

# PTSa Networking Event

## Potential for local Manufacturing of Battery Pack components



Presented by:  
- O. Kasikala, B. Bladergroen

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

[okasikala@lib-pack.com](mailto:okasikala@lib-pack.com) / [olivierkasikala@gmail.com](mailto:olivierkasikala@gmail.com)

# Table of contents

---

## About the presenter

1. Institute background and achievements
  2. Commercialization potential
  3. Basics of lithium ion batteries
4. Overview of Lithium Ion pack assembly
  5. Conclusion + Acknowledgment

# About the presenter

---

- Bachelor of Technology in Chemical Engineering Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) 2017-2019, **SA**
- Energy Storage Systems Course Stellenbosch University in September 2018, **SA**
- Affiliate Research Student at University of the Western Cape from 2018 till now, **SA**
- Trainee at uYilo Electric Mobility Programme from May- August 2018, **SA**
- Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering at CPUT from 2020-2023, **SA**
- Argonne National Laboratory Graduate from April 2022 to October 2022, **USA**
- Reviewer for Electrochemistry Communication from August 2022 till now
- Plant Manager at Energy Storage Innovation Lab/UWC from 2019 till now, **SA**

# Introduction: Background of SAIAMC



UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE



SAIAMC

PSFIC  
PetroSA



F/T Fluid  
Treatment



ES Energy Storage  
IL Innovation Lab



SA Systems  
Hydrogen South Africa



Green H<sub>2</sub>  
Programme



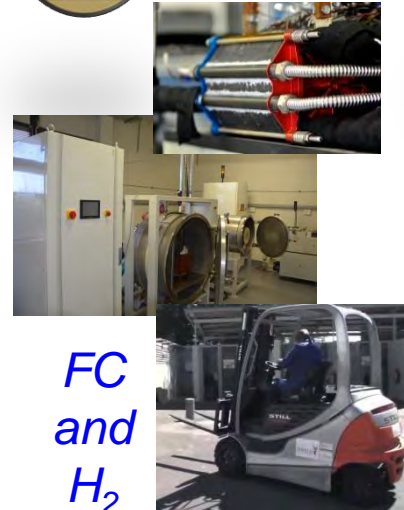
Gas to  
Liquid



Fluid  
treatment



Energy  
Storage



FC  
and  
H<sub>2</sub>



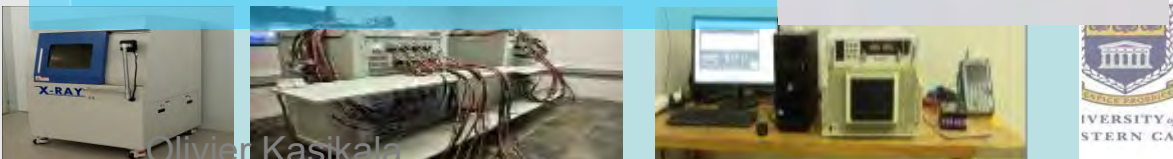
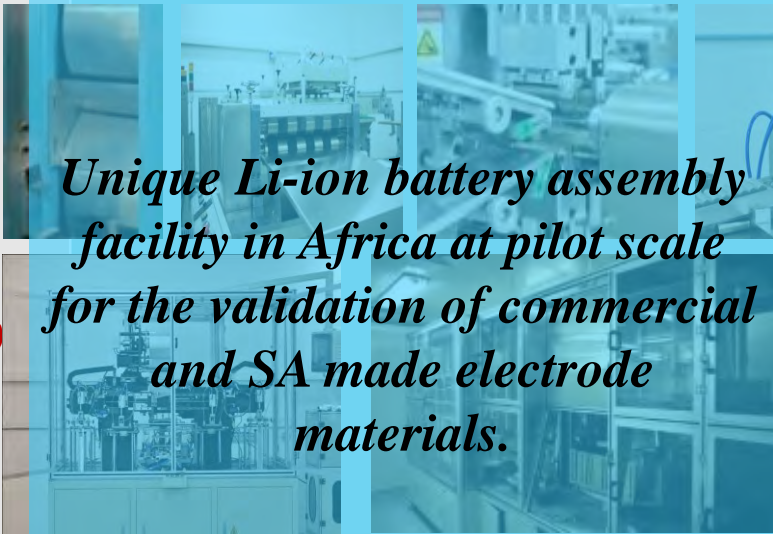
Green H<sub>2</sub>



# Li-ION PROGRAMME: Infrastructure at UWC

## Infrastructure:

- *Ink mixers*
- *Ink casting lines*
- *Electrode cutters*
  
- *Electrode Calendaring*
- *Electrode slitter*
- *Electrode/ winding*
- *Slotting machine*
- *18650 Sealer*
  
- *Stacking machine*
- *Dry room (+ de-humidifiers)*
- *Electrolyte filling carousel*
  
- *Vacuum sealer*
- *Tab and pack welding*
- *Cell packaging*
  
- *X-ray inspection*
- *Cell performance testing*
- *Quality control equipment*





# Achievements: UWC-Lumieres Technology

1Kw E-Bike



Solaris and Solar Tree



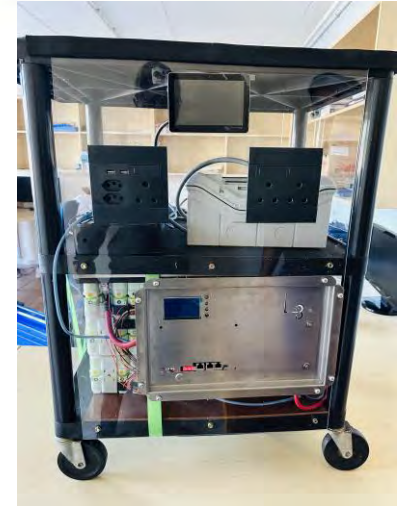
Olivier Kasikala





# Achievements :UWC In-house development

## 1 Kw E-Trike



## Mobile and Stationary UPS



Olivier Kasikala

# Achievements : UWC- Uyilo/NMU collaboration





# LIBPACK: UWC commercialization partner



UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE



**Infrastructure:**

- Ink mixers
- Ink casting lines
- Electrode cutters
- Electrode Calendaring
- Electrode slitter
- Electrode/winding
- Slotting machine
- 18650 Sealer
- Stacking machine
- Dry room (+ de-humidifiers)
- Electrolyte filling carousel
- Vacuum sealer
- Tab and pack welding
- Cell packaging
- X-ray inspection
- Cell performance testing
- Quality control equipment



