new generation of battery materials. www.nanoone.ca

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