# Li-ion Battery Cathode Active Material Recycling

Patent Landscape Analysis

2025



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Technology breakdown by cathode active materials recycling

Time evolution of patent publications
Main patent assignees by cathode active materials recycling
Time evolution of patent publications by cathode active materials
IP leadership of patent assignees for Li & Li Precursors recycling
IP leadership of patent assignees for Li Ternary Oxides recycling
IP leadership of patent assignees for Li Phosphates recycling
IP leadership of patent assignees for other CAM recycling

# FOCUS ON IP PLAYERS BY HEADQUARTERS COUNTRY 55

For each headquarters country: main patent assignees, IP newcomers, geographical coverage of patent portfolios, technical coverage of patent portfolios, and IP profile of key players.

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Chinese IP players	57
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### **ONE-HOUR PRESENTATION**

The author of the report is available to address any questions you may have.

A **one-hour online presentation** of the report is included with your purchase. This session offers the opportunity for a direct interaction with the author, including a presentation of the results and a dedicated Q&A session.

Feel free to contact the author to schedule a meeting.







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# MAIN PATENT ASSIGNEES MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT



### From China:

Brunp Recycling technology, Central South University, Institute of Process Engineering-CAS, GEM (Jingmen Gelinmei New Materials), Narada Power Source, Beijing Institute of Technology, Tianqi Lithium, Guoxuan High Tech Power Energy / Gotion, Keyking Recycling, BGRIMM Technology Group, RSK Advanced materials, Zhuzhou Smelter Group, EVE Energy, Lanzhou University of Technology and others

### From Europe:

Umicore, BASF, CEA, Blue Solutions, Veolia, Aurubis, Fortum, Metso, Fraunhofer and others

### From Japan:

Eneos Group, Sumitomo Metal Mining, Dowa Holdings, TMC (Town Mining Corporation), Asaka Riken, Toyota, Mitsubishi materials, Kobe Steel, Mitsui Mining and Smelting, Sumitomo Chemical/Tanaka Chemical, Hitachi and others

### From South Korea:

SK Group, LG Chem/LG Energy Solution, KIGAM (Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources), EcoPro, RIST (Research Institute of Industrial Science and Technology), Posco, Cosmochemical, KIST (Korea Institute of Science & Technology), Dongwoo Fince Chem and others

### From USA:

Ascend Elements, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, OnTo Technology, Albemarle, Lockheed Martin/UT Battelle, Cirba Solutions, Coherent, University of California, Libus 987, Urban Mining, 24M technologies, 6K inc. Aleon Metals, Aqua Metals, Li-Cycle and others

### From the Rest of the World:

CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), Attero Recycling, Conicet, Gelion Technologies, Green Li-ion, Indiana Institute of Technology, Frontier

Lithium, Hydro-Québec and others



# Context & objectives of the report

- The rapid adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy storage systems, and portable electronics has fueled an exponential increase in the demand for **Lithium-ion batteries**. The interest in critical raw materials such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and manganes increased, to instate a more sustainable supply chain and increase the independence of materials-scarce countries from critical minerals suppliers. This concentration of supply, coupled with environmental concerns and evolving regulatory frameworks, has intensified the need for sustainable end-of-life management strategies, particularly the **recycling of spent Li-ion batteries and their cathode materials**.
- Cathode materials represent the most valuable and resource-intensive components of Li-ion batteries. These include layered oxides like NMC (LiNiMnCoO<sub>2</sub>), NCA (LiNiCoAlO<sub>2</sub>), and LCO (LiCoO<sub>2</sub>); polyanion materials such as LFP (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>) and LMFP (LiMnFePO<sub>4</sub>); and spinels like LMO (LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>). Each chemistry presents unique challenges and opportunities for recovery and reuse. Efficient recycling not only reduces reliance on virgin mining but also lowers the environmental footprint of battery production, contributing to the circular economy goals set by governments and industries.
- In this context, the present report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the patent landscape related to the recycling of cathode active materials (CAM) from Li-ion batteries.

