

Equipment Solutions for High-Purity Salt Production from the Li-Ion Battery Recycling Process



NAATBATT LITHIUM BATTERY RECYCLING WORKSHOP VII July 23rd, 2024

About Aquatech



Aquatech is a leading global provider of process technology solutions for water and critical minerals. With over 40 years of experience, Aquatech has developed the expertise and the experience of deploying cuttingedge technology solutions and services that significantly contribute to Critical Minerals Security.



Valuable Outcomes for Our Clients:



Refine & Purify Critical Minerals



Recover Water Through Reuse & Desalination



Reduce Costs of Disposal



Improve Performance of Operating Plants



Achieve & Sustain Environmental Compliance































































The Challenge for Battery Recyclers

Investors in the space require a low technology risk approach that delivers optimization and budget certainty.



Market Dynamics

Volatile EV Demand & Pricing

Demand & price fluctuation impacts offtake agreements and project financing dynamics.

Critical Minerals Security

Regionalization of supply chains as a result of concerns about supply chain security and ESG



Industry Challenges

Cost and Schedule Certainty

Unpredictable build costs and relative inexperience in project execution

Process Flowsheet Optimization

Definition of a reliable equipment solution from solvent extraction to intended purity



Risk Management

Equipment Technology Partner Selection

Selecting the right partner(s) will prevent the pitfalls of piecemeal equipment selection and unpredictable construction budget.

Effective Performance Guarantees

The importance of securing guarantees for the performance of overall project deliverables.



Aquatech Equipment Offerings for Li/Co/Ni Crystallization from Solvent Extract Stream

Battery Grade Ni/Co Technical Grade Li

Battery Grade Li



Solvent Extract

Polishing & Concentration

Crystallization & Conversion

Refinement

- Ion Exchange systems
- Ultrafiltration systems
- Phys/Chem Treatment Systems
- Spray Film Evaporators
- Vertical Tube Falling Film Evaporators

- Draft Tube Baffle Crystallizers
- Forced Circulation Crystallizers
- Reactive Crystallizers

- Re-Pulp
- Re-Crystallization









Recycling Process Raffinate

Raffinate from recycling process

Brine containing

- Ammonia
- Metals
- Sodium Sulfate
- Lithium
- High TDS –
 20,000 70,000 mg/L

Aquatech has **in-house** technologies to meet the following raffinate handling goals:

- Salt & Lithium Recovery
- Compliance Discharge / Zero Liquid Discharge
- Water Recovery & Reuse



Treatment Technologies

Ammonia Stripping/Phys Chem Treatment

Bi-polar Electrodialysis for Sodium Sulfate to Caustic and Sulfuric Acid

Thermal Evaporation and Crystallization

Osmotically Assisted Reverse Osmosis

Fractional Electrodeionization









Equipment Solution Ramp-Up with Applied Development & Testing

Process Development

- Bench-Top Testing
- Process Simulation

Process Demonstration

- Pilot Testing
- Product Samples for Market

Product Characterization

- Elemental Analysis
- Microscopic Imaging
- Property Determination



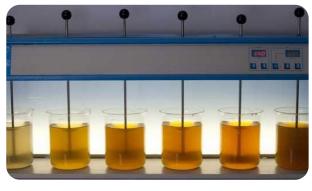
















Aquatech's Applied Development & Testing Facility
Hartland, Wisconsin

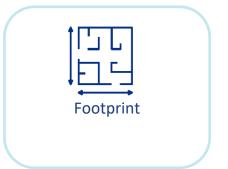


Process Train Methodology for High Purity Salt Production Optimization

Multiple Iterations

Extract/Raffinate Conditioning – Evaporation – Crystallization















Modularization

Cost & Schedule Certainty

Key Considerations

- Built in Aquatech's 100,000 ft² fabrication shop.
- Logistically compatible for transport in North & South America
- Plug-and-play design
- Designed to handle variable solvent extract/raffinate quality
- Reduce the site installation factor to around 2x from the typical 4x
- Delivery in 18-22 months

Modules for 3-5 KTPY Facility	
Concentration	Membrane Systems - Evaporator
Conversion	Crystallization & Bicarbonation
Refining	Ion Exchange & Crystallizer



