



press clip

Push to charge up electric car sector in very quick time

Kerrie Sinclair

A BRISBANE company whose technology could rev up the global electric vehicle market by making batteries rechargeable in minutes has received a \$2 million boost.

Wacol-based Very Small Particle Company is receiving \$2 million in federal funds as part of a program to help Australia's manufacturing sector move into green products that generate high-skill, high-wage jobs.

VSPC, an unlisted public company, has invested \$20 million in developing lithium iron phosphate (LFP) as a cathode material for hybrid

and electric vehicle batteries.

It allows drivers to recharge batteries in minutes, rather than the overnight charging that is currently required.

VSPC also has been selling nanoscale compounds to global companies such as German chemicals company Bayer, but its focus is on LFP for the growing green car market.

So far, output from a pilot plant has been tested with global battery makers and has "worked extremely well", says VSPC chief executive David MacInnes.

VSPC is now at the stage of doing

detailed work to show LFP production can be scaled up.

It aims to have a first-stage plant with yearly capacity of 2000 tonnes of LFP running within two years, then build a high-volume plant with output of up to 10,000 tonnes a year.

The company has its eyes on Europe, which is driving the green car revolution through its aggressive targets for cutting emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases.

European demand is forecast to reach at least 250,000 tonnes of LFP a year by 2020.

Fully electric vehicles are also now available in Australia and US-based electric car infrastructure company Better Place aims to launch battery exchange stations and charging points in Canberra in June next year.

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GOING GREEN: David MacInnes, chief executive of the Very Small Particle Company.
Picture: Darren England

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Bid to charge up green-car market

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VSPC says Better Place's model of using exchangeable batteries is good but requires expensive infrastructure.

"What will compete with that is the ability to charge a battery very quickly, which is exactly what we can do. With our technology, you could stop at any existing service outlet on the motorway, plug into the mains and charge up in the time it takes to make a cup of coffee," Mr MacInnes said.

"We hope Better Place is successful and our technology can be used in the vehicles in their facility, so if they're successful, it's good for us but if they're not, it doesn't harm us."

VSPC is looking for an alliance with a global battery manufacturer and is in talks with potential partners. It has 15 highly skilled staff including chemical engineers, and has two staff handling development and discussions with global companies.