

May 15, 2026

Sumitomo Metal Mining Launches Feasibility Study for Battery Recycling Business in Oceania

Signs memorandum of understanding with Sumitomo Corporation to build an international circular supply chain

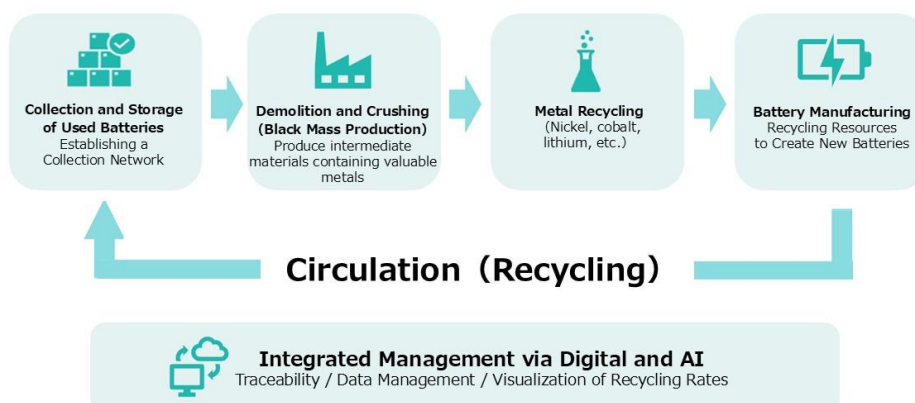
Tokyo, Japan – Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. (TSE: 5713) is pleased to announce that it has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Sumitomo Corporation (TSE: 8053) regarding a feasibility study for a battery recycling business in Oceania covering batteries from electric vehicles (EVs) and other applications.

Under this feasibility study, the companies envision a circular model in which used lithium-ion secondary batteries containing nickel and cobalt are collected in Australia and New Zealand, undergo pre-processing such as crushing and detoxifying, and are then converted into intermediate battery materials known as black mass (*1). The black mass will then be recycled at Sumitomo Metal Mining’s plant in Ehime Prefecture and processed into battery materials.

In collaboration with Sumitomo Corporation, which has also signed memorandums of understanding with battery recycling companies in Australia and New Zealand, the companies will examine the establishment of collection systems for used lithium-ion secondary batteries in both countries, the local production of black mass, and the connection to smelting and refining processes in Japan, with the aim of building an international circular supply chain for batteries.

In addition, the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) also plans to provide support for this initiative through its technical support program for addressing on-site needs and other measures.

Conceptual Diagram of a Battery Recycling Supply Chain



Separately, Sumitomo Metal Mining is currently constructing recycling plants at its Toyo Smelter & Refinery (Saijo City, Ehime Prefecture, Japan) and Niihama Nickel Refinery (Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture, Japan) to recover copper, nickel, cobalt and lithium (*2) from used lithium-ion secondary batteries and other materials. The plants are scheduled for completion in June 2026.

Using recycled nickel, cobalt and lithium as raw materials, Sumitomo Metal Mining aims to manufacture battery materials at its Isoura Plant (Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture) and realize a "battery-to-battery" recycling model. In Japan, Sumitomo Metal Mining has also concluded partnership agreements with major recycling companies and is establishing a collection system centered on black mass and other materials.

Through this initiative in Oceania, as well as other measures, Sumitomo Metal Mining will continue to promote efforts toward establishing a battery recycling system and contribute to the realization of a sustainable circular society.

(*1) A powder-like intermediate material obtained by discharging, dismantling and crushing used lithium-ion secondary batteries. It contains valuable metals such as nickel, cobalt and lithium.

(*2) The recycling of lithium is being jointly developed with Kanto Denka Kogyo Co., Ltd.

Media Contact

Public Relations and Investor Relations Department, Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.
Please contact from the inquiry form: <https://www.smm.co.jp/en/contact/>