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Lithium Hydroxide Markets

Robust and growing market for lithium batteries

Production of lithium ion batteries has grown by 20% per year from 2000 to 2011. Battery grade lithium hydroxide demand is forecasted to grow by 30% per year from 2012 to 2020 – driven by the electric vehicle industry, electric storage and the increase in total demand from all applications.

Table 5: Lithium demand by compound (merchant market) – Forecast 2011 – 2025

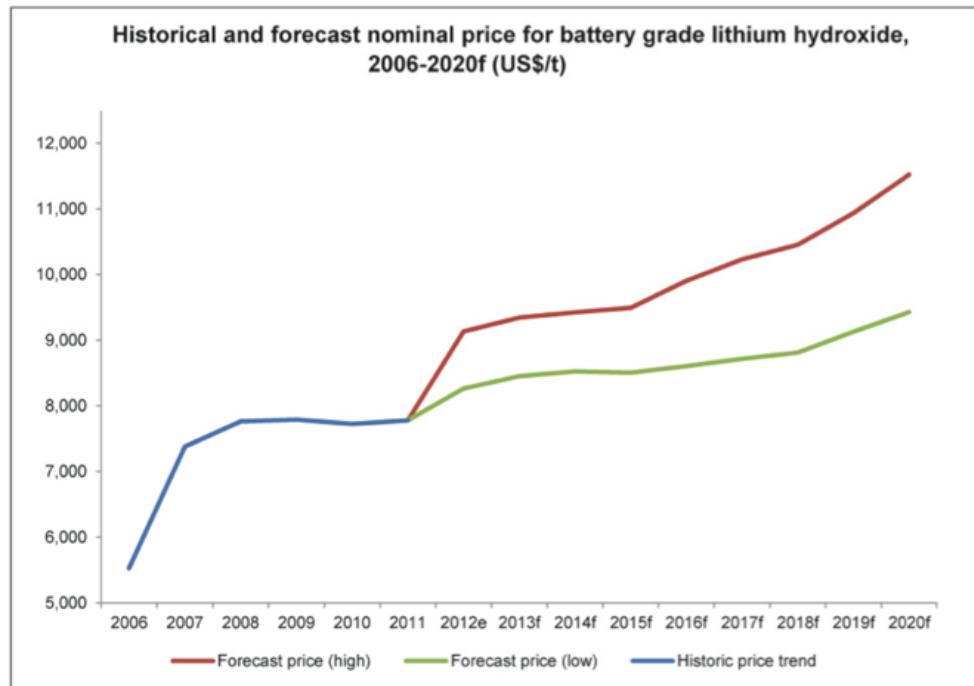
Compound - MT LCE	2011	2015	2020	2025
Lithium Carbonate	68,445	95,068	149,743	253,739
Lithium Hydroxide	25,824	49,889	99,297	183,303
Lithium Concentrate	19,229	25,683	31,393	36,757
Lithium Metal	7,755	9,763	13,193	18,256
Butyl-lithium	7,293	9,445	13,232	18,617
Lithium Chloride	7,616	9,516	12,782	16,922
Other lithium compounds	3,893	5,368	8,103	12,525
Total Demand	140,056	204,732	327,743	540,119

Note: These totals differ from the totals shown in Table 4, since these estimations consider inventories variation so correspond to demand estimations, not consumption.

Source: signumBOX estimates

Price of lithium hydroxide on the rise

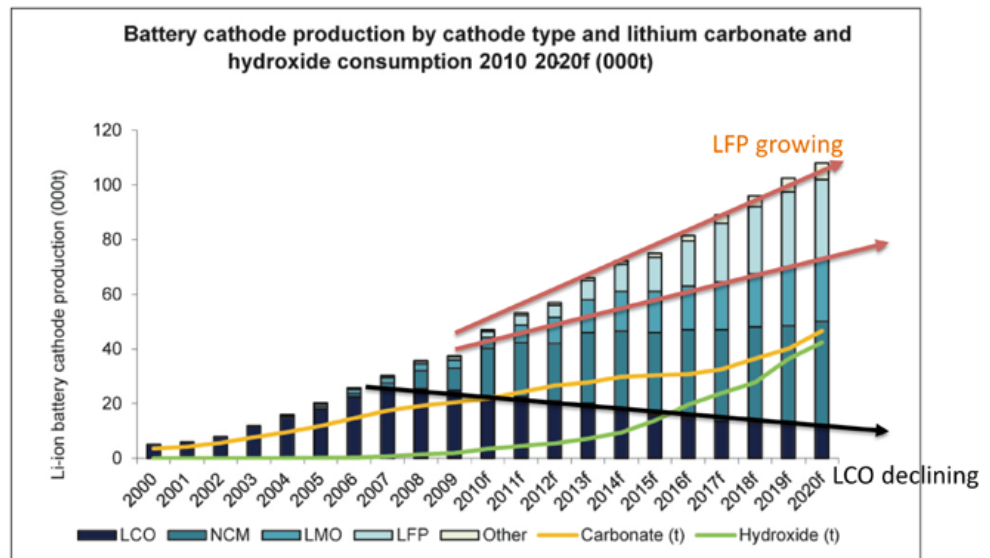
The price of battery grade lithium hydroxide in 2010 and 2011 was US\$7,500-\$8,000/t, respectively. In 2012, the price increased to US \$8,500/t. Prices are expected to stabilize in 2013 at approximately US \$9,000/t, increasing to US \$10,475/t by 2020.



Source: Roskill Consulting

Key advantages of lithium hydroxide battery cathodes vs. other chemical compounds

Lithium hydroxide cathodes are used in Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries; these have better power density, longer life cycle and enhanced safety qualities. Forecasts indicate that lithium hydroxide is expected to experience similar growth to that of lithium carbonate a few years ago.



Source: Roskill Consulting

All information provided in this section was sourced from a study prepared for Nemaska by Roskill Consulting Group Ltd. in September 2012.

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