The general objectives of the present report are:

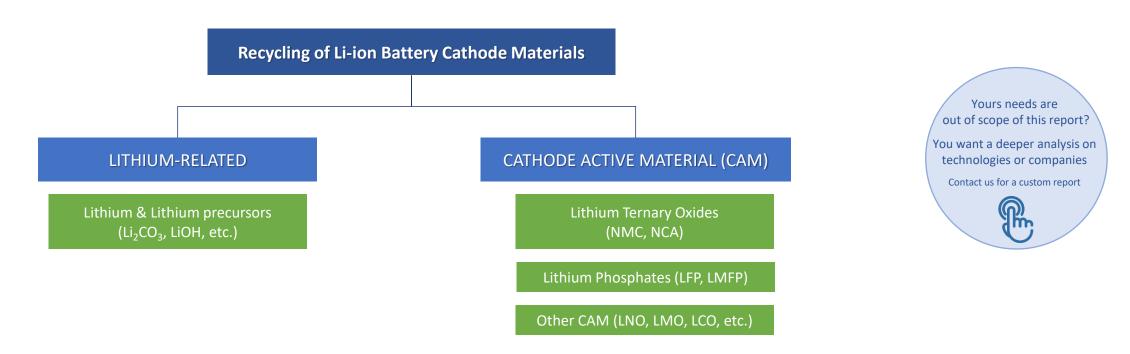
- to identify and map the key IP players in each chosen technological segment (Li & Li precursors, Li ternary oxides, Li phosphates, other CAM).
- to assess the geographical distribution of patent families, legal status of patent applications, helping stakeholders understand strategic positioning and navigate their competitive environment.

This insights will support R&D, investment, and policy decisions in the evolving field of Li-ion battery recycling.



# Scope of the report

- •This report provides a detailed picture of the **patent landscape** related to **recycling of Li-ion battery cathode materials**, covering the active materials (Li Ternary oxides, Li Phosphates, Other Cathode Active Materials) plus Lithium & Lithium precursors.
- •We have selected and analyzed more than **6,100 patents and patent applications** published **worldwide** up to **December 2024**, representing more than **3,900 patent families** (inventions) relevant to the scope of this report.
- •The patent search strategy has been implemented using advanced search equations in the patent database and by a cautious patent selection performed by the analyst to get the most relevant corpus.
- More details are available in METHODOLOGY part.





Reading guide: find the right information in the report

Report sections	Your concern Information you get	TECHNOLOGY  For R&D teams, engineers, scientists	IP For IP teams, patent attorneys	MARKET  For executives, business developers	PLAYER Zoom in a competitor / partner
<ul> <li>Ranking of playe geo/tech coverage,</li> <li>Patent filings dyn</li> </ul>	(co-filings, IPR transfers)	Innovators	Main patent owners IP risks/opportunities	Ecosystem (competitors, newcomers, partners, clients)  Main trends IP vs Market	IP position vs Market position  Player relationships (collaborations/dependencies)
<ul> <li>IP leaders per se activity, blocking po</li> <li>Notable patents</li> </ul>	namics per segment gment (enforceability, current stential)	Technology trends Technology mapping	Blocking players  IP risks/opportunities  in each segment  (FTO, litigation, licensing)	Benchmarking Markets of interest Future developments	IP position and level of investment in each segment Key IP developments
	summary (portfolio size, IP patents legal status, geo/tech /weaknesses, etc.)	Current R&D activities Technology roadmap	Blocking patents Geo/Tech coverage Link between patents and products	Future products Potential partners Potential targets	R&D investment level  Key inventions  Current IP activities  Strengths / Weaknesses



