

# Introduction to Battery Manufacturing

NFEC 16/02/23

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# Welcome to the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre

# Feb 2023







#### Source: Advanced Propulsion Centre

UKBIC – (J Deeley-Williamson), • 17th February, 2023



#### UKBIC **Bridging the Gap from R&D to Mass Production** scope Volume. TRL. MRI **Kilogramme Scale Tonne Scale Gramme Scale Giga Scale** Lithiun University scale research labs Corporate R&D pilot line or Full-scale GWh/vr Full-scale, high volume using small quantities of handuniversity / Catapult centre. manufacturing facilities used manufacturing plant. Typically made materials. at low output rate. 6-50GWh/vear. Used to demonstrate early Fundamental materials scalability of materials to full Used to develop and validate Used to deliver very large Characteristic volumes of cells with no research size cell materials, cell design, manufacturing processes and variation or flexibility to Initial half-cell experiments at Develop and demonstrate parameters at industry rates chemistry, format or quality. coin cell scale. electrode mixtures, deposition prior to full plant investment. processes and cell formats. Cost/kWh and process consistency are critical. TRL 9 TRL 1 TRL 2 TRL 3 TRL 4 TRL 5 TRL 6 TRL 7 TRL 8 Technology Principles & Explore Analytical Validation & Design & Model & Performance & Test & Real World & Readiness Research Applications Experiments Requirements Performance Prototype Testing Demonstrate Launch Commercialisation **Research & Development** Industrial Engineering MRL 1 MRL 2 MRL 3 MRL 4 MRL 5 MRL 6 MRL 7 MRL 8 MRL 9 **MRL 10** Manufacturing Identify Prototype Manufacturing Process Readiness Implication & Identify Proof of Processes & Pilot Line & Production Technology & Materials, Tools Maturity Processes Materials Processes Concept **Detailed Costs** Materials Ready Test & Skills Demonstration Proven Operation & **Engineering & Manufacturing** Production & Material Solution Analysis **Technology Development** Support Development Deployment

UKBIC Scope

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# **Key Facts**

20,000m<sup>2</sup> manufacturing research facility located on the outskirts of Coventry

Battery Electrode, Cell, Module and Pack manufacturing capability at industrial rates

- Modular "Learning Factory". Used for trialling and short volume manufacture of:
  - New manufacturing processes
  - New materials
  - New cell formats
  - New module structures
  - New pack structures

Reducing commercial risk for high volume manufacturing investments

Open access and promotes UK industrial collaboration for organisations of all sizes

Does not exist to own IP or product but to enable industry user outcomes

Delivers skills and training to support the growth of the UK battery industry

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# Learning and Development at UKBIC

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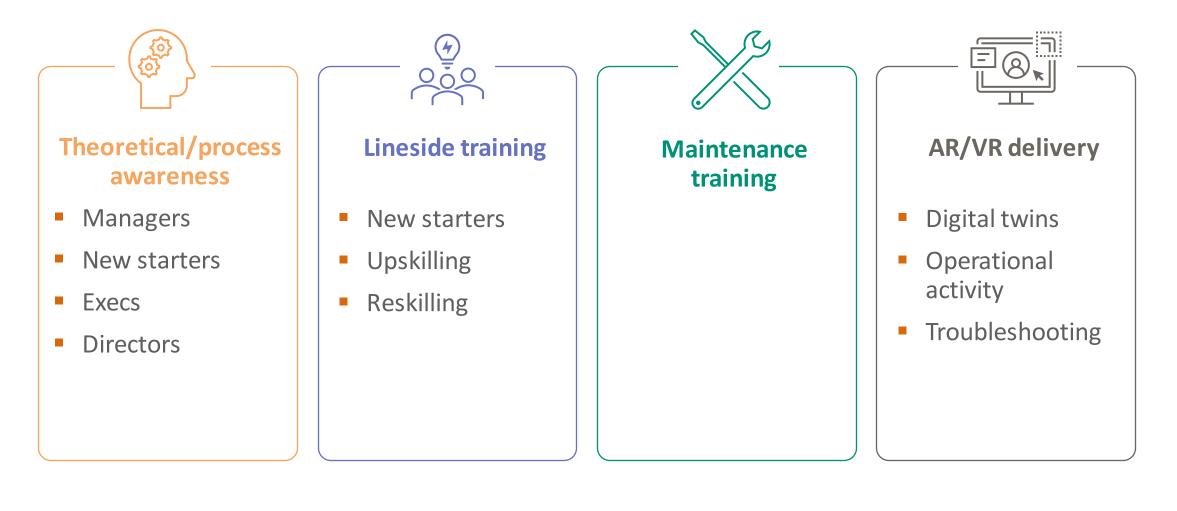
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L&D @ UKBIC

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# Delivery





### Resources

- UKBIC current course offering
  - Introduction to Battery Manufacturing Processes
  - Hazardous voltage (Lv. 1 4)
- ESP Units
- Consultancy
  - Educational
  - Operational
- UK Wide current offering
  - Mostly Academic based
  - Only 1 current large scale manufacturer of Batteries in the UK.





# Battery Technology through the Ages



# **Primary vs secondary**

#### **Primary**

 A single use cell when discharged, cannot be recharged by an electric current

Lithium metal. Non-rechargeable batteries.