**Unique Centre of LIB  
Production on the African  
continent.**

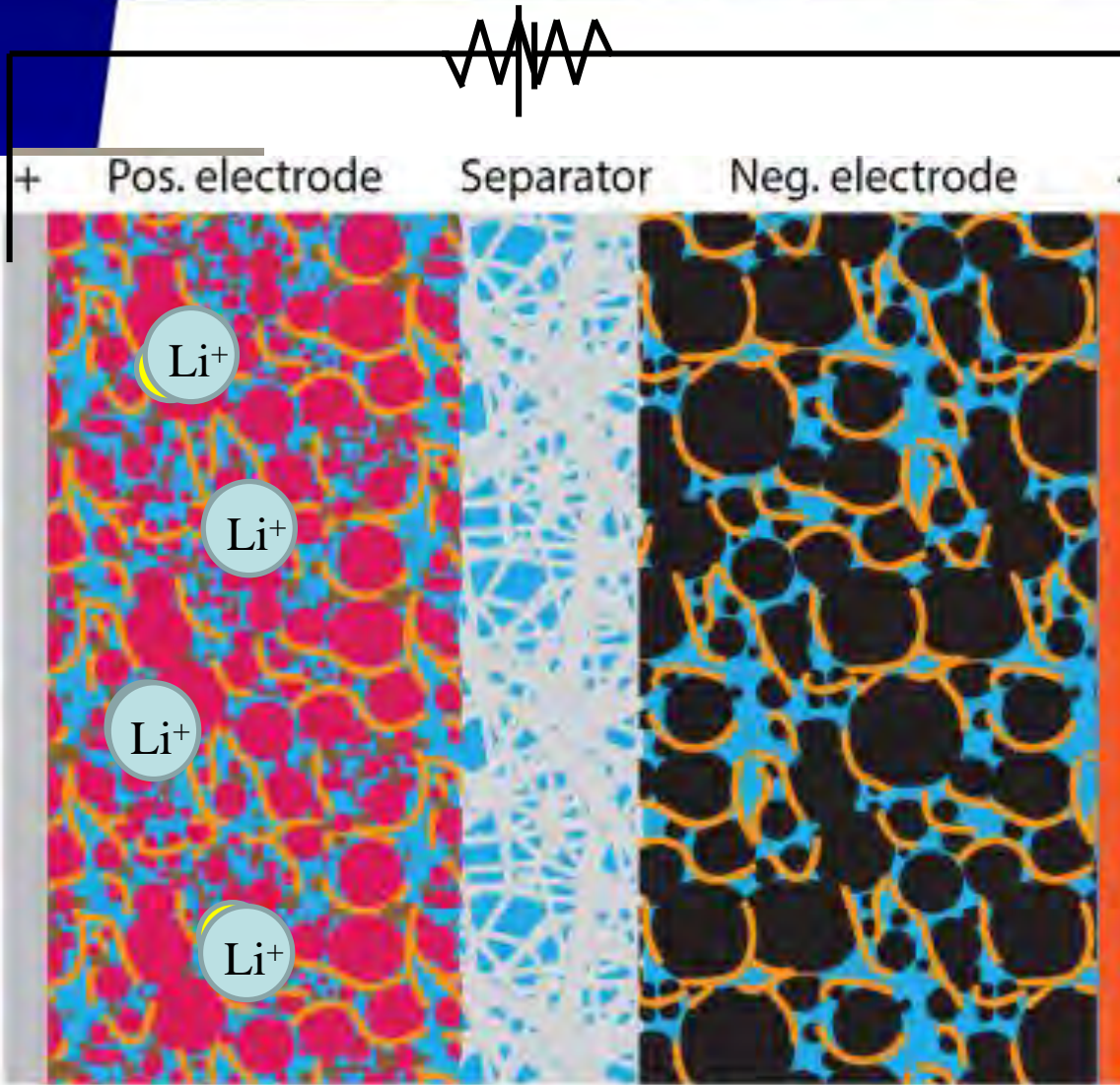


1. SOLARIS

2. ARBRE SOLAIRE

3. TRICYCLE  
ELECTRIQUE

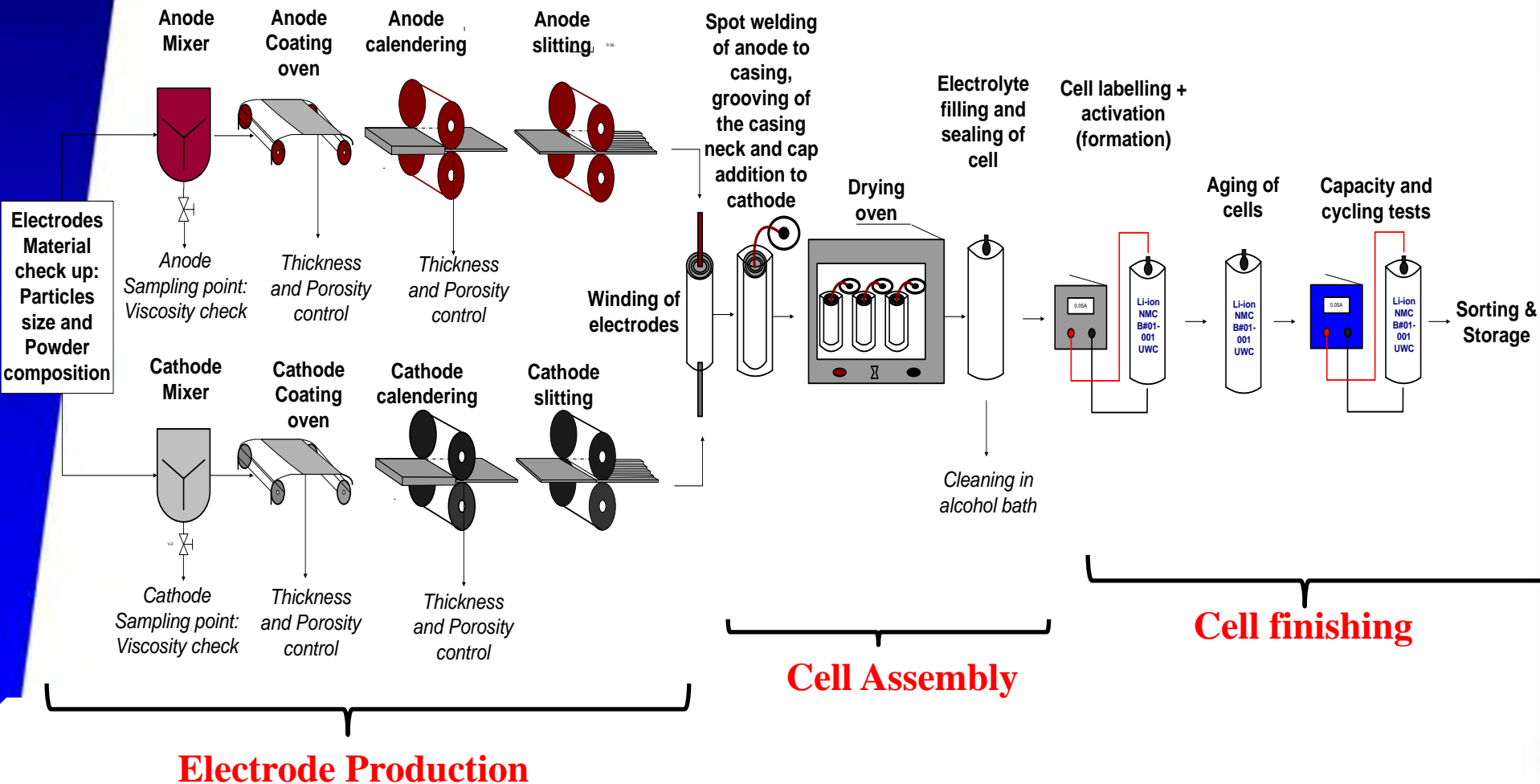
# The Basics of Lithium Ion Battery: Working Principle



-  Electrolyte solution
-  Pos. active material
-  Neg. active material
-  Conductive agent
-  Binder