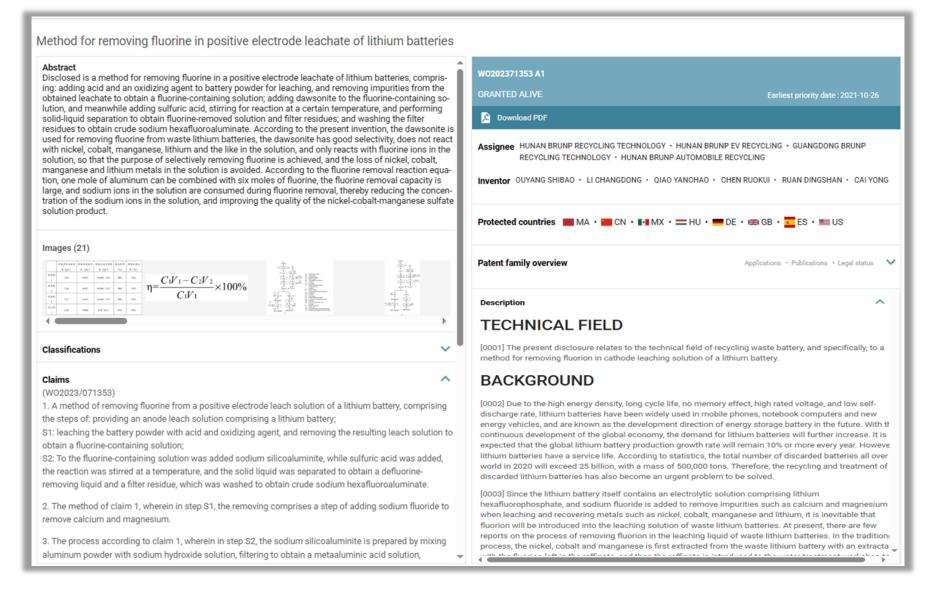
# Excel database

This report includes an extensive Excel database with the 3,900+ patent families (inventions) selected and analyzed in this study. This useful patent database allows for multi-criteria searching and includes patent publication numbers, hyperlinks to an updated online database (original documents, legal status, etc.), priority date, title, abstract, patent assignees, and segments (Li & Li precursors, Li ternary oxides, Li phosphates, other CAM).

Li-ion Battery Cathode Active Material Recycling - Patent Landscape Analysis 2025 The data are extracted from the FamPat worldwide patent database (Questel-ORBIT) which provides 100+ million patent documents from 100 worldwide patent offices. The search for patents was completed in October 2024. The patents are grouped in patent families. A patent family is a set of patent applications filed in multiple countries to protect a single invention by a common inventor(s).  Segments														
Family number Questel unique family ID rom FamPat database)	Patent numbers (publication numbers)	Current patent assignees (as mentioned in the patent database)	Title	Abstract	Current legal status (Pending, Granted, Revoked, Expired, Lapsed)	Earliest application date of the family (yyyy-mm-dd)	Earliest publication date of the family (yyyy-mm-dd)	Earliest grant date of the family (yyyy-mm-dd)	Expected expiry dates (yyyy-mm-dd)	Biblio Summary (Link to full patent description and original documents)	Li & Li Precursors ▼	Li Ternary Oxides ▼	Li Phosphates	Other C/
112455174	CN119061263	HUANYULOW	Method for selectively extracting lithium by	The invention discloses a method	PENDING	2024-11-07	2024-12-03		2044-11-07	<u>Open</u>	×			×
112462836	CN119069863		phosphate material	The invention discloses a waste	PENDING	2024-11-06	2024-12-03		2044-11-06	<u>Open</u>			н	
112441510	CN119069862	OF TECHNOLOGY	and regenerating	The invention relates to the technical field	PENDING	2024-11-04	2024-12-03		2044-11-04	<u>Open</u>				×
112437478	CN119069858	XIAOGAN POWER SUPPLY	Recovery method and application of lithium	a lithium iron	PENDING	2024-08-30	2024-12-03		2044-08-30	<u>Open</u>			×	
112435776	CN119069857		Phase regulation and control method for	to an phase	PENDING	2024-08-26	2024-12-03		2044-08-26	<u>Open</u>		×	ж	
112436365	CN119061265			A recycling method for nickel-cobalt	PENDING	2024-06-17	2024-12-03		2044-06-17	<u>Open</u>		×		
112445947	CN119069855		Non-dismantling direct regeneration	A non-dismantling direct regeneration	PENDING	2023-05-30	2024-12-03		2043-05-30	<u>Open</u>			×	
112398778	CN119040659	ANHULLVWO RECYCLING ENERGY		The invention discloses a method	PENDING	2024-10-25	2024-11-29		2044-10-25	<u>Open</u>	ж		×	
112415856	CN119050528		Method for preparing ferric phosphate and		PENDING	2024-09-29	2024-11-29		2044-09-29	<u>Open</u>	н		н	
112413266	CN119040922	NEW ENERGY	for electrochemically	The invention provides a system and	PENDING	2024-09-25	2024-11-29		2044-09-25	<u>Open</u>	н		×	
112419847		JIANGSU XINLIYUAN TECHNOLOGY	and regenerating	The application discloses a method	PENDING	2024-08-29	2024-11-29		2044-08-29	<u>Open</u>			×	
112417270	CN119040656		Method for recovering valuable metals in co-	to a method for	PENDING	2024-08-23	2024-11-29		2044-08-23	<u>Open</u>		×	*	
112387459	KR10-2729627	S3R		The present invention relates to a method for	GRANTED	2024-03-05	2024-11-28	2024-11-28	2044-03-05	<u>Open</u>	8			
112282709	KR10-2024-0169923 US20240392410	DOOSAN ENERBILITY		for recovering lithium	PENDING PENDING	2023-05-25	2024-11-27		2044-05-02 2043-05-25	<u>Open</u>	*			
112364501	CN119018915	ENERGY		to a method for	PENDING	2024-09-10	2024-11-26		2044-09-10	<u>Open</u>	н			
112342084	CN119029374		Treatment method of dephosphorization	The invention belongs to the technical field	PENDING	2024-08-30	2024-11-26		2044-08-30	<u>Open</u>			н	
112363729	CN119029373	ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY	Recovery method of waste lithium ion	The invention belongs to the technical field	PENDING	2024-08-16	2024-11-26		2044-08-16	Open		*	*	*
112363842	CN119018856	CENTRAL SOUTH	Method for preparing	The invention	PENDING	2024-08-13	2024-11-26		2044-08-13	Open	×		8	



