

Danny Huh on Neo Battery Materials' Process Innovation, 9th Patent and Position in NBM Korea

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

In a recent enlightening interview with Tracy Weslosky of InvestorNews, Danny Huh, the Senior Vice President of Strategy and Operations at NEO Battery Materials Ltd., (TSXV: NBM | OTCQB: NBMFF) detailed the company's strides in silicon anode technology for lithium-ion batteries, underlining their consistent progress over the past three years. Particularly notable was the discussion around the application for their 9th patent a month ago, marking a technological leap aimed at significantly enhancing their silicon anode materials' production capacity and efficiency.

An update on the graphite sector and what to expect in 2024 and beyond

written by Matt Bohlson | April 4, 2024

2023 has been a rough year for all the EV metals and graphite was no exception. EV battery anodes contain a combination of spherical graphite (sourced from natural flake graphite) and

synthetic graphite. Today we take a look at the key trends of 2023 and what we can expect in 2024 and beyond.

Following the Nouveau Monde Highway to Battery Graphite

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

I have some recurring themes that I tend to write about. I have no idea if people like them or not so I will continue along in my own little vacuum and hope that at least some readers out there find the same things interesting that I do.

One of those themes I like to revisit is clean, sustainable resource acquisition. By that I mean, we can't just pillage the earth for all the critical battery metals we require simply because it's a means to an end...well, we can, and currently we do. But I feel that at some point in time, there will be as much scrutiny on how we source these materials as there is on phasing out fossil fuels and reducing overall carbon emissions. At least I'd like to think that's the case, but who knows if policymakers will take that next step. To me, it seems the end goal of a greener economy is kind of pointless if we don't look at the whole picture.

Bottom line, in my opinion, we need to be just as concerned about where and how we are acquiring all the copious amounts of raw materials required to transition to a cleaner, greener future or we're simply trading in one problem for another. Whether companies are recognized for this today, or not for some time to come, I strongly believe they will eventually be

rewarded.

That brings me to [Nouveau Monde Graphite Inc.](#) (NYSE: NMG | TSXV: NOU), a Québec-based company striving to become a key contributor to the sustainable energy revolution. The Company is working towards developing a fully integrated source of carbon-neutral battery anode material in Québec, Canada for the lithium-ion battery and fuel cell markets, and other value-added graphite products. With excellent ESG standards, the Company aspires to become a strategic supplier to the world's leading battery and auto manufacturers, providing high-performing and reliable advanced materials while promoting sustainability and supply chain traceability.

The Company's activities are focused on the planned [Matawinie graphite mine](#) and the planned commercial value-added [Bécancour Battery Materials Plant](#), both of which are progressing concurrently toward commercial operations.

The Matawinie graphite property, owned 100% by the Company, consists of 246 mining claims spanning 13,214 hectares, located around 120 km north of Montréal, Québec. An updated feasibility study for this property indicates an annual processing rate of 2.55 million metric tonnes and average annual graphite production of 103,328 metric tonnes. In 2018, the Company began operating a demonstration plant in Saint-Michel-des-Saints to validate the quality and processes of its graphite products, and to serve as a foundation for its Phase-2 battery material plants. Nouveau Monde has initiated steps towards making the Matawinie Mine one of the first all-electric open-pit operations globally, working in collaboration with Caterpillar and governments to achieve electrification in mining and aiming to reduce over 300,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions over the mine's lifespan.

At the same time, Nouveau Monde is progressing with its Battery Material Plant Project, producing spherical graphite at its Phase-1 facility, and leveraging a proprietary thermochemical purification process to yield graphite with purity levels surpassing 99.95%. The Company has a partnership with Olin Corporation for operational support and raw material supply, and has set up pilot plant purification modules at Olin's Bécancour, Québec facility. Nouveau Monde owns land in Bécancour to build its own manufacturing plant, projected to produce approximately 46,000 tpa of advanced graphite materials. This is further strengthened by the Québec Government's battery hub strategy, which has attracted significant industrial players to the area. The Company's current commercial plans for its Phase-2 Bécancour Battery Material Plant are being advanced in line with a recent Feasibility Study.

