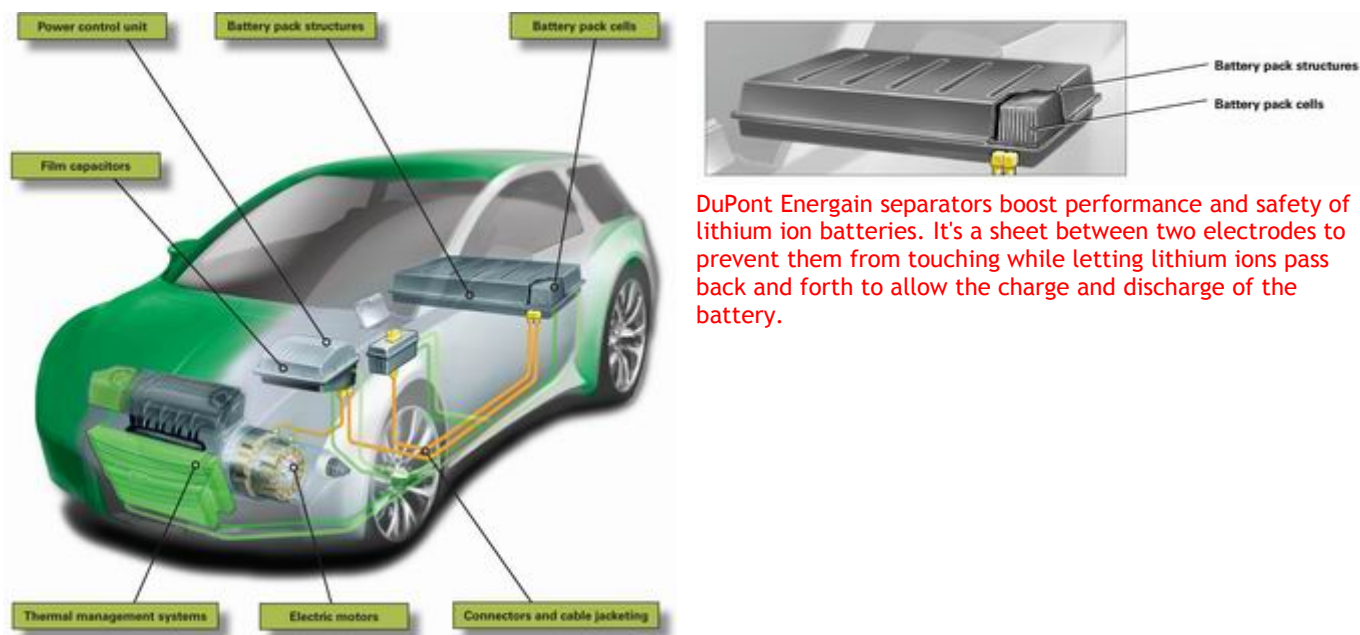


DuPont launches new lithium ion battery separators for hybrid and electric vehicles

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DuPont Energain separators boost performance and safety of lithium ion batteries. It's a sheet between two electrodes to prevent them from touching while letting lithium ions pass back and forth to allow the charge and discharge of the battery.

DuPont materials in hybrid and electric vehicles

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To reduce the use of fossil fuels and to meet the growing demand for hybrid and electric vehicles, DuPont, a science based company, has introduced the first nanofiber-based polymeric battery separator that boosts the performance and safety of lithium ion batteries.

DuPont Energain battery separators can increase power 15 to 30%, increase battery life by up to 20% and improve battery safety by providing stability at high temperatures. With more battery power, drivers can travel farther on a single charge and accelerate more quickly and safely. For automobile and battery manufacturers, more battery power can reduce the number of batteries typically required in today's hybrid and electric vehicles.

The company has begun construction on a facility in Chesterfield County, Virginia, to manufacture product for development and commercial sale.

While the initial uses for the separator are in hybrid and electric vehicle batteries, the technology also will be targeted for batteries in renewable energy, grid applications, specialty consumer applications, including laptops, cell phones and power tools, among others. Other products made using DuPont's proprietary nanofiber technology will target a broad range of liquid filtration applications for the biopharmaceutical, microelectronics, food and beverage industries, offering superior retention, filter life and flow resistance.

DuPont estimates that, by 2015, the market for high-performance lithium ion batteries alone will total

more than US\$7 billion annually, primarily for electric vehicle applications and some photovoltaics and grid storage.

Typical hybrid vehicles contain between 50 and 70 batteries; plug-in electric vehicles with range-extending motors have 80 to more than 200 batteries; and fully electric vehicles carry 150 or more. Within each battery, the separator is a sheet positioned between the two electrodes. It functions as a barrier that prevents the electrodes from touching and shorting while letting lithium ions pass back and forth to allow the charge and discharge of the battery.

DuPont Energain battery separators are produced into a web using a proprietary spinning process that creates continuous filaments with diameters between 200 and 1,000 nanometers. The separators exhibit stability and low shrinkage in high temperatures and are highly saturable in electrolyte liquids. The result is more efficient operation, longer battery life and improved safety. Batteries containing Energain separators can be quickly recharged, deliver improved performance and reduce the number of batteries needed by up to one-third for hybrid vehicles.

DuPont is working with a majority of the battery, equipment suppliers and automotive companies globally. The company has manufactured initial quantities of the separator material at sites in Wilmington, Delaware, and Seoul, South Korea. The new facility in Chesterfield County, Virginia, is expected to start up in the first quarter of 2011 and will initially be able to provide enough material to supply up to 20% of today's hybrid and electric vehicle needs.