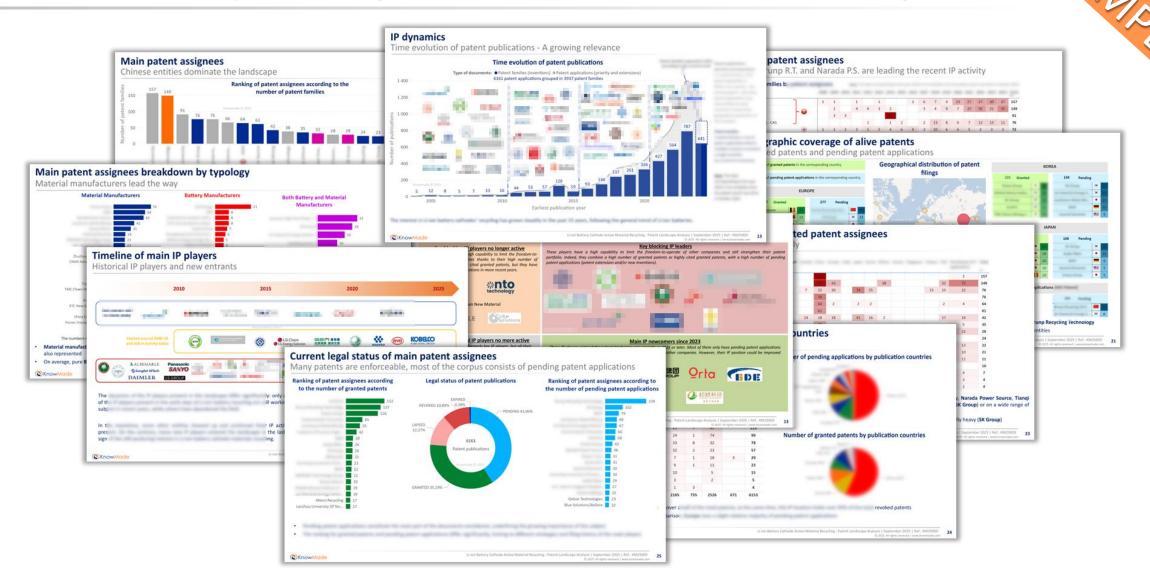
# Online database with all patents analyzed in the report