#### **Secondary**

 A rechargeable cell where, after being discharged, may be recharged and reused

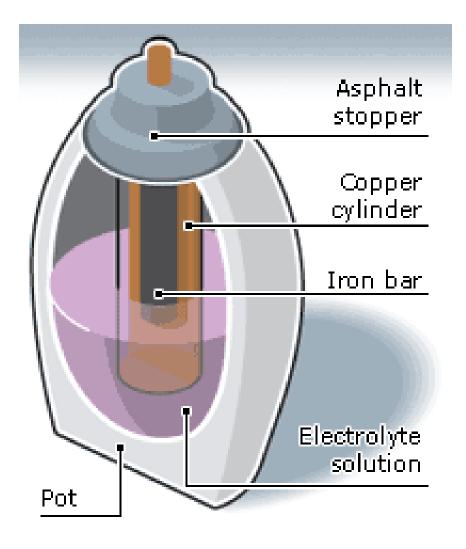
Lithium-ion / lead acid / NiMh





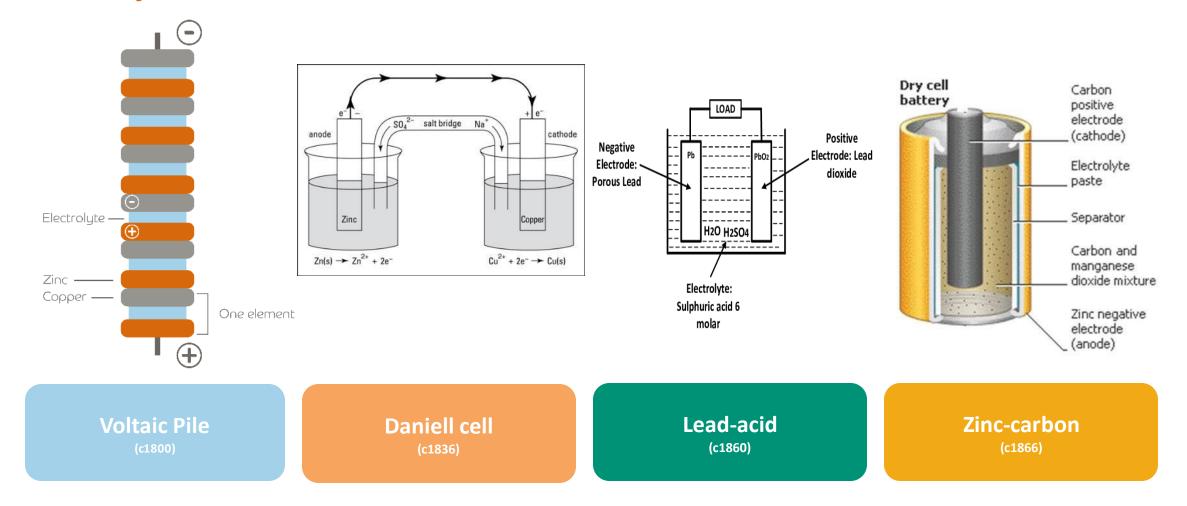
## What is a battery? – brief history

- First probable recorded battery usage was ~ 1000 - 2000 Years ago.
- "Baghdad Batteries"
- Terracotta jar containing a copper cylinder, insulated from an iron rod and filled with a conductive electrolyte.



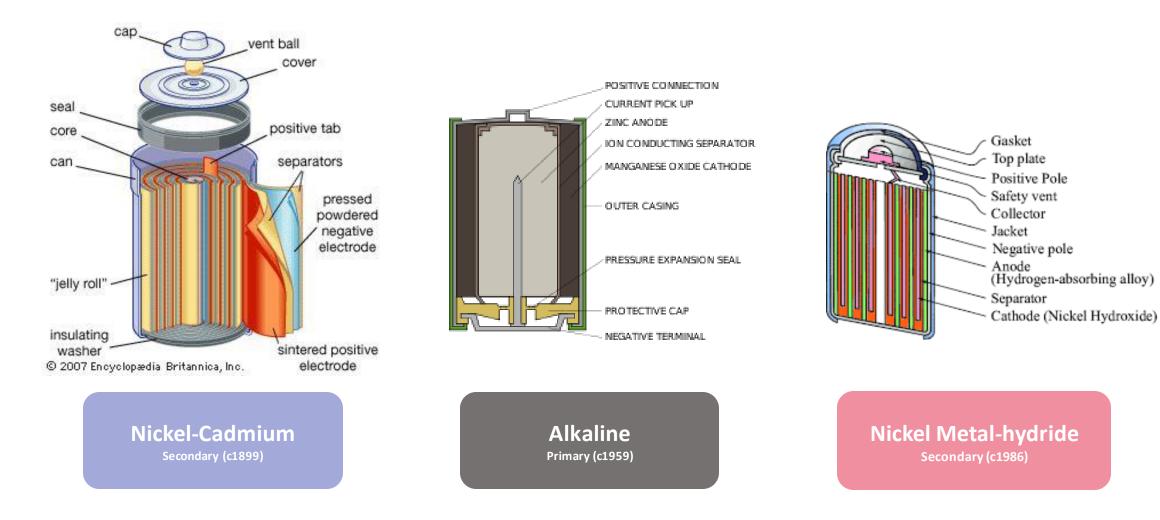


### **Early batteries**





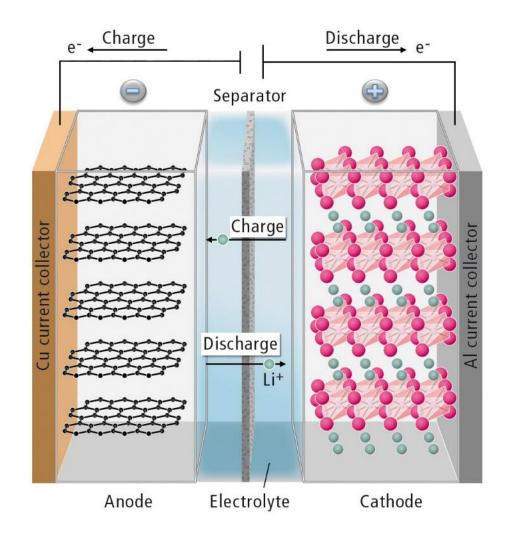
### **Modern Batteries**





# **Lithium-Ion batteries**

- A negative copper current collector
- Graphite anode layer
- Electrolyte
- Separator
- Carbon cathode layer
- A positive aluminium current collector



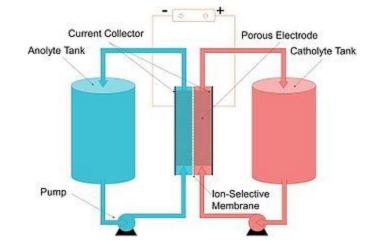


### **Potential Future Tech**

#### Solid-State Lithium-Metal Batteries







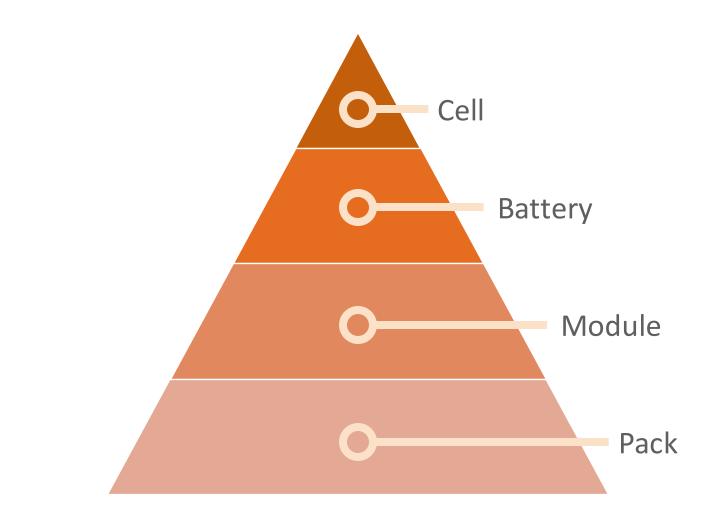
Solid State Secondary (c2011)

Sodium Ion Secondary (c2010-2020)

**REDOX Flow** Primary/Secondary (c1970s)



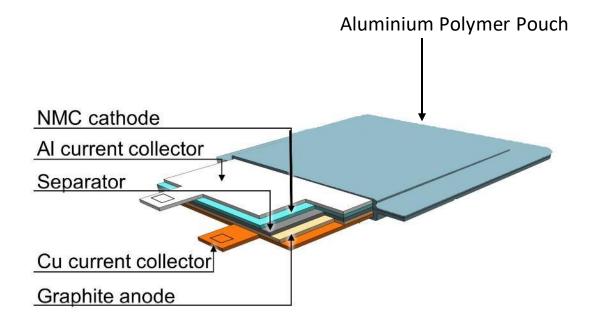
# What's the difference?



