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LONG TERM CYCLING PERFORMANCE AND CONDUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF LAC KNIFE FLAKE GRAPHITE FROM QUEBEC, CANADA

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OUTLINE

- Review Key Results from 2015 Battery Seminar
- Performance of Lac Knife Flake Graphite and Synthetic Graphite in Lithium Ion Cells
- Long Term Cycling Performance of Lac Knife Graphite
- Production of Expanded Lac Knife Graphite
- Resistivity of Lac Knife Flake Graphite and Synthetic Graphite in Cathode Matrixes of Lithium Ion and Alkaline Batteries
- Advantages of using Lac Knife Graphite in Batteries





REVIEW KEY RESULTS FROM 2015 BATTERY SEMINAR



Flotation Concentrate



Concentrate after Polishing



Lac Knife Graphite after Purification



96% Cg

98.3% Cg

99.98%+ Cg



- Reversible capacity and irreversible capacity were determined at C/20 cycling rate.
- Electrolyte: 1 M LiPF₆ in FEC/EMC (30:70wt%) + SEI Enhancing Additive.



Cell #736. CR2016, counter: Li; Graphite: Standard Grade Surface Coated SPG; Rate: C/20; Electrolyte 1M LiPF6 in FEC/EMC (30:70 vol%)

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Fig. 3 INITIAL GALVANOSTATIC CHARGE-DISCHARGE CURVES





Specific Capacity, Ah/kg

Cell #705. CR2016, counter: Li; Graphite: Fine Grade Surface Coated SPG; Rate: C/20; Electrolyte 1M LiPF6 in FEC/EMC (30:70 vol%)

Fig. 4 LONG TERM CYCLING PERFORMANCE OF PURIFIED LAC KNIFE GRAPHITE COMPARED WITH COMMERCIAL GRADE OF COATED SPHERICAL GRAPHITE.



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PERFORMANCE OF LAC KNIFE FLAKE GRAPHITE AND Synthetic graphite in Li Ion Coin Cells



Coated Lac Knife Spherical Graphite



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Commercial Grade of Synthetic Graphite

Table 1 PERFORMANCE OF LAC KNIFE FLAKE GRAPHITE COMPARED WITH SYNTHETIC GRAPHITE IN LI ION CELLS







Fig. 5 INITIAL CHARGE-DISCHARGE CURVES FOR LAC KNIFE FLAKE GRAPHITE COMPARED WITH SYNTHETIC GRAPHITE



LISTED ON



LONG TERM CYCLING PERFORMANCE OF LAC KNIFE GRAPHITE





Formation of a Graphite Sphere



Spherical Graphite

Fig. 6 LONG TERM CYCLING PERFORMANCE OF UNCOATED AND CARBON COATED LAC KNIFE SPHERICAL GRAPHITE







^{Fig. 7} LONG TERM CYCLING PERFORMANCE OF LAC KNIFE GRAPHITE COMPARED WITH TWO COMMERCIAL LI ION GRADES OF FLAKE GRAPHITE







Fig. 8 LONG TERM CYCLING PERFORMANCE OF ULTRA FINE GRADES OF UNCOATED LAC KNIFE GRAPHITE







Fig. 9 DEPENDANCE OF GRAPHITE ANODE PERFORMANCE ON ELECTRODE DENSITY

For best performance the density of electrode after calendaring should be in the range of 0.8 to 1.0 g/cm^3 for electric vehicles.

Table 1. Reversible and irreversible capacities of natural and synthetic graphite t and second cycles.

Graphite	Q _{rev} (mAh/g)	ICL (%)	ICL (mAh/g)
SL20	370	9.2	75
MAG-10	328	8.6	62
GDR6	340	13.3	108

Data reference: Joongpyo Shim and Kathryn A. Striebel. Effect of electrode density on cycle performance and irreversible capacity loss for natural graphite anode in lithium ion batteries. IMLB, Paper #169 (2003).







PRODUCTION OF EXPANDED LAC KNIFE GRAPHITE



Purified Graphite

Expanded Graphite

PRODUCTION OF EXPANDED LAC KNIFE GRAPHITE



APPEARANCE OF EXPANDED PRODUCT







Expansion volume of >250 ml/g achieved

SEMS OF EXPANDED "WORMS"



Flakes are thin enough to be defined as nano-materials.

MCF <u>Mage 543 X</u> <u>20 m WD 8.9 mm</u> <u>Vacuum Mode = High Vacuum</u> <u>File Name <u>P2 13.47</u> Date: 1 Mar 2015 <u>11 June 17:37:45 ML</u>
Thin-sheet morphology is key to increased electrical conductivity in battery electrode matrixes.</u>





RESISTIVITY OF LAC KNIFE FLAKE GRAPHITE AND SYNTHETIC GRAPHITE IN CATHODE MATRIXES OF LI ION AND ALKALINE BATTERIES



Expanded Graphite

Delaminated Graphite



SCOPE OF RESISTIVITY STUDY

Battery Formulations Tested

LiNiMnCoO₂ & LiFePO₄ (Lithium Ion Batteries) Zn/MnO₂ (Alkaline Batteries)

Graphites Evaluated

Flake Graphite

- Lac Knife Expanded Grade, $D_{50} = 15.8 \mu$ and $D_{50} = 21 \mu$
- Commercial Expanded Grade, D₅₀ = 9.5 μ
- Commercial Flake Graphite $D_{50} = 6 \mu$ and $D_{50} = 9.5 \mu$

Synthetic Graphite

- Commercial Li Ion Grade, D₅₀ = 3.5 μ
- Commercial Alkaline Grade, $D_{50} = 9 \mu$

Carbon Black Added to Cathode Matrixes

4% in Li Ion Matrix 0% in Alkaline Matrix







Fig. 10 RESISTIVITIES LI ION CATHODE MATRIX:







Fig. 11 RESISTIVITIES IN LI ION CATHODE MATRIX:



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Fig. 12 RESISTIVITY IN ALKALINE CATHODE MATRIX: MnO₂



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ADVANTAGES OF USING LAC KNIFE GRAPHITE IN BATTERIES

Key Properties:

- Near Theoretical Reversible Capacity
- Low Irreversible Capacity Loss
- Reduced Capacity Fade during Long-term Cycling
- High Electrical Conductivity •

End User Advantages:

- Higher Capacity
- Increased Power
- Longer Battery Life
- Increased Utilization of Cathode Active Material





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THANK YOU

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