Module Assembly



Module Fit-Up



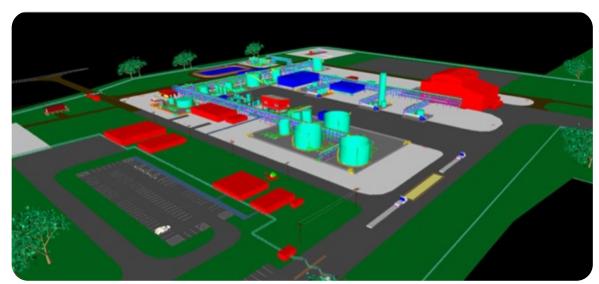
Final Assembly



Reference Projects in Upstream Lithium Supply Chain



Lithium Americas – Thacker Pass Project



Smackover Brine – Confidential Project



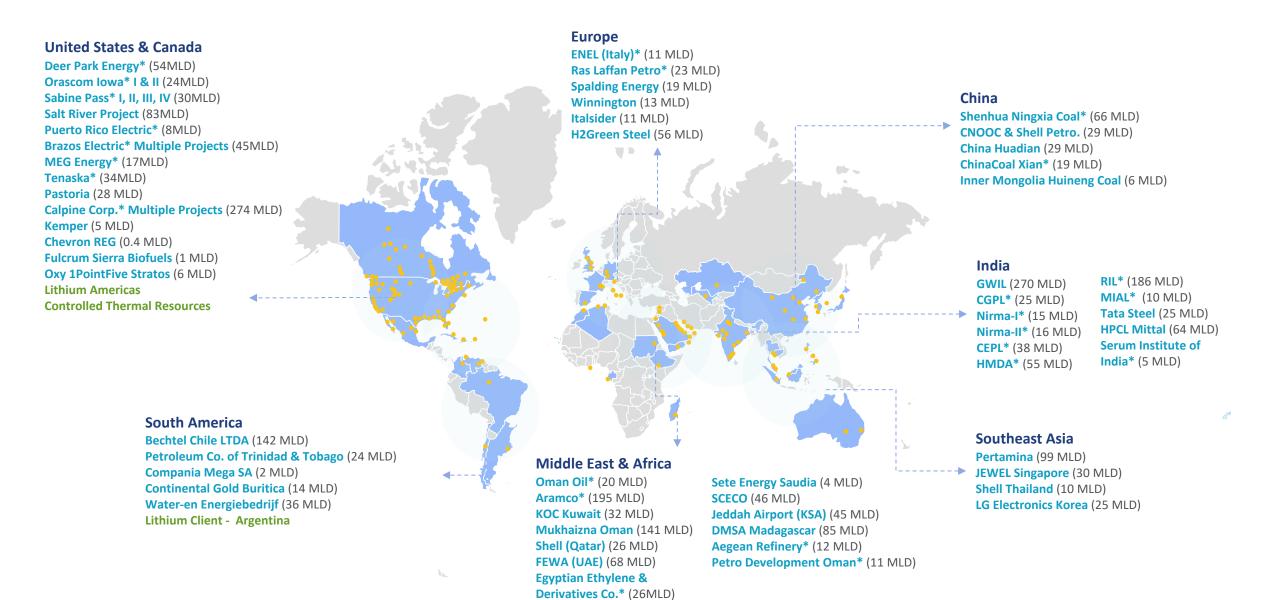
Salar Brine – Confidential Project



Controlled Thermal Resources – Hell's Kitchen Project

Reference Projects Globally





Aquatech's Value Proposition for Battery Recycling Projects

Overcoming Equipment Flowsheet Development Risk

- Several Projects with uncertain budgets
- Technology Risks
 - Achievement of consistent product quality
 - Risks associated with piecemeal procurement of equipment

Overcoming Project Execution Risks

- Delivery of the project on time
- Technical expertise for operation

Value Aquatech Adds

- Providing performance guarantee for process downstream of solvent extraction
- 40+ years of relevant technology development experience
- Evaluate multiple flowsheets for high purity EV metal production and byproduct management

Value Aquatech Adds

- Experience with delivering complex, integrated equipment systems
- Modular Systems to give more certainty
- Can take over the Operation and train the site





Ashu Sharma Project Development Manager



ansharma@aquatech.com



+1 (412) 916 8888



www.aquatech.com