- A cell is an individual energy source
- A battery consists of 1 or more cells
- A module is a collection of 1 or more batteries assembled in a frame
- A pack is the complete enclosure that delivers power



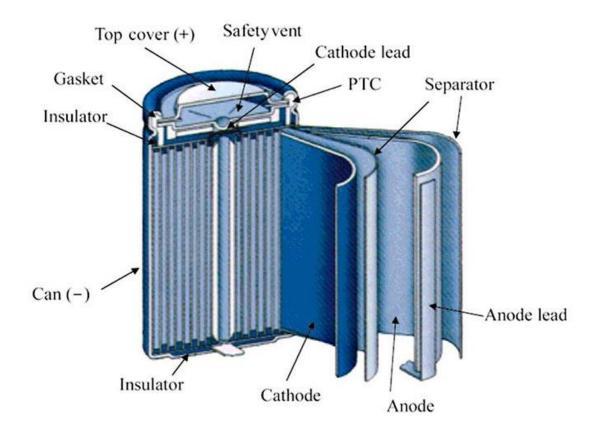
# **Components of a pouch cell**



- Aluminium Polymer pouch
- NMC Cathode Coating
- Aluminium Foil Substrate
- Separator
- Copper Foil Substrate
- Graphite Anode Coating



# **Cylindrical cell components**





**Battery Technology** 









# Battery Manufacturing Process



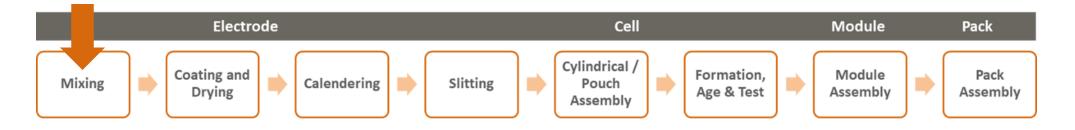
# **Process flow overview**





# **Electrode**

# **Mixing Area**



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# **Mixing formulation**

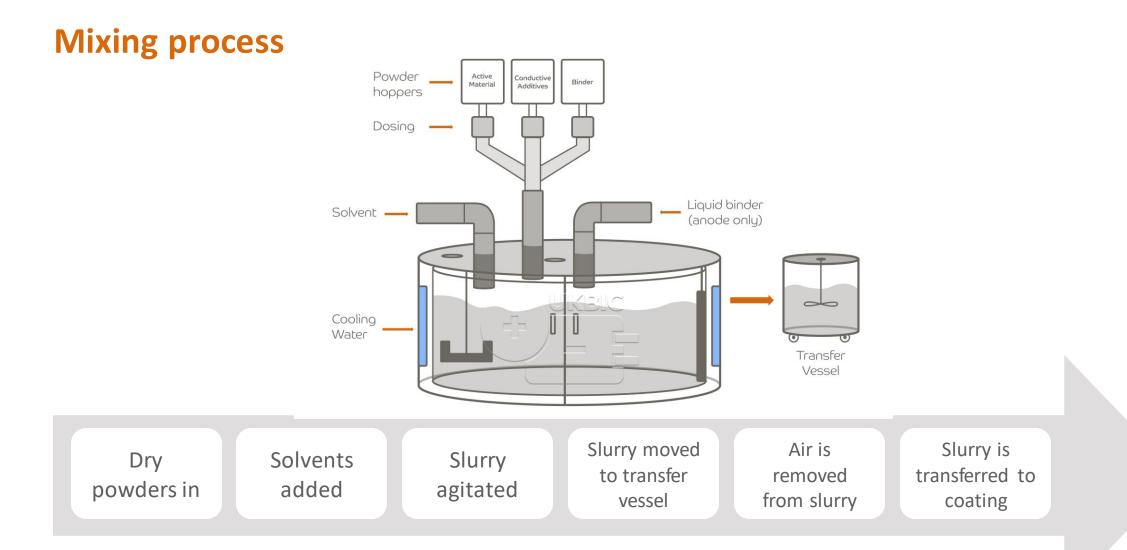
- Both Anode and Cathode slurry requires a combination of ingredients to produce a coat-able slurry, to the specifications required
- Active Materials
- Conductive Materials
- Binder
- Solvent

CMC: Carbo-methyl Cellulose NMP:N-Methyl-2Pyrrolidone NMC: Nickel Manganese Cobalt SBR: Styrene Butadiene Rubber PVDF: Polyvinylidene Fluoride

- Anode Materials:
- Graphite
- CMC
- Di-ionised water
- SBR
- Cathode Materials:
- NMC
- Carbon
- PVDF
- NMP









# **Mixing process**

- We use an Eirich RL12W Intensive Mix Solver 150L/hour 250L capacity
- Can be used as Standard planetary mixer. Speed of pan rotation and agitation define this (customer dependent)
  - Dry mix: Powders mixed to fully combine them
    - Liquids added: Approximately 50% of total to form a dough like substance
  - Kneading: Mixed at lower speeds to fold the material
    - Dilution: Adding the remaining liquids to produce the final slurry
- Samples can be taken at various points throughout the mix, normally after kneading
- Many factors including length of each operation, ingredients, order of added ingredients and sampling, are customer dependent



# **Mixing technologies**

#### Main technologies:

- Planetary dispersion
- Screw extruder
- Eirich intensive mixer

#### Key quality parameters:

- Viscosity
- Solid content
- Uniformity
- Free from gas

#### Challenges:

- Yield
- Raw material variation
- Scale-up

#### - Summary:

Disperse materials effectively to make a slurry and keep making slurry to feed the coater.