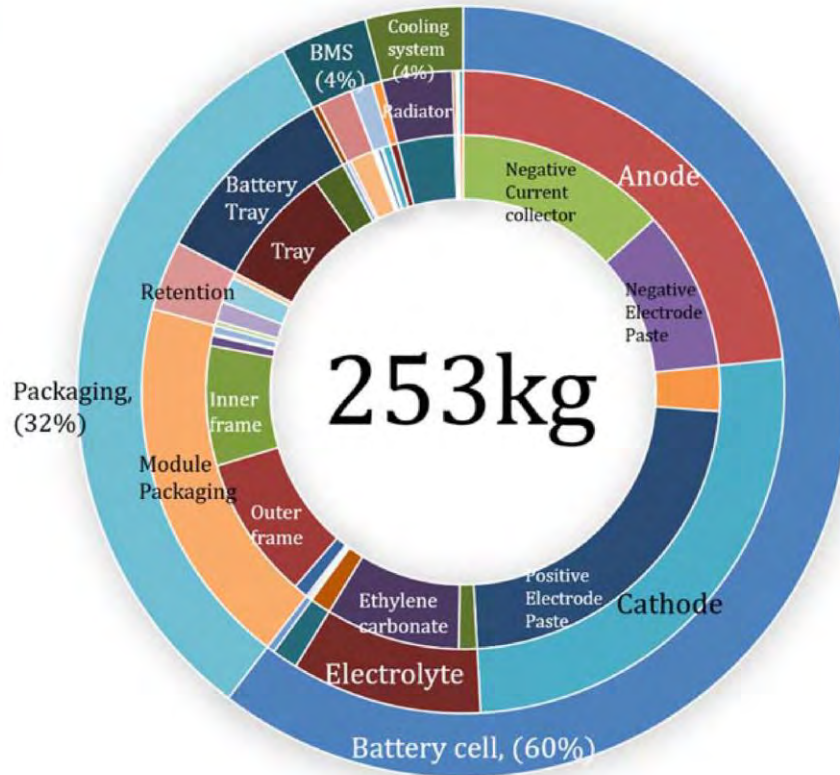


# The Basics of Lithium Ion Battery: Assembly overview



# Pack components: Weight breakdown

Weight breakdown of packs

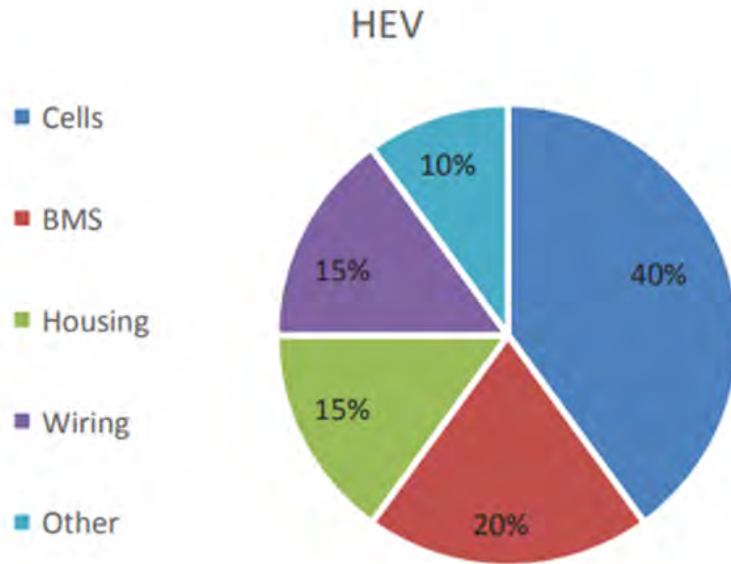


Components breakdown



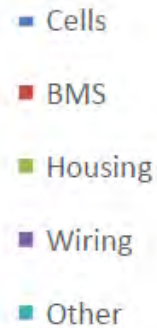


# Pack components: Cost breakdown

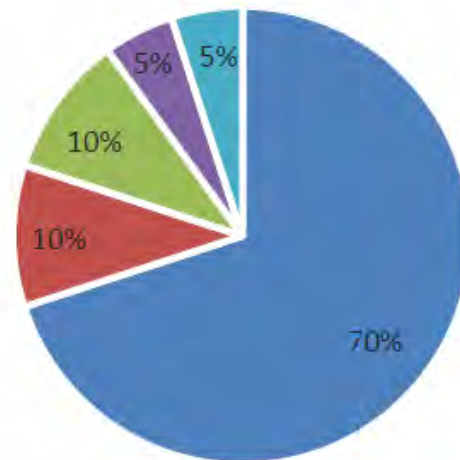


**Figure 3**

HEV battery cost breakdown. HEV, hybrid electrical vehicle.



