



PRESS RELEASE

Prayon embarks on the development of batteries designed to equip the cars of tomorrow

Engis, 24 November 2008 – Prayon, world leader in phosphate chemistry, has just signed a technology transfer agreement with the Grenoble Atomic Energy Commission (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA) de Grenoble) concerning the manufacture of boron doped lithium iron phosphate. This agreement represents a major step in the development of batteries designed to equip the electric cars of tomorrow and fits perfectly within the context of Prayon's strategic evolution.

For several months, the Prayon Group has been in close collaboration with the CEA regarding the manufacture of boron doped lithium iron phosphate of equivalent quality to that made within the laboratories of the Grenoble research centre. As tests have proved extremely conclusive, Prayon is now moving up a gear by signing this agreement which will allow it to fully master CEA's patented technology.

"CEA's work in the last year has been to move from grams to kilos", explains Yves Caprara, Prayon's Managing Director. "Our challenge will be to produce this new cathode material on an industrial scale for the battery manufacturers and the automotive sector. In other words we are moving from the laboratory to the factory. And with over a century of industrial experience, we hold all the cards to enable us to get there."

An implementation study in terms of production and marketing is currently in progress at Prayon. The aim is to start production of the material on a semi-industrial scale six months from now. This pilot phase should last a maximum of nine months, during which the company will start the parallel task of canvassing potential customers.

Because of their environmentally friendly aspect and their great stability, boron doped lithium iron phosphate batteries are set to have an excellent future in the cars of tomorrow, both electric as well as hybrid vehicles. On a smaller scale, electric bicycles (e-bikes) also constitute a potential application. The huge advantage of this new material developed by the CEA is that it offers maximum energy storage in minimum space. Being much less costly and a lot more reliable than traditional alternatives, it meets the essential requirements for the mass industrial development of electric and hybrid vehicles.

"All these characteristics make boron doped lithium iron phosphate the most likely candidate to equip the lithium batteries of the cars of tomorrow and consequently make it the ideal alternative to fossil fuels," concludes Yves Caprara.

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ABOUT PRAYON

With over a century of industrial experience, the Belgium-based Prayon Group has asserted itself as one of the world leaders in **phosphate chemistry**.

Owned equally by Office Chérifien des Phosphates [O.C.P.] and the Wallonia Regional Investment Company (Société Régionale d'Investissement de Wallonie [S.R.I.W.]), today Prayon comprises some twenty companies established in over ten countries.

Products

At our sites throughout the world, we manufacture and sell a wide range of mainly phosphate (phosphoric acid and derivative salts) and fluorine products. Generally little known to the general public, our products are principally used as raw materials in the manufacture of end products. They are used in the *food industry* [bakery, meat, processed cheese, fish and seafood, cereals, fruit and vegetables], the *drinks industry*, in *pharmaceutical products* [toothpaste, oral hygiene] as well as in various *technical applications*.

Processes

As a cutting-edge innovator in our fields of expertise, our processes for the manufacture of wet-process phosphoric acid are sold throughout the world and are used to produce over 60% of worldwide tonnage.

For further information www.prayon.com

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