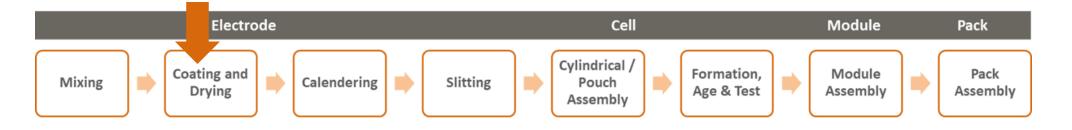






# **Electrode**

# **Coating & drying area**



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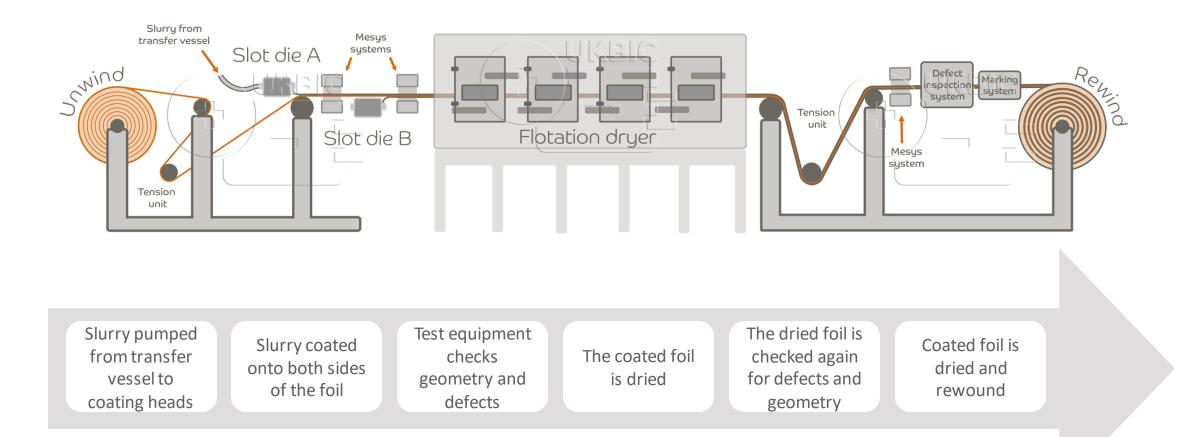
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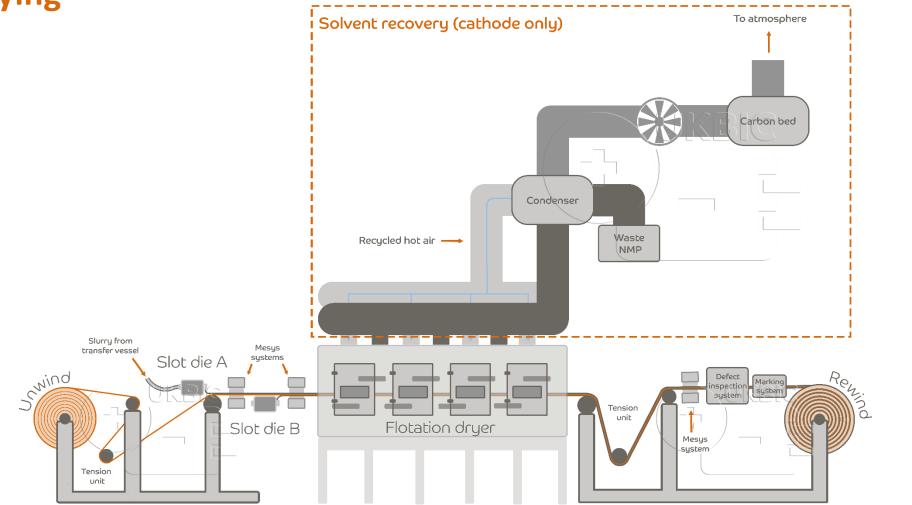


# **Coating & drying process**



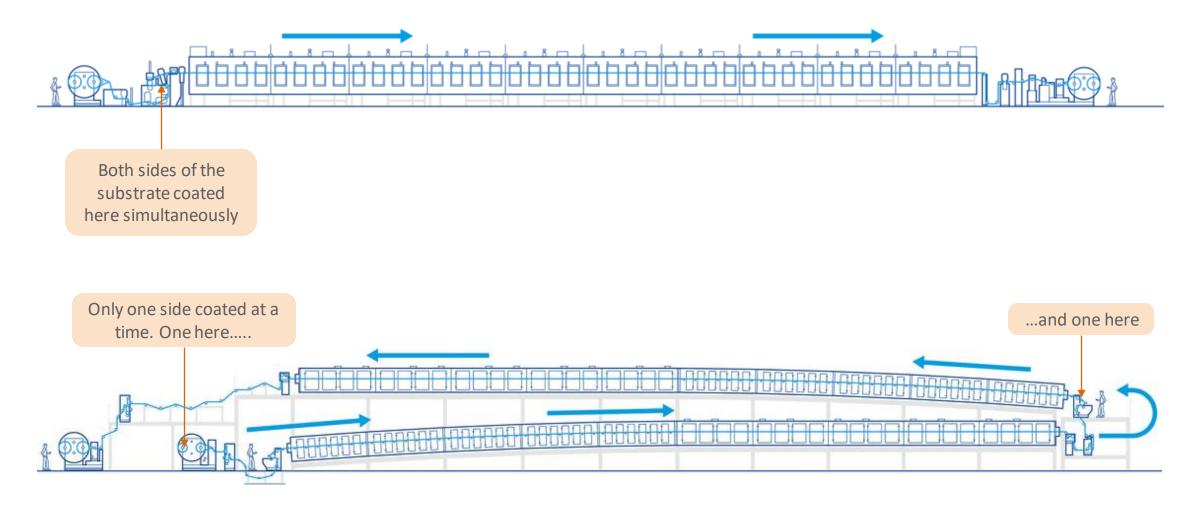


Drying





# Simultaneous vs tandem coating





# **Drying technologies**

Main technologies:

- Flotation for simultaneous coating
- Roll supported for tandem coating

#### Key quality parameters:

- Residual solvent content
- Adhesion
- Correct drying profile

#### Challenges:

- Throughput
- Emissions

#### - Summary:

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Remove solvent from slurry quickly without causing defects and to dry the coating







### **Coating summary**

#### Main technologies:

- Simultaneous/Tandem Coating
- Slot die
- Comma bar

#### Key quality parameters:

- Coat-weight / thickness
- Geometry
- Defect free
- Adhesion

#### Challenges:

- Uniformity and consistency
- Throughput
- Skip coating

#### - Summary:

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Uniformly apply the slurry to the surface of the foil

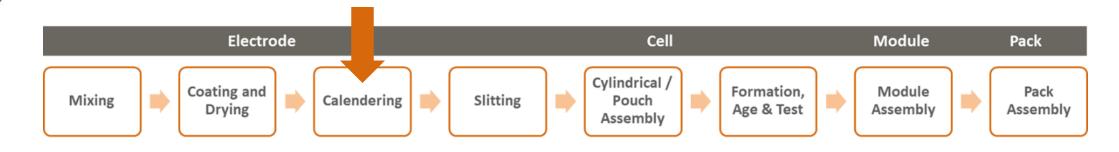






# Electrode

# **Calendering area**



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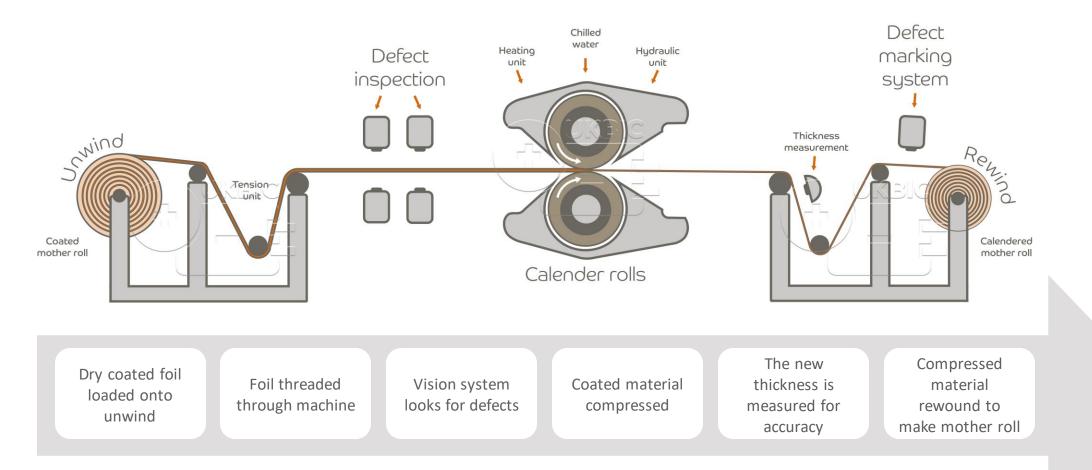
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# **Calendering process**





