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Achieving quick battery recharge

A new generation of nanoscale cathode materials being developed by Brisbane company VSPC (Very Small Particle Company) has received \$2 million in federal government funding through the Green Car Innovation Fund to accelerate final development.

It is hoped that the new cathode materials will revolutionise electric vehicles by enabling batteries to be recharged in about the same time as it takes to fill a tank of petrol.

VSPC is commercialising nanoscale complex lithium ion phosphate (LFP) using its own, patented manufacturing process.

The company said that while the use of lithium iron phosphate is well documented as a cathode material, VSPC has a unique manufacturing process that produces complex metal oxides at nanoscale.

“LFP has inexpensive pre-cursors, is safe, environmentally benign, and easily manufactured using VSPC’s patented low cost production process,” the company said.

It said the agglomerated particle size is selected to suit the battery manufacturing process and is typically 6µm or 18µm. The small size and associated large surface area of the particles can greatly enhance battery performance.

The company said it will use the funding to optimise the technology resulting in a high volume factory producing LFP for sale within two years.

VSPC chief executive officer David MacInnes said: “Receiving this grant is recognition of the potential significant impact our technology can have on the global electric vehicle industry.”