Nouveau Monde's latest [quarterly operational update](#) provides valuable insights into the progress being made on both fronts. The Company announced significant advancements in the development of its fully integrated value chain, with the aim of becoming one of the largest natural graphite sources in North America. As the company approaches its Phase-2 development, emphasis is being placed on securing optimal multiyear sales agreements, finalizing technical parameters for the Bécancour Battery Material Plant, enhancing commercial visibility, and ensuring long-term shareholder value. Collaborative testing is ongoing at the Company's Phase-1 plants alongside potential customers, aiming to optimize process efficiency, inform Phase-2 facility plans, and mitigate risks. Significant partnerships have been established, including a technology collaboration with Caterpillar and a potential long-term agreement with Panasonic Energy. The Company secured US\$22 million in a [bought deal financing](#) in April to finish Q2 with a cash position of C\$59.8 million, while continuing to engage with governmental agencies

to optimize project financing.

Despite a slower start to EV sales in 2023, the market saw a 36% YoY increase with further growth expected in the latter part of 2023. Benchmark Mineral Intelligence forecasts the global production capacity of lithium-ion batteries to reach 8,930 GWh by 2030, suggesting a significant growth in demand for battery materials, including graphite. Nouveau Monde's comprehensive production model and strategic advantages, such as carbon-neutrality and regional benefits, place the company in a favorable position to cater to Western markets looking to decrease dependence on Chinese suppliers. It's not just enough to supply a critical material anymore, it needs to be done sustainably.

Nouveau Monde Graphite Inc. trades at a market cap of C\$235 million.

NEO Battery Materials Focuses on EV Market Transformation with Silicon Anodes

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky talks with [NEO Battery Materials Ltd.](#)'s (TSXV: NBM | OTCQB: NBMFF) Strategy and Operations Manager Danny Huh about their South Korean commercial plant to manufacture silicon anode materials for lithium-ion batteries. With the pre-construction phase expected to start in August 2023, Danny explains how NEO Battery Materials has

accelerated its commercialization efforts with targeted completion of the South Korean plant by the first half of 2024.

Highlighting the need for expanded production capacity due to their growing customer pipeline, Danny discusses NEO Battery Materials' recent decision [to upsize](#) their R&D Scale-Up Centre in "one of the epicenters of battery production, as well as battery research, in South Korea."

Danny goes on to provide an update on their American subsidiary, NEO Battery Materials America LLC (NBM America), to market NEO Battery Materials' silicon anode materials in the US. Danny also discusses their plans to establish another R&D facility in either Ontario or Quebec, Canada, to establish closer ties with battery manufacturers and other battery material players involved in the Canadian EV battery supply chain.

To access the full InvestorIntel interview, [click here](#)

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About NEO Battery Materials Ltd.

NEO Battery Materials is a Canadian battery materials technology company focused on developing silicon anode materials for lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles, electronics, and energy storage systems. With a patent-protected, low-cost manufacturing process, NEO Battery enables longer-running and ultra-fast charging batteries compared to existing state-of-the-art technologies. Building the first commercial plant in South Korea, the Company aims to be a globally-leading producer of silicon anode materials for the electric vehicle and energy storage industries.

To learn more about NEO Battery Materials Ltd., [click here](#)

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Elcora order is just the beginning of its journey in the manganese market

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

Manganese is becoming a key part of the lithium-ion battery market, traditionally used in nickel, manganese, cobalt (“NCM”) batteries; but now it is also used in lithium manganese iron phosphate (“LMFP”) batteries. This new battery type offers greater energy density (and hence EV range) than the standard LFP battery. Manganese is still largely used in steel, but the battery demand looks set to grow much faster. Overall the global manganese market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 5.5% from 2023 to 2027.

Danny Huh of NEO Battery on EV Industry Attention as it Revolutionizes Silicon Anode

Technology

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky talks with [NEO Battery Materials Ltd.](#)'s (TSXV: NBM | OTCQB: NBMFF) Strategy and Operations Manager Danny Huh about achieving a significant [technology milestone](#) in the nanocoating manufacturing process of silicon anodes that can increase the driving range of electric vehicles and enable ultra-fast charging.

Speaking about the high performance and cost-reduction capabilities of their uniform nanocoating technology, Danny discusses how there is an increased interest from ten companies, including global battery and electronic manufacturers and EV automakers, to use NEO Battery Materials' silicon anodes in their lithium-ion batteries.