PHEV/EV

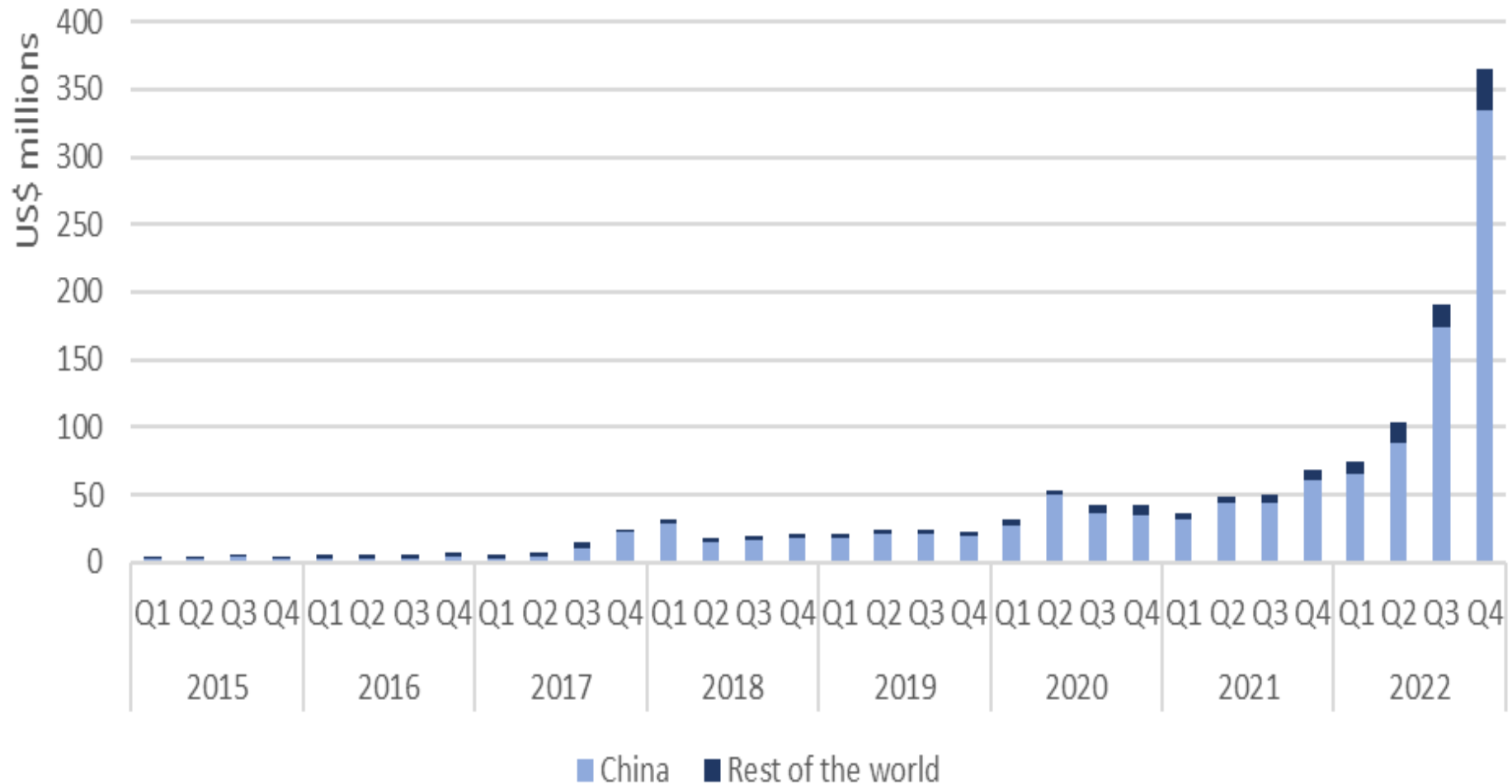


**Figure 2**

PHEV/EV battery cost breakdown. BMS, battery management system

# SA Lithium-Ion Battery market

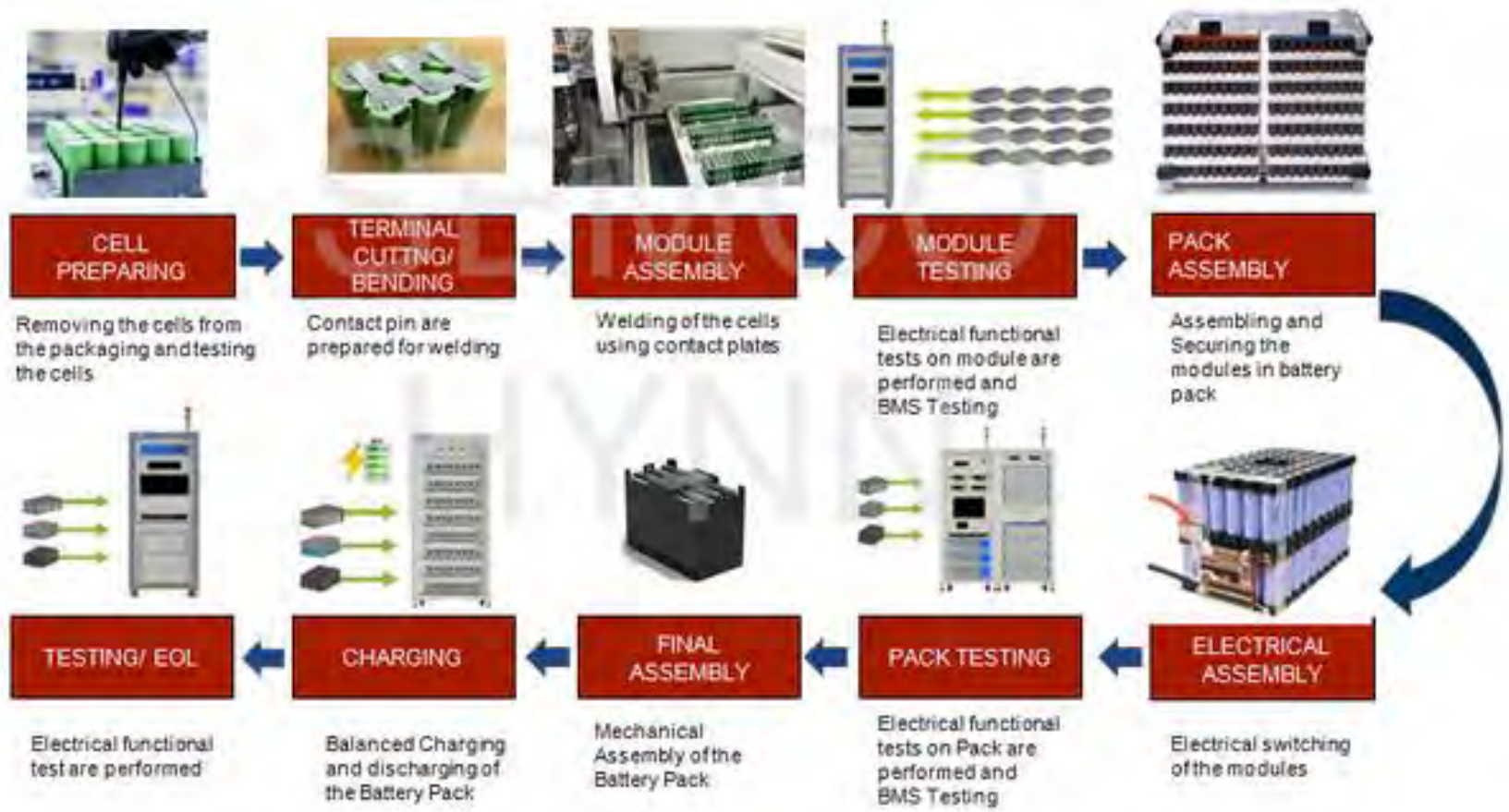
## South Africa's import of lithium-ion cells & batteries (in US\$ millions)



Source: Montmasson-Clair, based on TradeMap data



# Pack Assembly: Overview

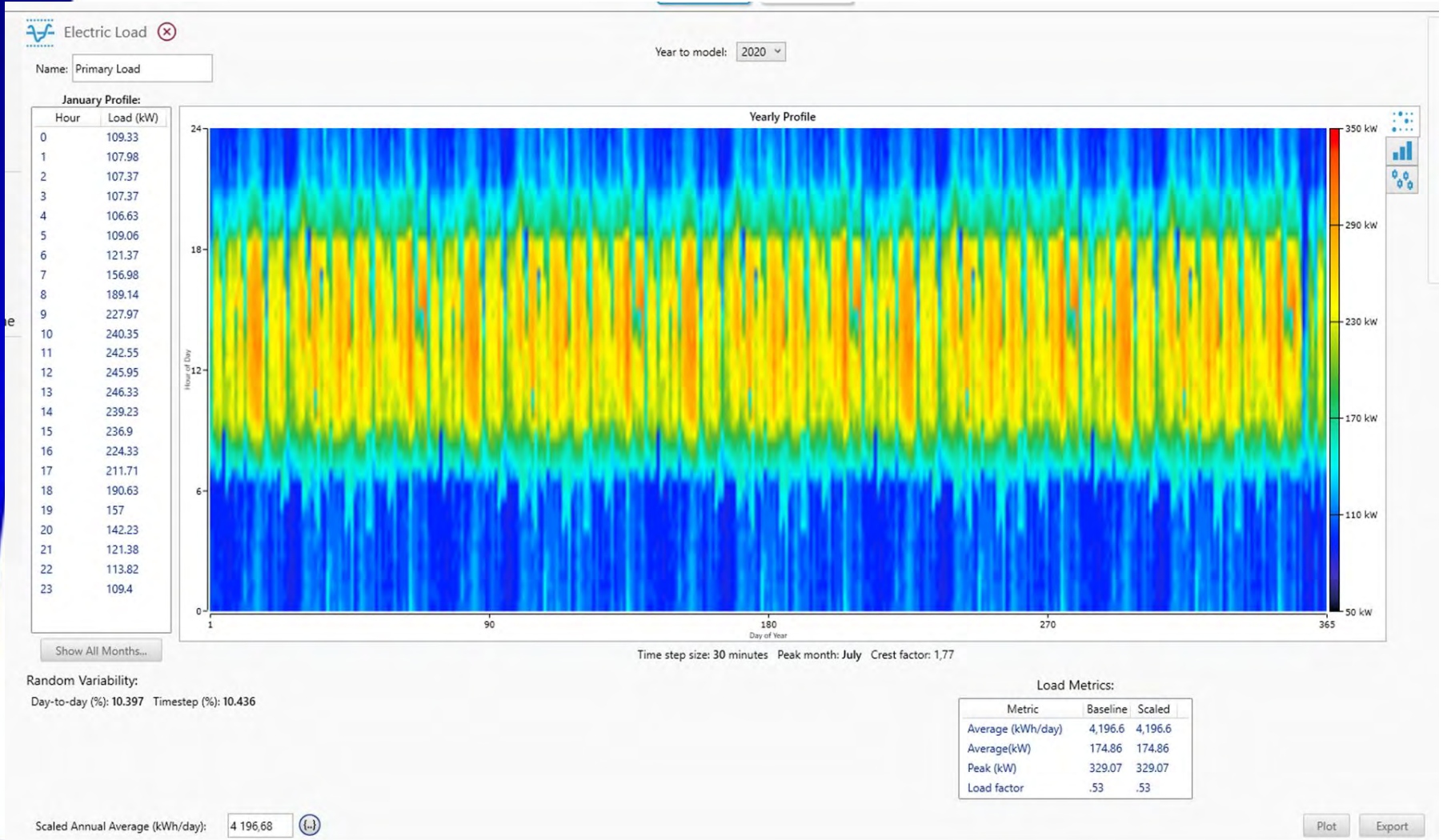


# Pack Assembly: Load profiling

- The load profile approximates the aggregate energy required from a power system over a particular time period (e.g., years, days, hours).
- Approximating the energy demand is very crucial for sizing the energy storage devices such as batteries because the capacity of such devices depends on the total energy required by the connected loads.
- This computation is also of value for energy performance applications, where it is significant to estimate the energy usage in a system.

