

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Congo Kinshasa lithium energy storage power supply procurement



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.

Does Zijin Mining have a lithium project in Congo?

Zijin Mining plans lithium production in Congo by 2026, leveraging one of the world's largest lithium deposits. Legal disputes between AVZ Minerals and the Congolese government complicate development of the Manono lithium project.

How can Africa extend its access to the battery industry?

In so doing, the country and the rest of Africa can extend their access from the USD271 billion battery precursor segment to the more lucrative USD1.4 trillion combined battery cell production and cell assembly segments of the battery minerals global value chain.

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.

How much would a DRC plant cost?

This is three times cheaper than what a similar plant in the U.S. would cost. A similar plant in China and Poland would cost an estimated \$112 million and \$65 million, respectively. Precursor material produced at plants in the DRC

could be cost competitive with material produced in China and Poland but with a lower environmental footprint.

Why is the DRC a cost competitive country?

“The DRC’s cost competitiveness comes from its relatively cheap access to land and low engineering, procurement and construction, or EPC, cost compared to the U.S., Poland and China,” said Kwasi Ampofo, lead author of the report and BNEF’s head of metals and mining.

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