Providing an update on its South Korean Commercial Plant construction that has completed the Request for Quote ("RFQ") process, Danny also discusses filing NEO's [6th patent](#) to Korean Intellectual Property Office for one-step nanocoating technology for silicon anodes.

Danny also talks about the recent [appointment](#) of Dr. S. G. Kim, a silicon/polymer material and chemical technology development expert, as NEO's Chief Technology Officer. Dr. Kim is the former Executive Vice President and Head of R&D of Hanwha Solutions Corporation (KSE: 009830), a multi-billion South Korean chemical manufacturing conglomerate.

To access the full InvestorIntel interview, [click here](#)

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About NEO Battery Materials Ltd.

NEO Battery Materials Ltd. is a Vancouver-based company focused on electric vehicle lithium-ion battery materials. NEO has a focus on producing silicon anode materials through its proprietary single-step nanocoating process, which provides improvements in capacity and efficiency over lithium-ion batteries using graphite in their anode materials. The Company intends to become a silicon anode active materials supplier to the electric vehicle industry.

To learn more about NEO Battery Materials Ltd., [click here](#)

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Danny Huh of NEO Battery Materials Discusses Silicon Nanocoating on Anodes for the 1000-Mile EV Battery

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky talks with NEO Battery Materials Ltd.'s Strategy and Operations Manager Danny Huh about their ongoing commercialization and optimization process to achieve the 1000-Mile Electrical Vehicle Battery using silicon anode materials. Having achieved a significant technology milestone of uniform nanocoating capability on silicon anodes, Danny explains how their technology can help increase driving range of electric vehicles and enable ultra-

fast charging.

NEO Battery Materials is Disrupting the Lithium-Ion Battery Industry with Silicon Anode Materials

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

Last week I wrote [an article](#) about graphite and the potential for it to see prices rise steeply in the future. There's one caveat to that article and that is the advancement of technology. Entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and generally smart scientists and researchers are always looking for a better, and preferably cheaper, way to get things done. Currently, graphite is the single largest component of lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles ("EVs") at up to 48% of total battery weight. But what if someone were to build a better anode that used a different material, and that material provided improvements in capacity and efficiency over lithium-ion batteries that use graphite in their anode materials? That would certainly disrupt, if not completely ruin, my graphite pricing thesis. That's why investing is not easy and why everyone is not a billionaire.

Silicon anode solution for EV batteries

Today we are going to discuss one of the many potential disruptors in the lithium-ion battery world. [NEO Battery](#)

[Materials Ltd.](#) (TSXV: NBM | OTCQB: NBMFF) is focused on silicon materials for lithium-ion batteries in EVs. The Company is looking to develop silicon anode materials, NBMSiDE™, through proprietary nano-coating layers, to transform the anode materials space for the EV industry. The energy density of a lithium-ion battery is highly dependent on the anode material. Integrating silicon with graphite in the anode can increase battery storage capacity by 9-10 times, as well as help reduce battery cost and increase charging speed. So where do I sign up?!

Commercial plant under construction in South Korea and now US expansion

Despite the Company's strong ties to South Korea, where NEO Battery Materials will initially invest 24 billion KRW or approximately C\$25 million to support the construction and expansion of a silicon anode commercial plant, they are more recently focusing on expansion in the U.S. In January, [NEO announced](#) it was establishing NBM America Ltd., a U.S. subsidiary. NBM America will actively seek U.S. expansion opportunities that include the Company's core silicon anode business and any new projects in the battery materials space.

The subsidiary will allow closer interaction with U.S.-based parties that are currently under non-disclosure agreements ("NDAs") to expedite business and collaborative activities. It is also anticipated that NBM America will be able to secure funding opportunities from state-level programs and federal-level initiatives that include the Inflation Reduction Act and Department of Energy funding. The subsidiary will also target accessing the large pool of U.S. venture capital funding that focuses on cleantech thematic investing and strengthening EV infrastructure, assuming those targeted companies are not

tangled up with the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (“SVB”).

