

Lithium-ion battery technology thailand

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Speaking to a group of The Nation media members during a factory visit in Chachoengsao, Somphote Ahunai, CEO of Energy Absolute, said that having a factory that can completely produce lithium-ion batteries from cells will reinforce Thailand's position EV hub.

"The capacity to build lithium-ion batteries is key to Thailand becoming a leading EV hub," he said, adding that although the company is unable to smelt certain minerals as raw materials, it has developed a process for producing cells, which are the smallest and most important components of lithium-ion batteries.

Currently, the factory can produce approximately 1 gigawatt per hour, which supplies batteries mainly to local electric bus makers and is considering expanding its capacity. By the end of 2025, the production rate will be 4 gigawatts per hour. Another potential extension will be determined by the growth in market demand.

Energy Absolute developed commercial EV manufacturing to meet battery demand even before Thailand's EV industry flourished and now manufactures commercial electric vehicles such as buses, trucks, ferries, and locomotives. The EV tugboat will come next, Somphote said.

He added that the battery and commercial EV factories are 95% geared towards meeting domestic demand but that it would be necessary to stabilise the company's growth in Thailand before serving the international market.

Chatrapon Sripratum, Energy Absolute's vice president of climate change strategy and sustainability, believes that Thailand's growing concerns about the green economy will benefit the company's growth.

In addition to serving as the power source for EVs, he pointed out that batteries are important for energy storage, contributing significantly to the storage of electricity generated from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and hydropower.

However, as battery demand continues to rise, it is necessary to prepare for capacity expansion as well as to



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continue conducting research and development to improve technological know-how in battery and EV manufacturing.

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