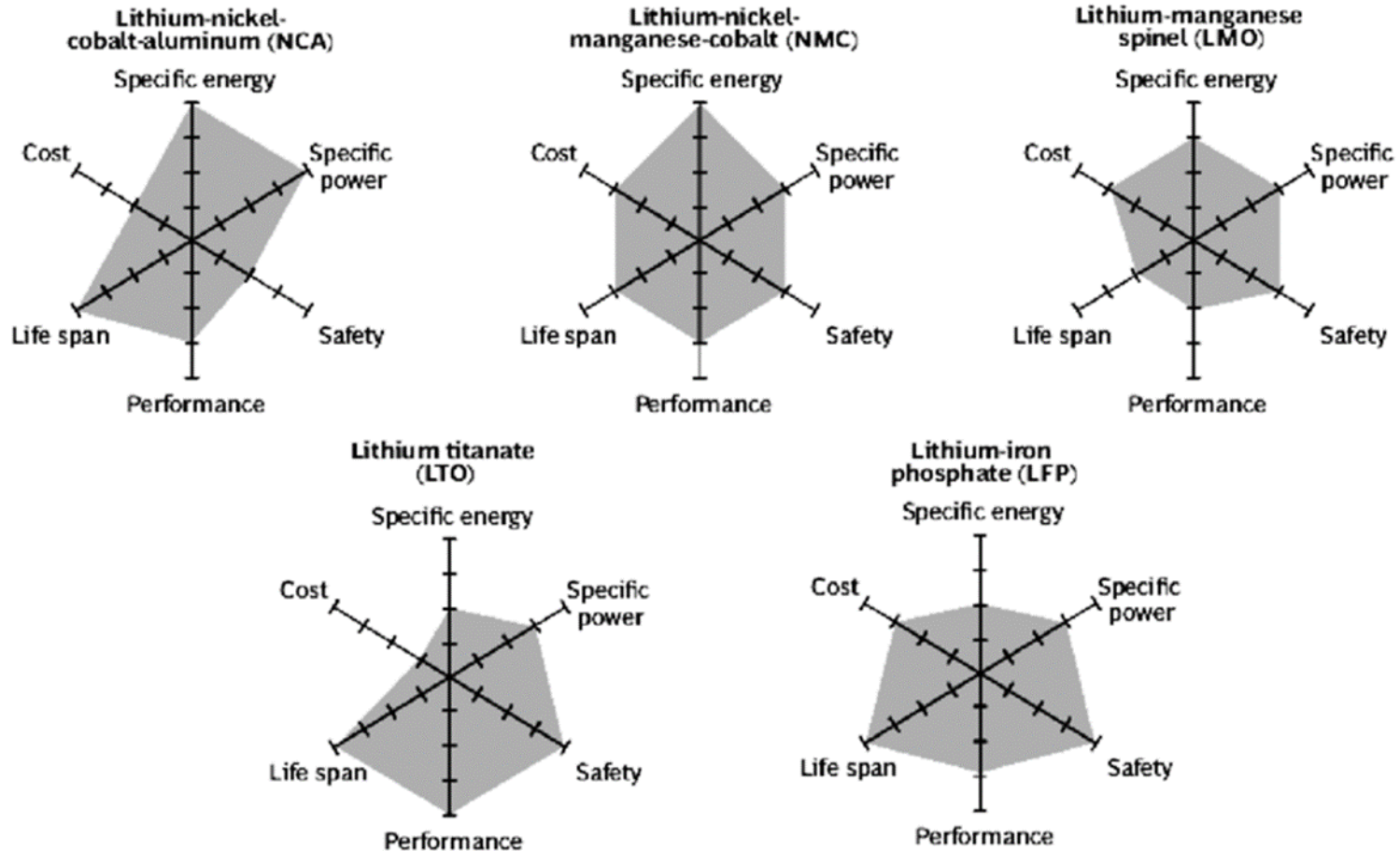
<https://electricalacademia.com/electric-power/load-profile-calculation-solved-example/>

# Pack Assembly: Software based load profiling



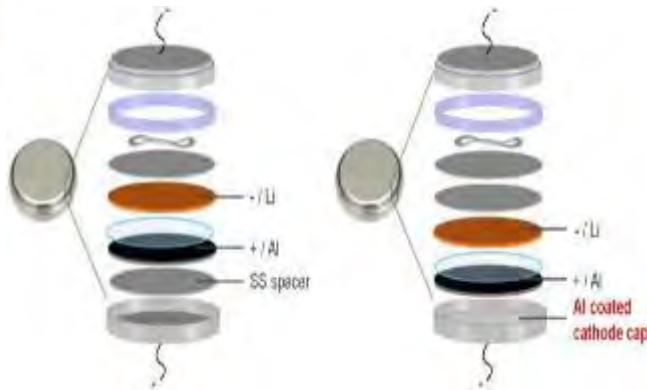


# Pack Assembly: Criteria for cell chemistry selection

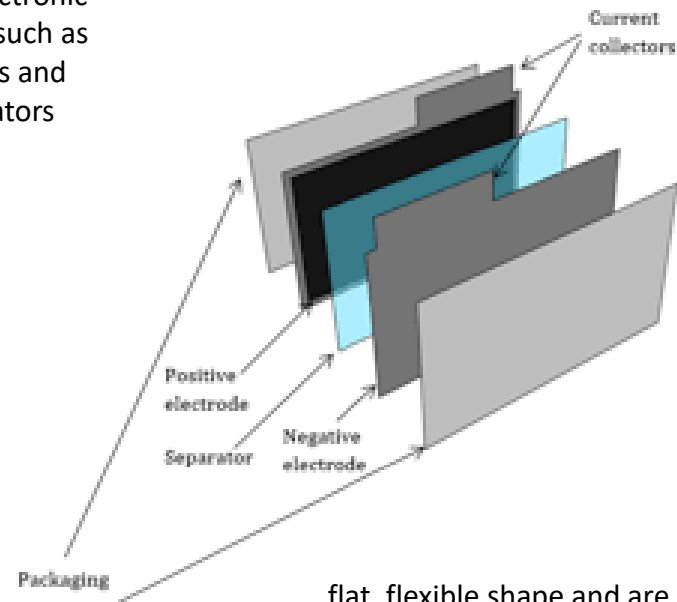
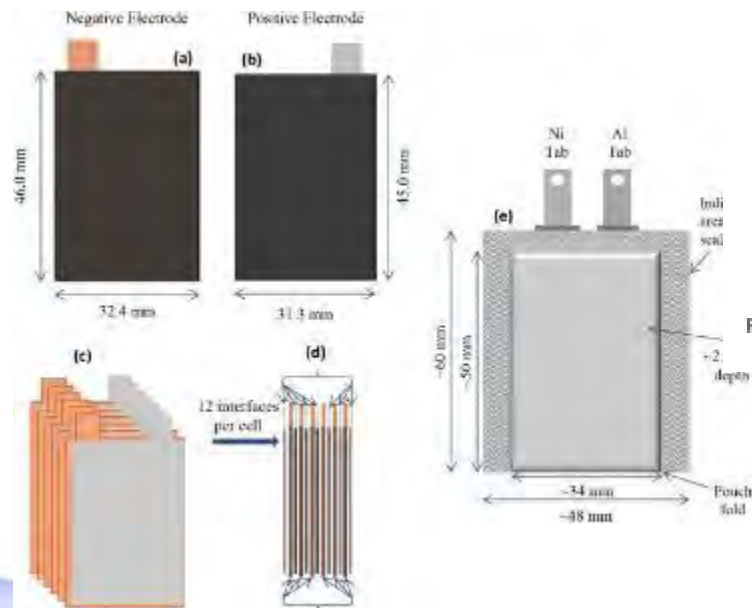


