

Can the Democratic Republic of the Congo produce lithium-ion battery cathode precursor materials?

London and Kinshasa, November 24, 2021 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) can leverage its abundant cobalt resources and hydroelectric power to become a low-cost and low-emissions producer of lithium-ion battery cathode precursor materials.

How much power does DR Congo have?

According to the latest figures from the International Renewable Energy Agency, DR Congo only had 20 MW of installed PV capacity at the end of 2020. The country has one of the lowest levels of access to electricity in the world, with only 9% of the population being supplied with power. This percentage in rural areas drops to as far as 1%.

When will DR Congo's solar power plants be built?

The plants are to be built by the Moyi Power joint venture and are expected to be completed within 18 months after the start of construction. According to the latest figures from the International Renewable Energy Agency, DR Congo only had 20 MW of installed PV capacity at the end of 2020.

Will a \$100 million solar project power Gemena & Bumba & Isiro?

An international consortium led by Powergrids plans to invest \$100 million in three off-grid solar plants intended to power the cities of Gemena, Bumba, and Isiro, which are located in the country's northern region and currently have no connection to the country's power network.

How much would a DRC plant cost?

This is three times cheaper than what a similar plant in the U.S. would cost. A similar plant in China and Poland would cost an estimated \$112 million and \$65 million, respectively. Precursor material produced at plants in the DRC could be cost competitive with material produced in China and Poland but with a lower environmental footprint.

Why does the DRC rely on hydroelectric power plants?

This is due to the DRC's proximity to cathode raw materials and heavy reliance on hydroelectric power plants.

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