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Congo Kinshasa lithium-ion battery energy storage project



Overview

Can the Democratic Republic of the Congo produce lithium-ion battery cathode precursor materials?

London and Kinshasa, November 24, 2021 – The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) can leverage its abundant cobalt resources and hydroelectric power to become a low-cost and low-emissions producer of lithium-ion battery cathode precursor materials.

Will Zijin start producing lithium in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

(Image courtesy of AVZ Minerals.) China's Zijin Mining Group Co. aims to start producing lithium in the Democratic Republic of Congo early next year from one of the world's largest deposits of the battery metal. Zijin is accelerating activity at a site in southeast Congo that's still claimed by AVZ Minerals Ltd.

Why are Chinese companies investing in Africa's lithium resources?

Chinese companies including Zijin are investing heavily in Africa's lithium resources from Mali to Zimbabwe, even after prices slumped almost 90% from a peak in 2022. They are seeking to lock down feedstock for refineries at home in anticipation of soaring future consumption of the metal.

Will Zijin develop a phased lithium processing plant at Manono?

Zijin is progressing with its plans to develop a phased lithium processing plant at Manono, initially producing lithium concentrate and sulfate for export. Longer-term plans include local refining, contingent on a stable power supply. A Zijin subsidiary has already refurbished a nearby hydroelectric plant to support the operation.

Does Zijin own a copper mine in Congo?

Zijin also has interests in two copper mines in Congo, including a 39.6% stake in the giant Kamoa-Kakula complex, which is a partnership with Ivanhoe Mines Ltd. Congo's mines ministry didn't respond to questions sent by Bloomberg.

while Cominiere – which owns 39% of Zijin's Manono project – declined to comment.

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