<https://batteryuniversity.com/article/bu-205-types-of-lithium-ion>

# Pack Assembly: Cell geometry selection

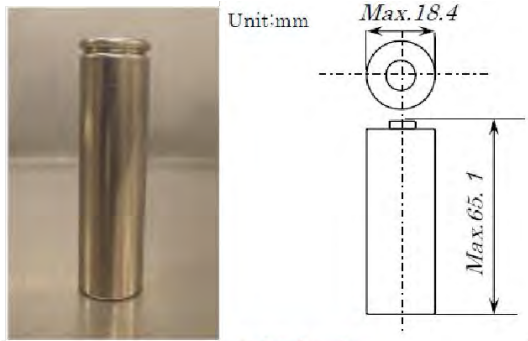


small electronic devices, such as watches and calculators

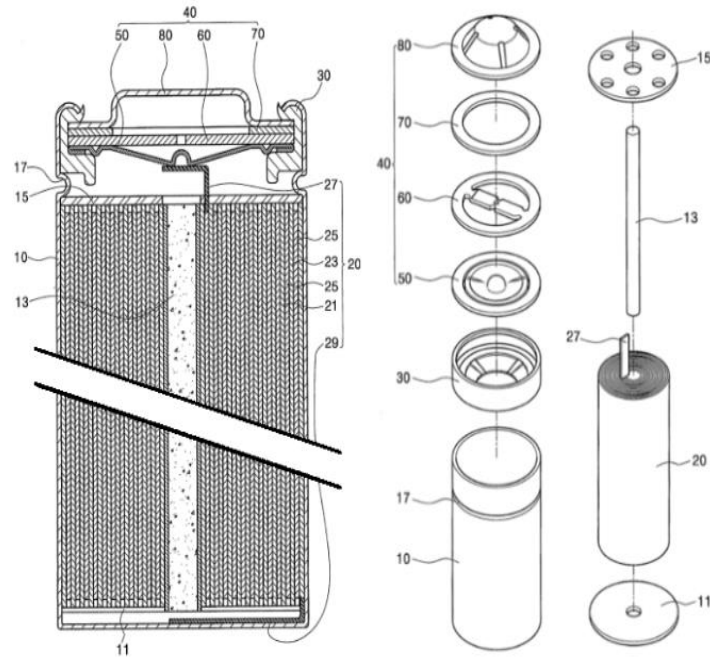
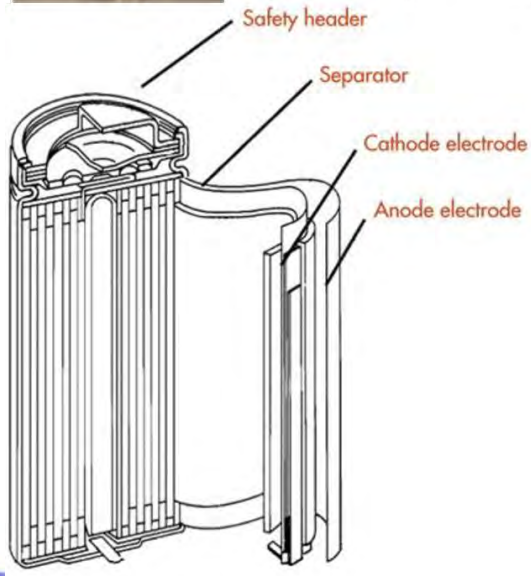


flat, flexible shape and are often used in applications that require a thin, lightweight design, such as wearable devices and drones. made by laminating layers of electrodes and separators, and then sealing them in a flexible pouch.

# Cell geometry selection

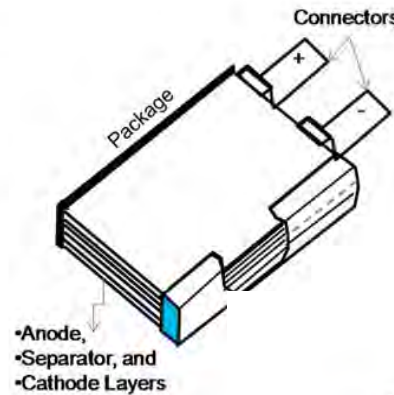
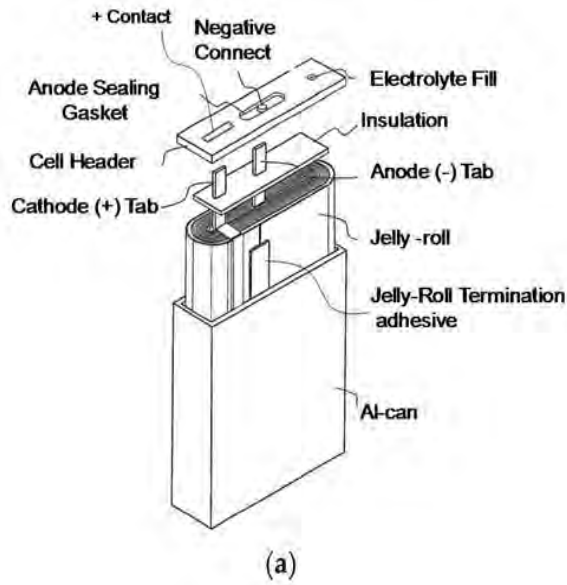


high-power applications, such as power tools, electric vehicles, and grid energy storage systems. They are available in different sizes and capacities, with the most common sizes being 18650, 26650, 26800, 32600 and 46800

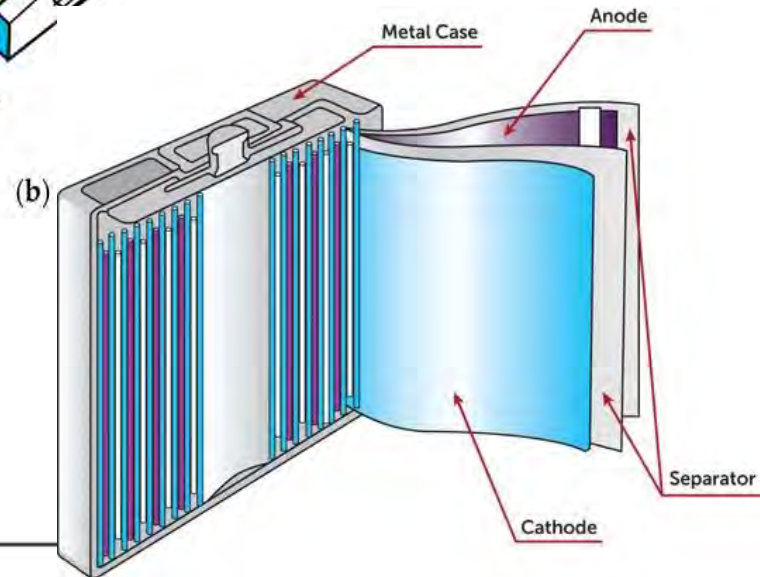




# Pack Assembly: Cell geometry selection



rectangular or square shape and are often used in consumer electronics, such as smartphones and laptops. They are typically thin and flat, making them ideal for applications that require a compact design



# Calculating Battery Pack Voltage Range

- Assuming the cells operating voltage range is 4.2-3V the battery pack voltage range will be:

Maximum voltage =  $108 \times 4.2 = 453.6V$

Minimum voltage =  $108 \times 3 = 324V$



# Pack Assembly: Sizing of electrical



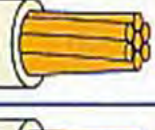
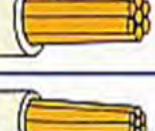
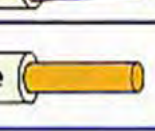
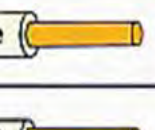
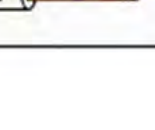
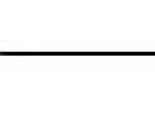
- Cable sizing
- Proper installation is primarily a matter of sizing a cable to match its task, **A** using the correct tools to attach terminals, and providing adequate over-current protection with circuit breakers.