# PATENT LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

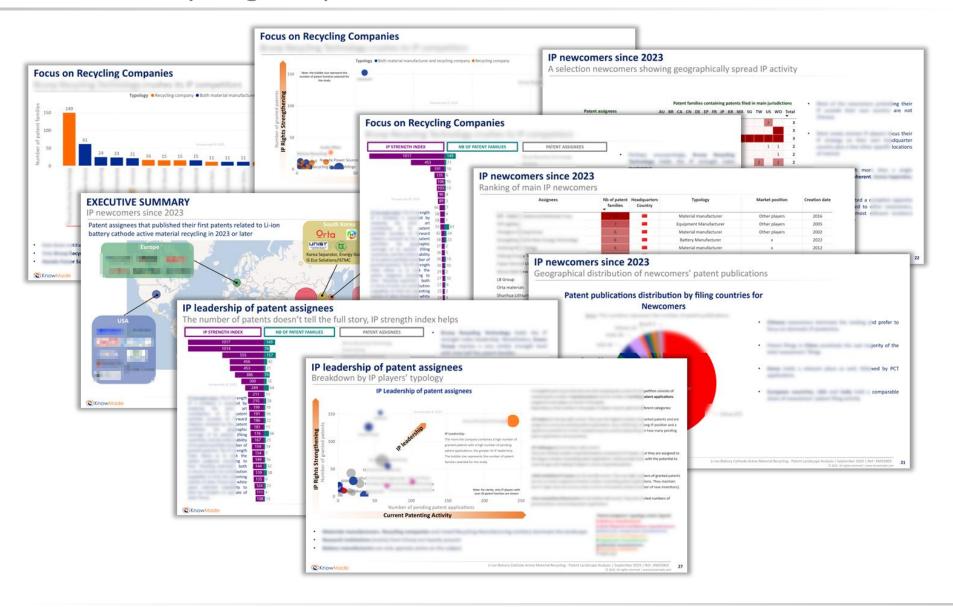
General trends, main patent assignees, new entrants, IP leaders, IP strategies





# PATENT LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

IP leaders, Focus on recycling companies, Focus on IP newcomers



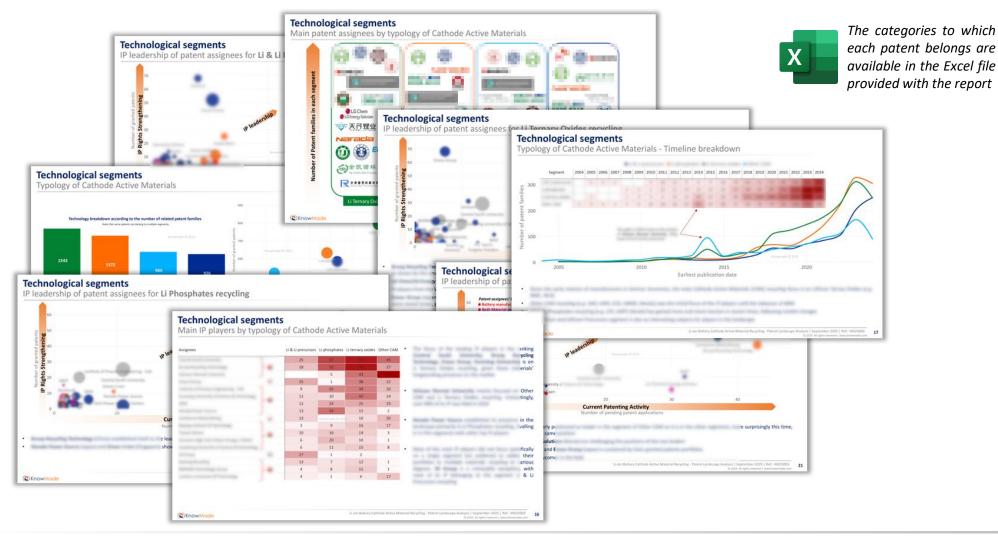


# PATENT LANDSCAPE BY SEGMENTS

IP dynamics, main IP players, and IP leaders by cathode active materials

SAMPLE

The patents selected for this report have been categorized into 4 technical segments: Li & Li precursors, Li ternary oxides, Li phosphates, other CAM





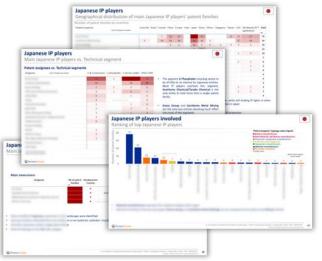
# FOCUS ON IP PLAYERS BY HEADQUARTERS COUNTRIES