NDAs and LOIs driving potential commercial relationships

Pursuing this strategy appears to be paying off because, by the end of February, NEO Battery Materials was [announcing](#) it had signed 5 additional NDAs in the EV battery industry including a U.S.-based investment bank and a private equity firm. The Company also further elaborated on its U.S. aspirations stating they plan to establish an R&D Center to manufacture silicon anode samples for North American battery manufacturers to expedite the timeline for joint venture opportunities. This facility will improve logistical efficiency by reducing the time between material evaluation and optimization.

A week later NEO issued a [press release](#) that it had signed a Letter of Intent (“LOI”) with a developer of robust, durable polymer electrolytes for silicon anode optimization with a spin-out company from a top U.S. university. The LOI will jointly explore opportunities to integrate the counterpart’s polymer electrolyte technology into NEO’s silicon anode system to improve performance by effectively controlling the silicon volume expansion issue. Additionally, the non-flammable nature of polymer electrolytes can provide increased safety improvements as opposed to conventional liquid electrolytes, preventing the risk of battery fires and explosions. Although it has been a while since I have seen a video of a Tesla burning on the side of the road.

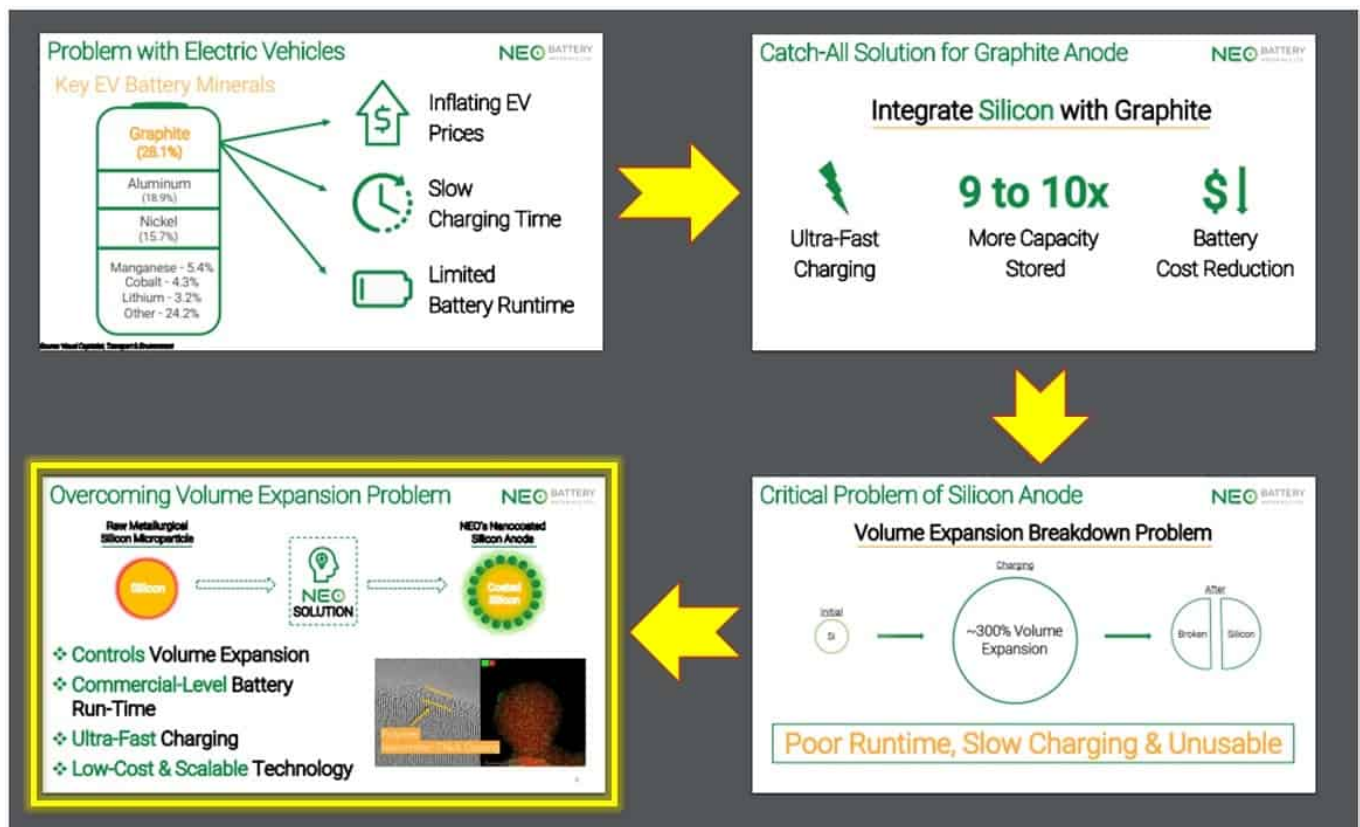
Jump ahead to this week and NEO has confirmed plans to do a tour of various locations in the U.S. The Company [announced](#) that management is expected to visit Ohio and Kentucky in late March and early April to select a site for its U.S. headquarter location. The management team and key advisors also plan to