- $\frac{\text{current}}{3} = \text{cable size in mm}^2$  **B**

- In our case **24 AWG**, area **0.205 mm<sup>2</sup>**  
max current 0.577A

- Bleeding current =  $\frac{\text{Voltage of cell}}{\text{Bleeding resistor}}$  **C**

**D**

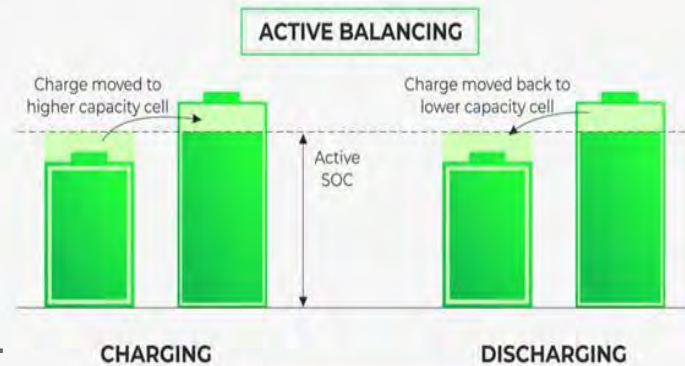
3/0 Gauge		<b>200 Amps</b> Service entrance
1/0 Gauge		<b>150 Amps</b> Service entrance and feeder wire
3 Gauge		<b>100 Amps</b> Service entrance and feeder wire
6 Gauge		<b>55 Amps</b> Feeder and large appliance wire
8 Gauge		<b>40 Amps</b> Feeder and large appliance wire
10 Gauge		<b>30 Amps</b> Dryers, appliances, and air conditioning
12 Gauge		<b>20 Amps</b> Appliance, laundry and bathroom circuits
14 Gauge		<b>15 Amps</b> General lighting and receptacle circuits



# Pack Assembly: BMS selection

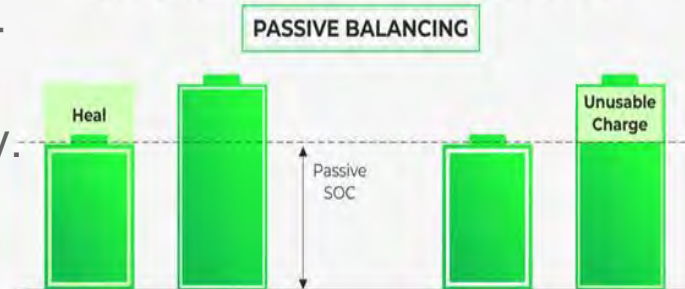
## ACTIVE BALANCING

- Redistributes charge during the charging and discharging cycle.
- Increases system run-time and can increase the charging efficiency.
- Energy transfer



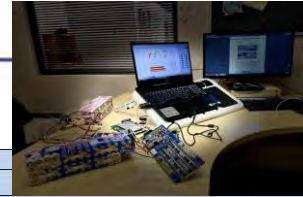
## PASSIVE BALANCING

- Dissipates charge during the charge cycle.
- Burning of energy



Comparison of active and passive balancing

# Pack Assembly: BMS configuration



The screenshot displays the Battery Monitor V2.1.3 software interface. The main window shows the configuration for Pack00. Key features include:

- Cell voltage (V):** A grid of 13 cells with individual voltage readings. Cell C13 has the highest voltage at 4.203 V, while Cell C5 has the lowest at 3.630 V. The voltage difference is 573.000mV.
- Battery voltage:** 49.61V
- Current:** 0.00A
- SOC (State of Charge):** 100.0%
- Mode:** Standby
- Battery information:** Includes Remain\_capacity (10.00 Ah), Total\_capacity (10.00 Ah), SOC (100.0%), Nominal capacity (10.00 Ah), Battery\_Cycles (1 times), SOH (100.0%), and Bus voltage (54.72 V).
- Temperature information:** Lists Battery\_Tmp1 through Battery\_Tmp4 (ranging from 22.7°C to 23.0°C) and Ambient\_Tmp (25.3°C) and Power\_Tmp (23.7°C).
- Warn and Protect:** Shows three active warnings: Cell differential failure (yellow), Monomer overvoltage protection (red), and Intermittent power supply wait (yellow).
- System status:** Includes Discharge switch, Current limit switch, and Temperature control switch.
- BMS information:** Manufacturer: Lithium Batteries SA, Part model: LBSA.COZA, Software Ver: 2.5, Protocol version: 2.0.
- Target config:** A grid of buttons for Pack 0 through Pack 15, with Pack total set to 0.

The interface also features a top menu bar with options like Load parameter, Upload parameter, Real time, Communication log, RealTime Record, History record, Schedule, Calibrate, Sava layout, and Language. A bottom status bar shows system health indicators (TXD, OK, ERR) and a legend for protection levels: Protect (red), Warn (yellow), Normal (green), Color mark-Upper limit (orange), Lower limit (pink), and Unknown (grey).

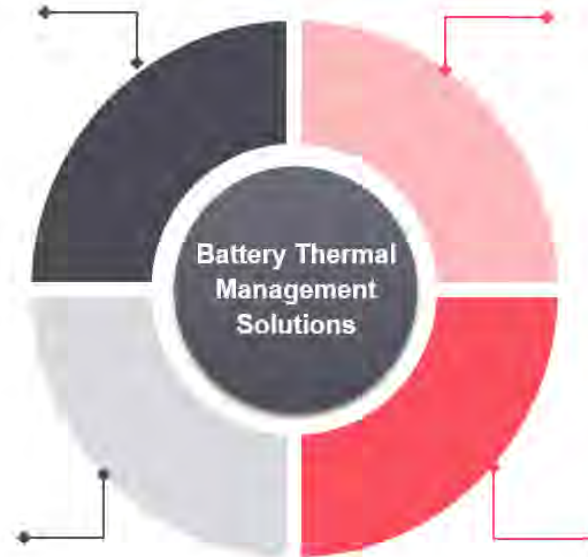
# Pack Assembly: Thermal Management

## Air Cooling

- Requires simple components
- Not effective solution as compared to liquid cooling available in the market
- Requires 2 to 3 times more energy to takeaway heat compared to others

## Phase Change Material

- Effective in cooling function, but requires large volume space
- Phase change composite are being commercialized across material handling, energy storage, and transportation



## Liquid Cooling – Indirect

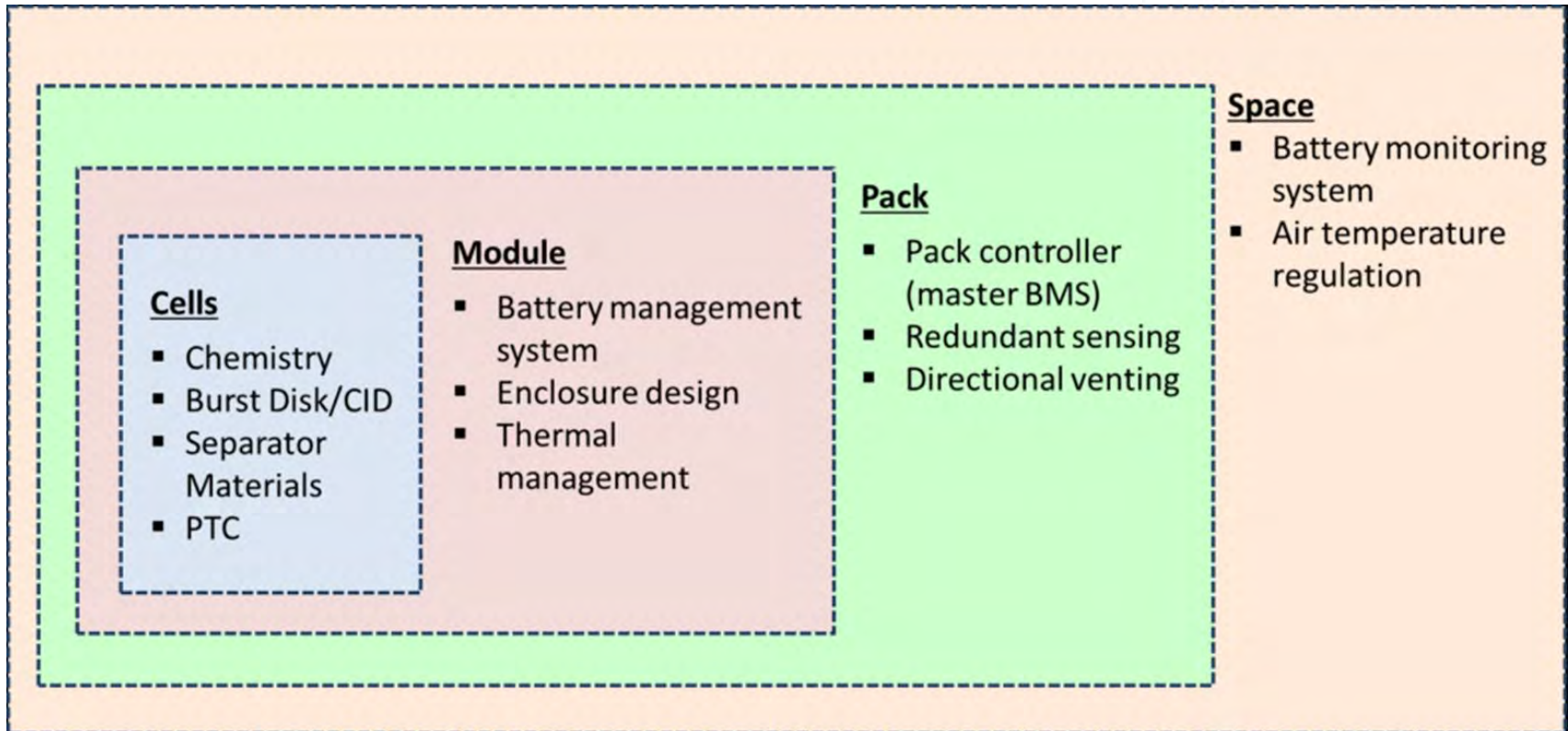
- Coolant circulates through system of pipes, similar to cooling systems found in current IC engines
- Requires high heat capacity coolants with corrosion inhibitors
- Commercialized method across industries