# **Calendering technologies**

#### Main technologies:

Compression & heat 

#### Key quality parameters:

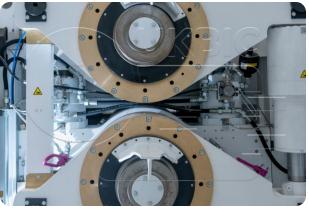
- Even thickness •
- Mechanical properties
- Adhesion

#### Challenges:

- Uniformity
- Throughput
- Calender roll bending
- Electrode deformation

#### Summary: Compress coating to improve energy density of final electrode Electrode Cell Module Pack







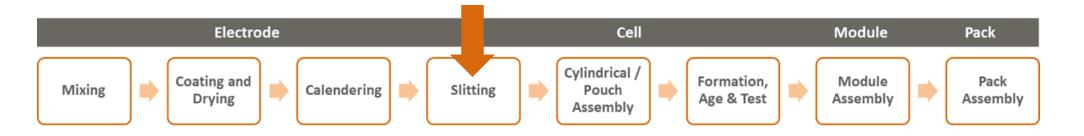
# **Example electrode details**

Parameter	Units	21700		300x100 Pouch cell	
		Anode	Cathode	Anode	Cathode
Number of units	#	1	1	30	29
Width	mm	64	63	264	261
Length	mm	920	850	77	75
Thickness	um	142	139	142	139
Areal capacity	mAh/cm 2	2.64	2.4	2.64	2.4
Coatweight	g/m2	107	197	107	197

Fixed by cell assembly equipment Variable parameters



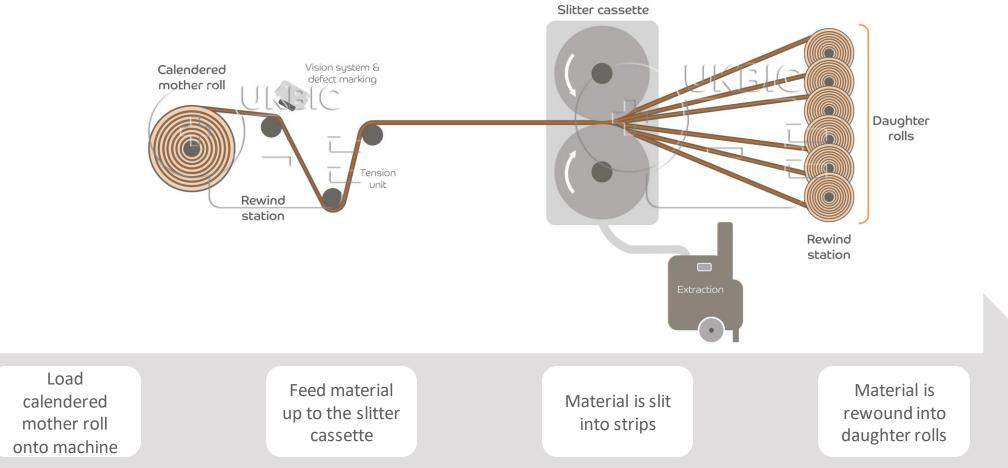
## Cell Assembly Slitting area



#### **Battery Manufacturing Process**



## Slitting





### **Slitting technologies**

### Main technologies:

- Rotating knives
- Laser Cutting

### Key quality parameters:

- Slit width
- Burr size

### Challenges:

- Uniformity
- Throughput
- Electrode deformation

#### - Summary:

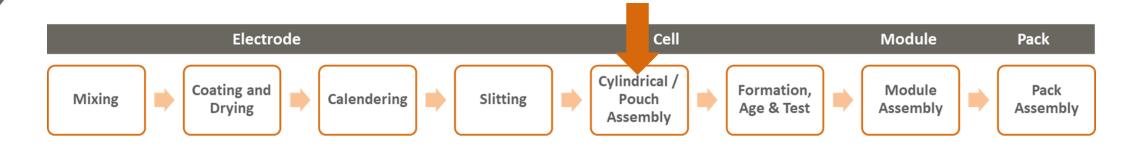
Cut electrode into final width ready for cell assembly







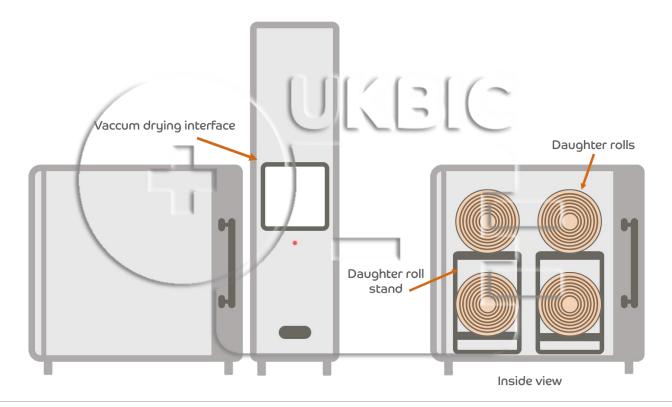
## Cell Assembly Cell assembly area





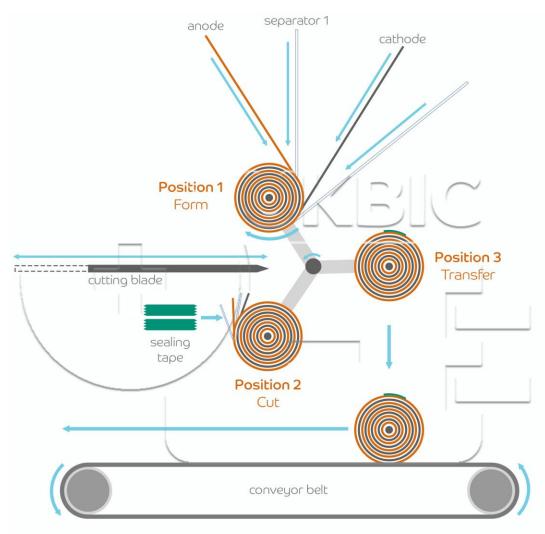
### Vacuum drying

- Daughter rolls are loaded into the vacuum dryer to remove any remaining moisture
- Evaporation is achieved at high temperature and under vacuum





## **Cylindrical cell winding**



- Anode, cathode and 2 separators are wound together at position 1
- With all 4 elements still attached the coil of materials moves into position 2, during that movement a blade cuts through the material
- At position 2 green sealing tape secures the material in a tight coil
- This coil pack moves to position 3, where it is lowered on to a conveyor belt and loaded into trays ready for assembly