visit New York City to hold meetings with prominent cleantech VC and investment banking firms.

Final thoughts

NEO Battery Materials has some pretty ambitious plans but if all those NDAs and LOIs start leading to some deals then they will need both their facility in Korea and in the U.S. to keep pace with business. Getting funding from the big cleantech firms in the U.S. will also support that build-out and top up the treasury which was sitting at almost C\$2 million in working capital as of November 30, 2022. The Company currently trades at a market cap of C\$30 million.

Neo Battery Materials Focus on Increasing Charging Speed and Storage Capacity with a Nanocoated Silicon Anode



Lomiko Metals' Belinda Labatte on the global graphite shortfall expected in 2023

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky interviews [Lomiko Metals Inc.](#)'s (TSXV: LMR | OTCQB: LMRMF) CEO and Director Belinda Labatte about how Lomiko is developing a [sustainable approach](#) to critical minerals development in North America. Providing an update on their La Loutre Graphite Project in Québec, Belinda explains how Lomiko is well positioned to be part of the solution for the global graphite shortage that experts anticipate we will start to see in 2023.

As interest in North American source for natural flake graphite continues to grow, Belinda discusses how the shortfall in graphite supply may increase to 8 million tons by 2040. Speaking on the strength of Lomiko's management team that has experience in getting exploration plays to production, Belinda states, "We know how to take a project all the way through the stages of development."

To access the full InvestorIntel interview, [click here](#)

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About Lomiko Metals Inc.

Lomiko Metals has a new vision and a new strategy in new energy. Lomiko represents a company with purpose: a people-first company where we can manifest a world of abundant renewable energy with Canadian and Quebec critical minerals for a solution in North America. Our goal is to create a new energy future in Canada where we will grow the critical minerals workforce, become a valued partner and neighbour with the communities in which we operate, and provide a secure and responsibly sourced supply of critical minerals.

In addition to La Loutre, Lomiko is working with Critical Elements Lithium Corporation towards earning its 70% stake in the Bourier Project as per [the option agreement announced on April 27th, 2021](#). The Bourier project site is located near Nemaska Lithium and Critical Elements south-east of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory in Quebec which consists of 203 claims, for a total ground position of 10,252.20 hectares (102.52 km²), in Canada's lithium triangle near the James Bay region of Quebec that has historically housed lithium deposits and mineralization trends.

To learn more about Lomiko Metals Inc., [click here](#)

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King discusses Global Graphite Shortage and Lomiko Metals

with Belinda Labatte and Gordana Slepcev

written by InvestorNews | April 4, 2024

In this InvestorIntel interview, Byron W King interviews [Lomiko Metals Inc.](#)'s (TSXV: LMR | OTCQB: LMRMF) CEO and Director Belinda Labatte, and COO Gordana Slepcev about the coming global graphite shortage. With the recent [drill results](#) further extending graphite mineralization in multiple zones at the La Loutre Graphite Project in Québec, Belinda provides an update on Lomiko's portfolio of critical minerals projects in Quebec.

With the Canadian Government announcing that all new vehicle sales will be electric by 2035, Belinda explains how the graphite supply shortage may increase to 8 million tons by 2040. Gordana says that 95% of the anode in a lithium-ion battery is composed of graphite. She goes on to discuss how graphite from Lomiko's La Loutre Project may be suitable for anode battery applications which require graphite concentrate of 99.95%.

To access the full InvestorIntel interview, [click here](#)

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