## Liquid Cooling – Direct

- Battery is submerged directly into the coolant.
- Requires coolant to be low to no conductivity to maintain vehicle safety
- Increasing R&D efforts across industries



# Pack Assembly: Pack monitoring system



# Pack Assembly: Pack housing solutions



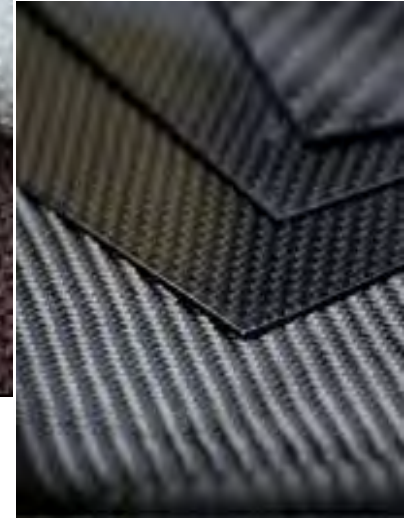
STEEL



ALUMINUM



CFRP



GFRP

Carbon fiber reinforced polymer  
Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer

# Pack Assembly: Pack housing solutions

## Plastic enclosure

- Plastic enclosures protect smaller battery systems without structural demands.
- Hybrid and stop-/start-type automotive batteries use plastic enclosures for lithium-ion cell protection.
- Large battery packs utilize plastics in internal components for enhanced functionality.
- Composite covers, such as in the Chevrolet Volt, combine vinyl ester resin and glass fibers for added durability

VS

## Steel enclosure

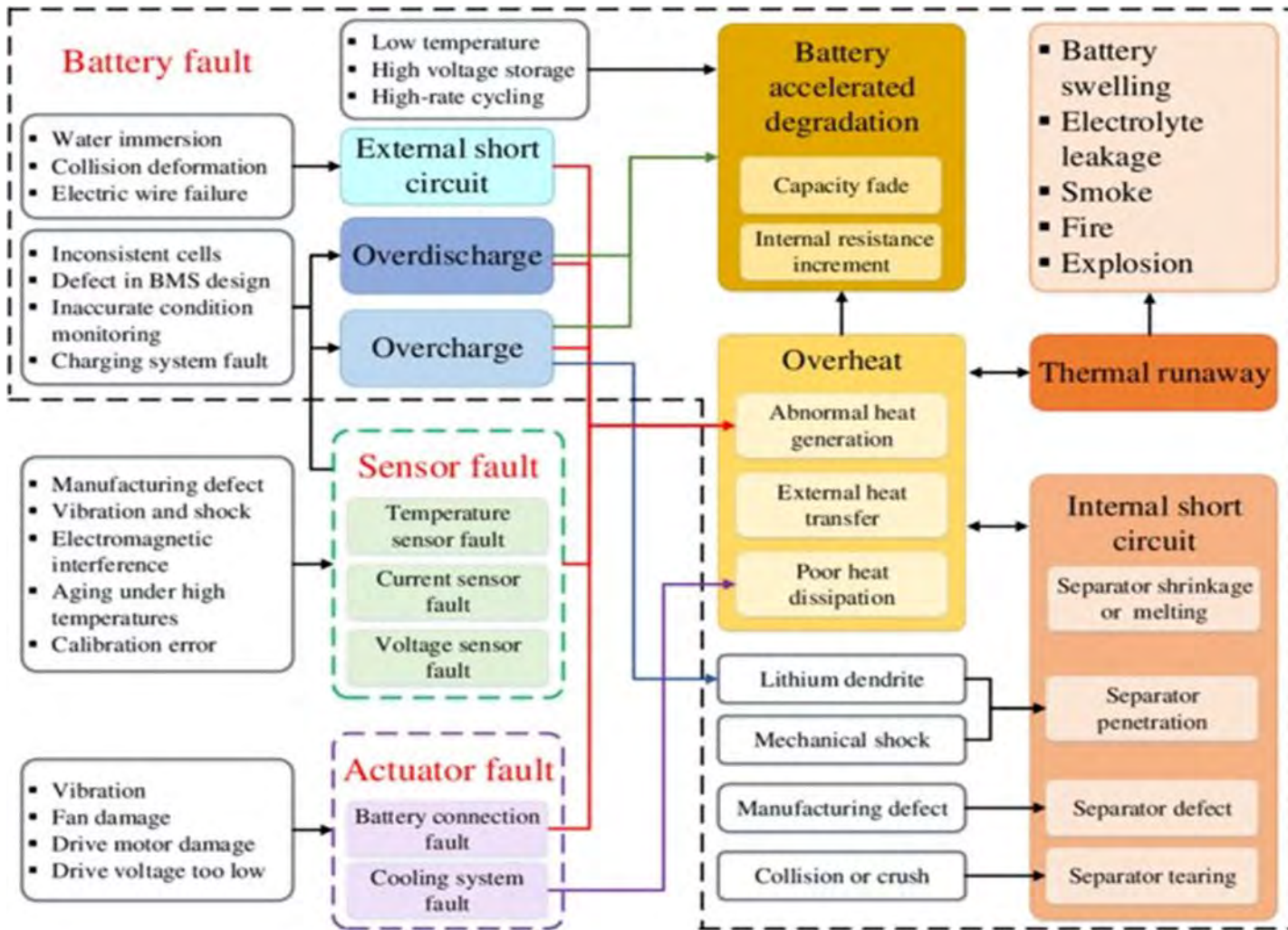
- Stamped steel enclosures: High strength and low cost, but additional attachments increase processing time and cost.
- Aluminum enclosures: Can be stamped or die-cast; stamped pieces may require additional thickness for strength. Die-cast aluminum offers high strength but can be expensive.
- Plaster casting: Cost-effective for tooling aluminum enclosures, but may result in porosity and weaker spots, suitable mainly for prototypes.
- High-pressure die-cast (HPDC) aluminum: Lightweight and allows integration of various features, making it ideal for lithium-ion battery solutions



# Pack Assembly: Safe assembly practices

Process step	Critical factors and challenges	Production solution
<b>Handling</b>	Puncture or contamination of surface	Remove any contaminants especially metal
	Low contact pressure	Torque screwdriver to regulate pressure
	Tight fit and precise positioning	Powerful logistics systems
<b>Contacting of BMS and sensor system</b>	Sensors are very damageable, require precise handling	High-precision handling
	Danger of short circuit by inaccurate positioning of sensors and printed circuit board	High degree of automation desirable
<b>Assembly of housing, insertion and fixation of modules, attachment of module connections</b>	Screwing with high voltage danger of circuit completion	Sophisticated screwing technology, automation with screw jacks desirable
		Assemble at 40-50% charge
		Self-tapping screws
<b>End-of-line test</b>	Uniform charging and testing of all cells	
	Leak tightness involves high pressures, dangers of burst	

# Pack Assembly: Fault identification and troubleshooting



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