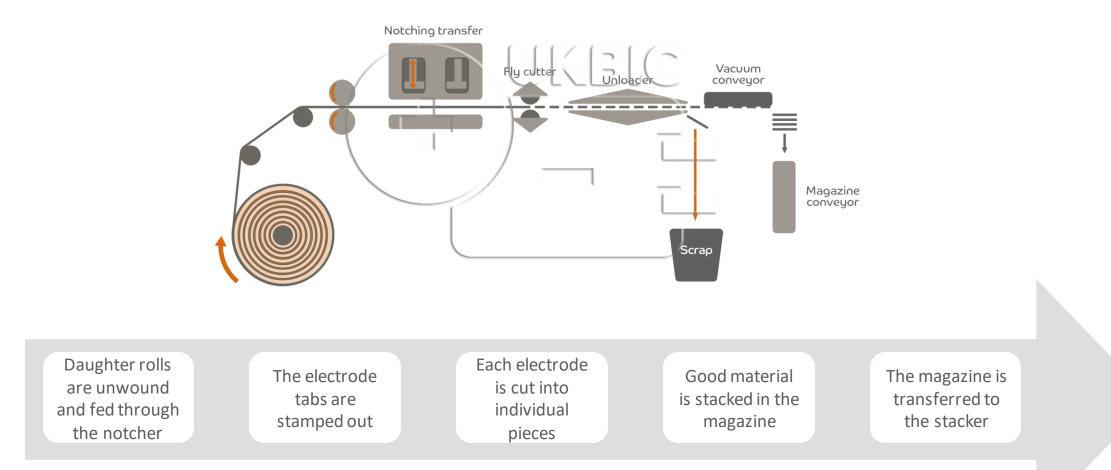


## **Cylindrical cell – packaging & filling**



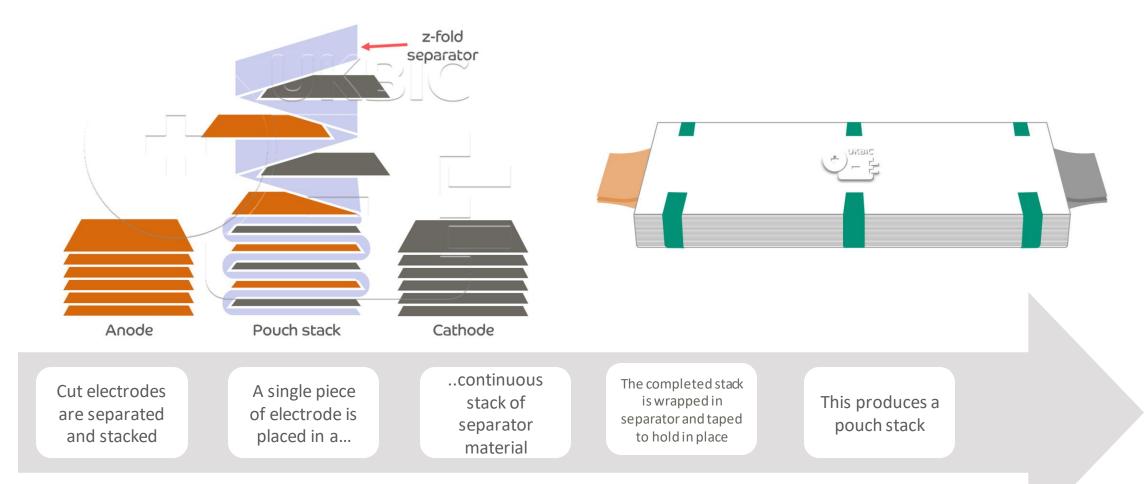


## **Pouch notching**



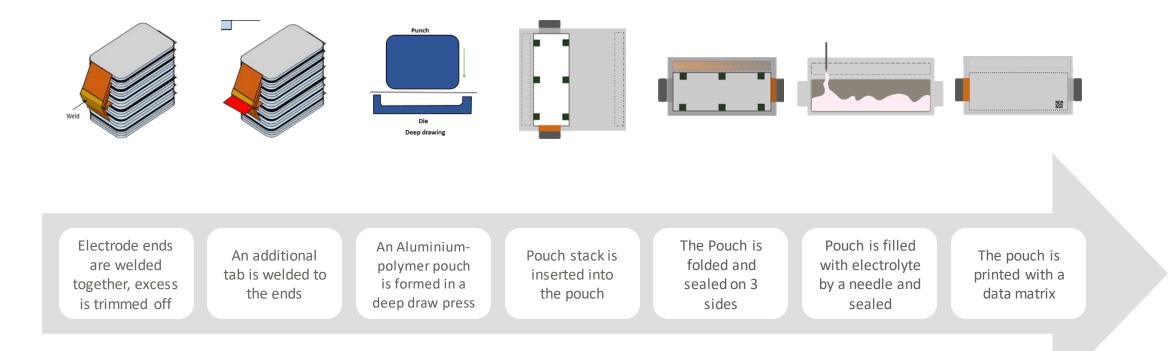


### **Pouch stacking**





### **Pouch Stacking**





# Electrochemistry of Lithiumion Battery

Electrochemistry

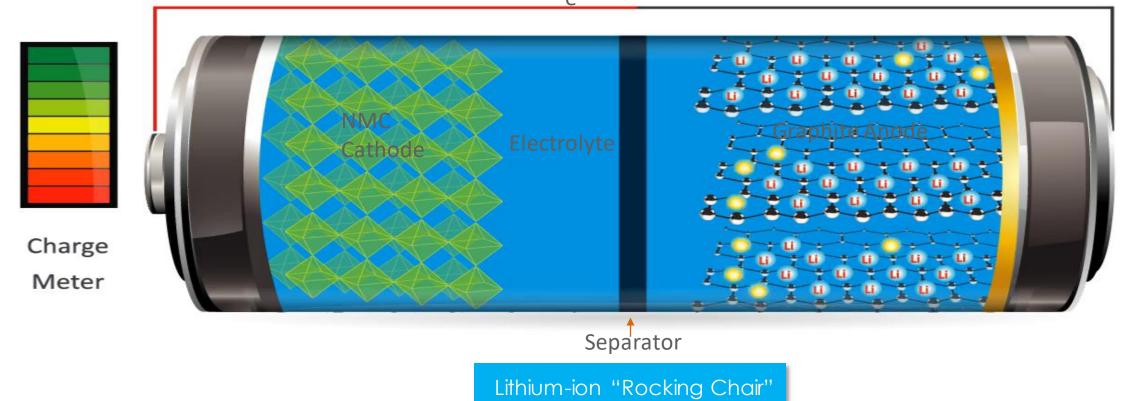
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### **Principle Operation of LIBs**

### Discharge



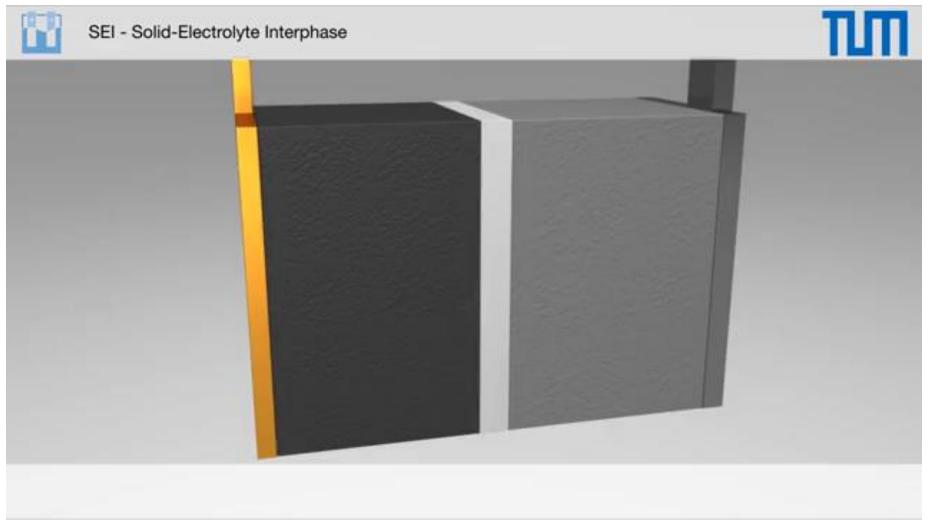


Li<sup>+</sup> cycles between anode and cathode, storing and releasing energy

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## Solid Electrolyte Interphase (SEI)



