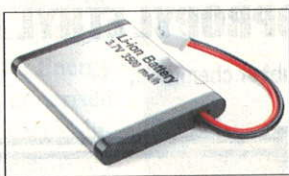


ELECTRIC VEHICLES

## VSSC chooses 14 firms for production of lithium-ion battery

An ISRO spin-off that is expected to fuel India's electric vehicle boom is finally turning into a reality. ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at Thumba has handpicked 14 companies for the commercial production of Lithium-ion batteries that finds wide application in electric vehicle transportation and communication.



to ensure that the technology does not leave the country. One condition was that the firm should be Indian with the majority shares held by Indians," Mr. Somanath said.

### Licence fee

The companies will now be asked to pay the licence fee of Rs. 1-crore for transferring the technology. As of now, VSSC expects to ink MoUs with all the 14 companies. Once the paperwork is over, the VSSC will train the personnel in manufacturing the cells and help the companies establish manufacturing plants.

The 14 firms were picked from a list of 141 companies that had evinced interest in the technology, VSSC Director Mr. S. Somanath said.

"The selection process, done in collaboration with NITI-Aayog, is now over. Several conditions were set so as

VSSC had originally developed

Li-ion cells of capacities ranging from 1.5-Ah to 100-Ah for use in its launch vehicles and satellites. Acknowledging its use in boosting the power storage requirements of the country, a decision was taken to transfer the technology to the industries.

VSSC had been on the lookout for an industry partner since 2011, but efforts to attract entrepreneurs did not bear fruit until last year when a Union government panel recommended the battery's development under the 'Make In India' initiative.

VSSC had floated the RFQ for technology transfer in June this year. In July, a pre-application conference was held at the VSSC.

MILESTONE

## Celebrations of Periodic Table conducted at CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad

A programme to celebrate 150 years of the Periodic Table, 100 years of the founding of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and 75 Years of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) was conducted in CSIR-IICT on 1st February 2019. The event was attended by about 250 children from local schools.



Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar, Director, CSIR-IICT lauded IUPAC on its role in various walks of chemistry. He also emphasised the role the element carbon plays in everyday life. Dr. N.V. Satyanarayana, Dr. B.V. Subba Reddy and Dr. D. Shailaja also spoke on the occasion. Dr. B. Saha, Titular Member, IUPAC Com-

mittee on Chemistry & Industry, and National Representative of India in IUPAC Division of Chemistry and the Environment, who was Chief Guest at the event, made a presentation on the genesis of IUPAC and its contributions.

A quiz on the Periodic Table for high school students was conducted by Dr. Sriram, which was run in five

rounds. Eleven teams, each comprising two students, participated. The questions were on elements, scientists, properties and electronic configuration. The top three teams were awarded certificate and prizes.

An interactive Q&A session with the audience was also conducted on Mendeleev's contributions. Two participants quoted from memory all the 118 elements of the Periodic Table in less than a minute. Participation certificate and a Periodic Table were distributed to all participants.