IP dynamics, IP leaders, and IP newcomers by cathode active materials

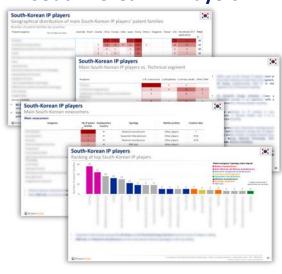
# **Chinese IP Players**



# **Japanese IP Players**



### **South Korean IP Players**



### **IP** profiles

Brunp
Central South University
Gelinmei New Materials
Narada Power Source
Tianqi Lithium
Gotion
Keyking Recycling
BGRIMM
RSK Advanced Materials
EVE Energy
Botree Recycling
BJR
CPS Lighting



# **IP** profiles

Eneos Group, Sumitomo Metal Mining, Dowa Holdings, Asaka Riken, JFE Group, Kawasaki Heavy Industries



# **IP** profiles

SK Group, LG Chem/LGES, EcoPro, Orta Materials, Korea Separator, Korea Zinc



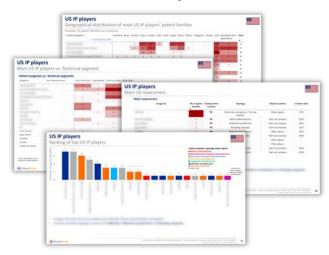


# FOCUS ON IP PLAYERS BY HEADQUARTERS COUNTRIES

IP dynamics, main IP players, and IP leaders by cathode active materials

# SAMPIA

# **US IP Players**



# IP profiles

Ascend Elements, OnTo Technology, Lockheed Martin/UT Battelle, Albemarle, Urban Mining, Coherent, Aqua Metals

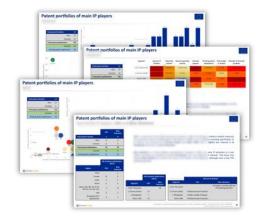


# **European IP Players**

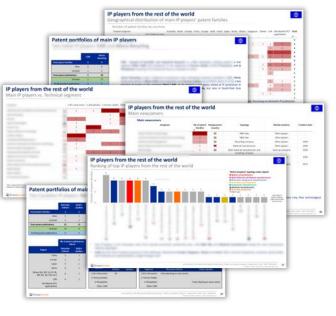


# **IP** profiles

Umicore, BASF, CEA, Blue Solutions, Fortum, Metso



# **Other IP Players**





# **ORDER FORM**

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thereof.

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- Posting any Product to any other online service (including bulletin boards or the Internet):
- Licensing, leasing, selling, offering for sale or assigning the Product.

6.3 The Buyer shall be solely responsible towards the Seller of all infringements of this obligation, whether this infringement comes from its employees or any person to whom the Buyer has sent the Products and shall personally take care of any related proceedings, and the Buyer shall bear related financial

6.4 The Buyer shall define within its company point of contact for the needs of the contract. This person will copyrights and will guaranty that the Products are not disseminated out of the company.

7.1 If the Buyer cancels the order in whole or in part or postpones the date of mailing, the Buyer shall a) damages of any kind, including without limitation, incidental or consequential damages (including, but indemnify the Seller for the entire costs that have been incurred as at the date of notification by the Buyer of such delay or cancellation. This may also apply for any other direct or indirect consequential loss that

7.2 In the event of breach by one Party under these conditions or the order, the non-breaching Party may b) any claim attributable to errors, omissions or other inaccuracies in the Product or interpretations, send a notification to the other by recorded delivery letter upon which, after a period of thirty (30) days without solving the problem, the non-breaching Party shall be entitled to terminate all the pending orders. without being liable for any compensation.

4.5 All the Products that the Seller sells may, upon prior notice to the Buyer from time to time be modified All the provisions of these Terms and Conditions are for the benefit of the Seller itself, but also for its

Any notices under these Terms and Conditions shall be given in writing. They shall be effective upon receipt

9.2 French law shall govern the relation between the Buyer and the Seller, in accordance with these Terms



# **KNOWMADE PURPOSE**

# Turning patent and scientific data into actionable insights to support decision-making in R&D, innovation, investment, and intellectual property.