F. Kindermann, Ing. Wolfgang, et al. Institute of Electrical Energy Storage Technology, TUM, Germany.



## Example of Various Lithium-ion Battery Chemistry Comparison and Application

LI-ION BATTERY CHEMISTRY	NOMINAL VOLTAGE (V)	CYCLE (LIFE)	CHARGE CURRENT RATE (C)	DISCHARGE CURRENT RATE (C)	THERMAL RUNAWAY (°C)	PACKAGING (TYPICAL)	SPECIFIC ENERGY (Wh/Kg)	APPLICATIONS	REMARKS
Nickel Manganese Cobalt Oxide (NMC)	3.6 (3.0-4.2) range	1000+	0.7-1C	1-2C	210°C (410°F)	18650, 21700	150-220	E-Bikes, Medical Devices, EVs, Industrial	High-specific energy, Low self-heating rate
Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP)	3.2 (2.5-3.65) range	2000+	IC	1C	270 °C (518°F)	18650, 32650, prismatic	90-120	Stationary Applications with high capacity, EV	Flat discharge voltage, high power, low capacity, safe
Lithium Nickel Cobalt Aluminium Oxide (NCA)	3.6 (3.0-4.2) range	500-1000	0.7C	1C	150 °C (302°F)	18650	200-260	Medical, Industrial, Electric Powertrain	Long life, fast charge, wide temperature range, safe & expensive
Lithium Titanate Oxide (LTO)	2.4 (1.8-2.85) range	3000-7000	1C	10C	Highest	Prismatic	50-80	Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Systems	Highest capacity with moderate power
Lithium Cobalt Oxide (LCO)	3.6 (3.0-4.2) range	500-1000	0.7- 1C	1C	150 °C (302°F)	18650 Prismatic & pouch cell	150-200	Laptops, Mobile Phones, Tablets, Cameras	High energy, limited power
Lithium Manganese Oxide (LMO)	3.7 (3.0-4.2) range	300-700	0.7-1C	1C	250 °C (482 °F)	Prismatic	100-150	Medical Devices, Electric Powertrains, Power Tools	High power, less capacity; safer than LCO

Source: Ion-Energy.

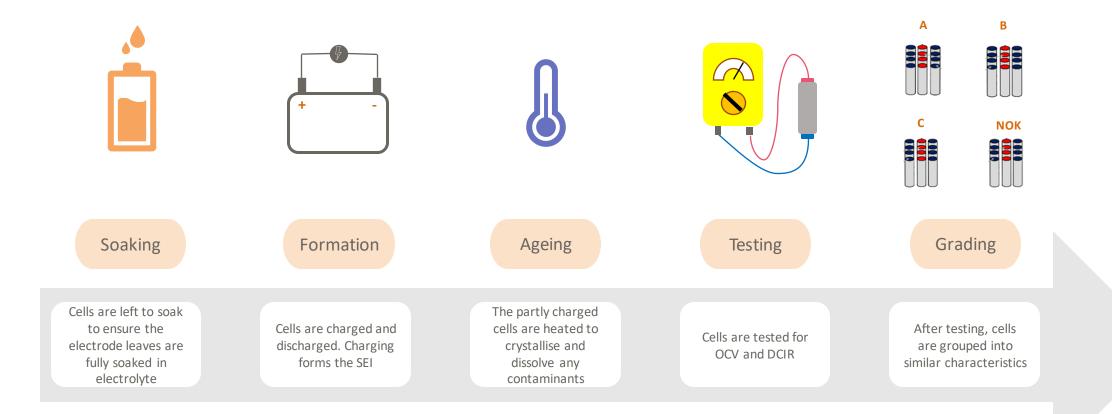


## Formation, Ageing and Testing (FA&T)



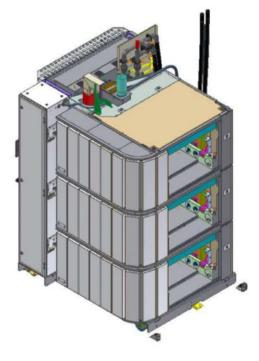


### **FA&T Process**





### **Formation**



- Formation towers are autonomous units, where the cells are charged and discharged to alter the chemistry of the cells to allow them to be rechargeable.
- During formation, lithium ions are embedded into the crystal structure of the graphite on the anode. Here the SEI forms, an interface layer between the electrolyte and the electrode
- The towers also act as a fire box and can be closed off to contain a thermal event for about 14hrs
- There are separate towers for cylindrical cells and pouch cells. 2048 cylindrical cells can be processed at one time in trays. 360 pouch cells can be processed in pressurised racks.
- After formation, Pouch cells are degassed and the gas strip is removed

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#### **Battery Manufacturing Process**



## Ageing



- Ageing is the process of heating up cells to form crystals and dissolve them.
- Crystals form from unwanted inclusions within the cell.
- We can heat to NT (normal temperature upto 30C) or HT (high temperature upto 45C)
- Any combination of the above or no Ageing may be used, customer dependant

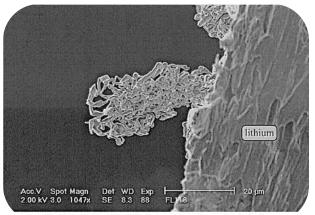


Fig. 8. Dendrite formed in a lithium hattery after one charge at 2.2 mA/cm2



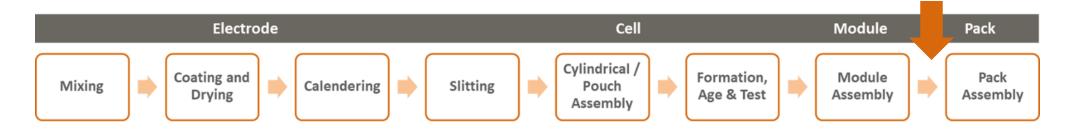
### **Testing and Grading**



- Cells are tested for numerous characteristics:
  - DCIR
  - OCV
  - Self discharge rate
  - Charging efficiency
  - Charge/Discharge capacity
- Doing these tests helps to determine: energy density, lithium reduction and electrolyte deficiency
- From these results, the cells are graded to the customers requirements.
- Grades A, B, C, D and NOK (not ok)



## **Module and Pack**



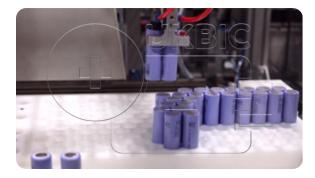
#### Module assembly



## Module line (cylindrical)





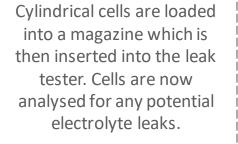


#### M1X-20-1 Cell decant

Cylindrical cells are removed from packaging and visually inspected for defects

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#### M1Y-40-1 Cell sorting & test

The magazine full of cells is now loaded into the robot. As the cells are drawn into the machine an OCV and resistance measurement is taken to asses the cells health. A vision system is also used to detect defects which could have been missed in previous processes. If passed the robot will automatically orientate the cell and place it into the correct position within the module casing. During this process the bar codes of each cell will be recorded into the HMI system for traceability.

