Australia's Sky to Do Away with Overhead Power Lines Thanks to Fast-charge Li-ion Batteries

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Australia's government has funded A$5 million to a program aimed at developing fast-charge lithium-ion batteries for use in the next generation of trams, which is to jointly run by nanotechnology company VSPC (Lithium Australia NL's fully-owned subsidiary), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the University of Queensland, and Soluna Australia (a company providing solar battery energy storage systems and rack mount battery modules.)

Nanotechnology company Very Small Particle Co. Ltd. (VSPC), a 100%-owned subsidiary of Lithium Australia NL (ASX: LIT), together with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the University of Queensland (UQ) and Soluna Australia is taking part in an A$5-million government-funded program to develop fast-charge lithium-ion batteries for use in new-generation trams.

In a press release, Lithium Australia said that battery-powered trams eliminate the need for overhead power lines, which are expensive, visually polluting and potentially hazardous.

"As well as expertise in the design of Li-ion batteries, CSIRO already has specific experience and intellectual property relating to fast-charge batteries for application in trams and other forms of transport such as e-buses, ferries and military applications," the media brief states. "VSPC will partner with battery researchers at CSIRO's Clayton site in Victoria to design, manufacture and test fast-charge Li-ion battery prototypes."

In parallel, Lithium Australia's subsidiary will work with the UQ team on both the characterisation and optimisation of its battery materials.

"This project is a tremendous opportunity to bring together Australia's technological capabilities – including VSPC's advanced cathode materials, CSIRO's battery expertise and UQ's analytical abilities – to develop new battery systems using VSPC cathode material," VSPC executive director, Mike Vaisey, said in a statement. "Light rail is experiencing a

resurgence worldwide as cities modernise, and fast-charge batteries are critical to avoiding the poles and wires of the past.”

Read the original article on MINING.COM.