Competitive landscape | Technology trends | Opportunities / Risks | R&D and IP strategy

Patent your inventions
Assert your patents
and defend your position
Evaluate the IP risks

Understand, anticipate and evaluate the competitive landscape and current technology developments

Improve your R&D and innovation strategy Identify and get access to external innovation

# YOUR NEEDS

**Intellectual Property** 

Prior art search
Freedom-to-operate analysis
Patent invalidation
Evidence of use

**OUR SOLUTIONS** 

Patent landscape
Monitoring service
Patent portfolio analysis
Patent valuation

**Innovation Strategy** 

Technology scouting
Scientific literature analysis
Technology review



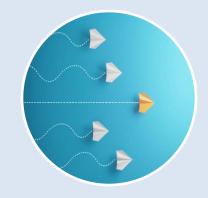
# WHAT INFORMATION CAN YOU GET?



# **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

For IP teams, patent attorneys

- Risks and opportunities (FTO, litigations, licensing)
- > Key patents
- ➤ Link between patents and products



### **TECHNOLOGY**

For R&D teams, engineers, scientists

- > R&D activities
- > Technological roadmap
- > Position on the supply chain



### **MARKET**

For executives, business developers

- > Identify competitors
- > Compare IP with market position
- > Evaluate the level of investment
- > Future products & target markets



# **KNOWMADE OFFER**

# **CUSTOM SERVICES**

(Tailor-made analysis)

To meet your needs and budget/lead time constraints

- > Specific and dedicated report.
- Prior-art search, literature review, patent landscape, freedom-to-operate, patent valuation, IP due diligence, technology scouting, monitoring service, etc.

### **Format**

- PDF file with analyses.
- Excel file with data.
- Access to the analyst.

# **REPORTS**

(multi-client product)

To understand the competitive landscape and explore the emerging ecosystems and new technologies

- > Stand alone report
- > Patent landscape.
- Overview on IP dynamics, trends and players.
- Competitor, technology and strategy analysis.
- Benchmark of patent portfolios.
- Key IP players & key patents.

### **Format**

- PDF file with analyses.
- Excel file with patent data.

# **MONITORS**

(multi-client product)

To track the latest R&D developments and IP activities, and to be sensitive to weak signals

- > Annual subscription
- > Patent monitoring service.
- Quarterly updated patent data and technology trends.
- > Current R&D and IP activities.
- Early detect weak signals, opportunities and risks.
- > Open discussion with analyst.

### Format

- PDF file with analyses.
- Excel file with patent data.
- Direct access to the analyst.

# **INSIGHTS**

(free article & webinar)

To get unique information about industry and technology

 Analyst point of view about industry news (product release, M&A, start-up, fund-raising, etc.) from a patent perspective.

### **Format**

KnowMade website



# **MAIN FIELDS OF EXPERTISE**

# **SEMICONDUCTORS**

- Materials & Substrates
- Power electronics
- RF & Wireless datacom
- MEMS, Sensing & Imaging
- Photonics, Lighting & Display
- Memory
- Packaging

# **ENERGY**

- Batteries
- > Fuel-cells
- > Solar PV
- > Power management



# **HEALTHCARE**

- New therapeutic tools
- Medical diagnostics
- Medical devices and imaging
- Drug discovery and delivery

# **AGRI-FOOD**

- Food processing & formulation
- Vegan food
- ➤ Next-gen packaging
- Microbiology



# **ENERGY**

# Expertise



# **Energy storage devices**

- **Batteries**
- > Fuel cells
- Supercapacitors

> SOFC

- Primary & Secondary devices
- > Thin film & Microdevices
- > Cylindrical, prismatic, pouch

# **Key technologies**

### Li-ion batteries

- > LTO, Li-metal, silicon anodes
- > NMC, NCA, LNMO, LFP cathodes
- ➤ Solid electrolytes

### Post Li-ion batteries Fuel cells

➤ Na-ion **➢** PEMFC

➤ Li-S

➤ Mg-ion **►** MCFC

➤ Al-ion ➢ PAFC

> AFC > Ca-ion

- > Zn-ion
- > F-ion
- ➤ Li-air



Energy

from materials and cells to modules and systems

# Whole supply chain

- > Active Materials
- > Battery electrodes, electrolytes, separators
- > Fuel cell electrodes, membranes, catalysts, diffusion layer, bipolar plates, electrolytes
- ➤ Battery cells / Fuel cells
- ➤ Battery packs / Fuel cell stacks
- Manufacturing & Recycling



- ➤ Automotive (BEV, FCEV)
- > Consumer electronics
- Stationary energy storage



- > Power electronics
- **BMS**
- > Thermal management





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