#### **Module assembly**

## Contraction M1X-150-1

Bus bars are now cleaned and added onto the cells into the specified locations. Module is then feed into the welder where bus bars are welded onto the individual cells connecting them together.

## Wire bonding

Bus bars are now cleaned and added onto the cells into the specified locations. The module is then placed into the wire bonding machine where bus bars are connected to individual cells using aluminium wire.

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#### M1X-200-1 MMU & sensor assembly

Welded modules will now have any additional sensors / cooling or LV harnesses added along with MMU (Module monitoring unit).



## Final assembly

Final parts will now be added onto module and casing fitted



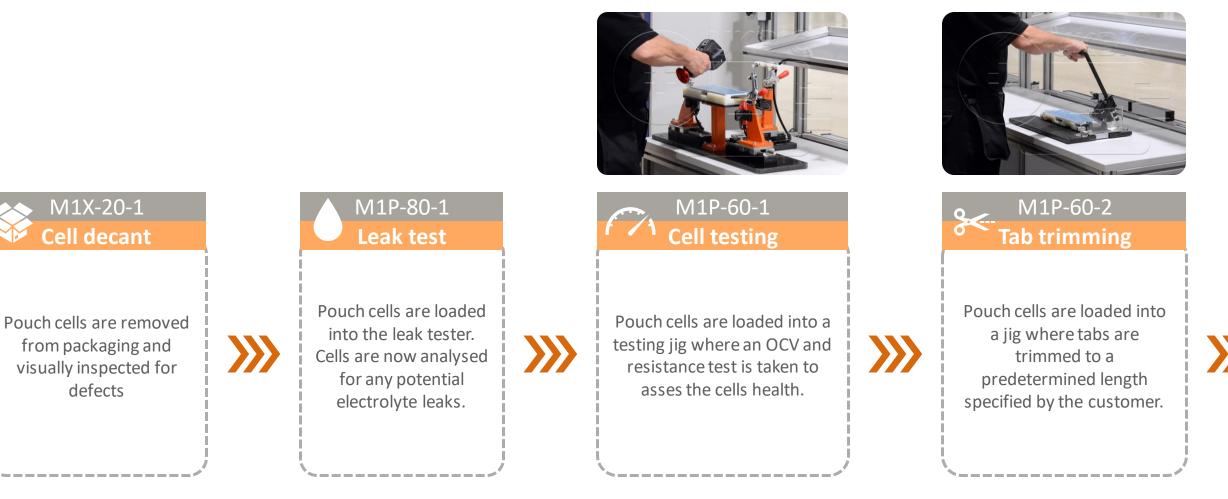
## EOL tester

Fully assembled modules will be placed into the test chamber and connected to the test rig. Various tests can be preformed to asses the module is fit for purpose depending on customer requirements

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## Module line (pouch)







M1P-60-3 Tab bending

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Pouch cells are loaded into a jig where tabs are bent to the correct angle predetermined by the customer.

### M1P-60-1 Cell stacking

Pouch cells have a thermal adhesive pad applied and are stacked up inside of the module casing.





## ↓ M1P-100-1 ↑ Tox press

Module is now loaded into Tox press with pouch cells stacked inside. Press will apply a predetermined pressure onto the pouch cells compressing them to a set thickness and height. Cage will be secured to keep level set before being moved to next process.

### M1X-150-1 Laser welding

Bus bars are now cleaned and added onto the cells into the specified locations. Module is then feed into the robot where buss bars are welded onto the individual cells connecting them together.



Bus bars are now cleaned and added onto the cells into the specified locations. The module is then placed into the wire bonding machine where bus bars are connected to individual cells using aluminium wire.

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### M1X-200-1 MMU & sensor assembly

Welded modules will now have any additional sensors / cooling or LV harnesses added along with MMU (Module monitoring unit). Once assembled a final OCV and resistance test is taken. **>>>** 

## M1X-220-1Final assembly

Final parts will now be added onto module and casing fitted.

### M1X-500-1 EOL tester

Fully assembled modules will be placed into the test chamber and connected to the test rig. Various tests can be preformed to asses the module is fit for purpose depending on customer requirements.



Pack assembly



### **Pack line**



#### P1X-20-1 Pack sub assembly

Sub assemblies for the pack build are built up. Various sub assemblies could be made depending on pack design and specification.

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P1X-40-1 Module and Cooling System Fit

Modules are now placed into the pack casing along with any cooling system components. Bus bars are added ready for connecting.



### P1X-60-1 BMS and Cover Install

BMS is now installed into pack and all HV and LV connections are made before outer cover is installed to pack. Once cover is fully installed a Resistance and voltage test will be conducted to ensure pack is safe.



### P1X-80-1 Leak test



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Sub assemblies for the pack build are built up. Various sub assemblies could be made depending on pack design and specification.



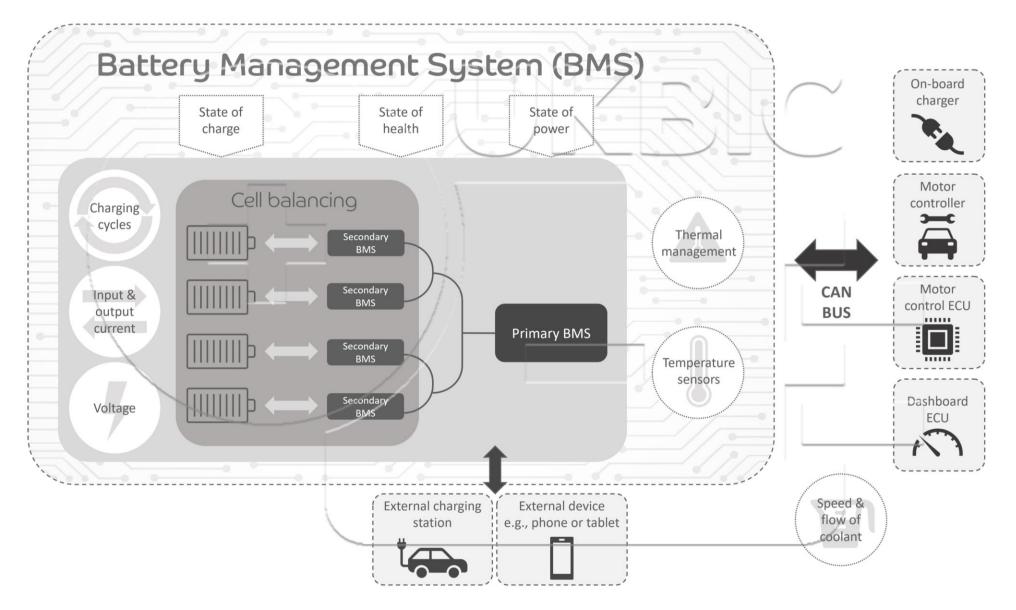
P1X-500-1 Pack EOL Tester

Fully assembled Battery Packs will be placed into the test chamber and connected to the test rig. Various tests can be preformed to asses the module is fit for purpose depending on customer requirements.











## **Questions?**

