

Research on the exploitation status and potential of lithium resources in China

1 Research background

Demand for lithium batteries continuously boost rapid development of lithium industry

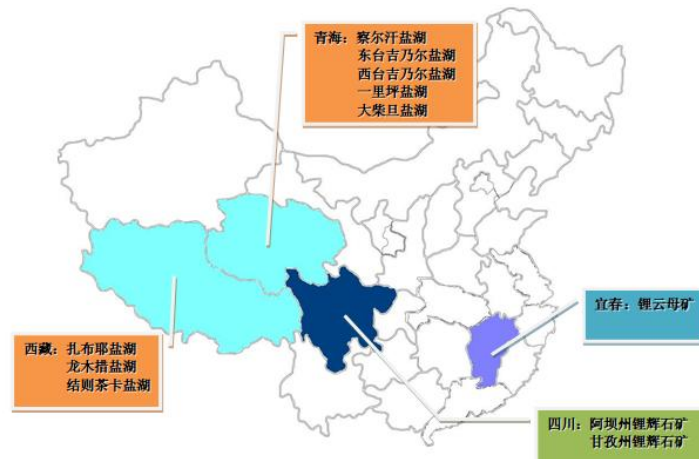
In 2016, new energy vehicles (NEV) production reached 517,000 sets in China, accounting for 1.85% of national total car production. So far the car ownership of NEV has exceeded 1million sets in China, accounting for over half of global car ownership being ranked No.1 in the world. The MIIT forecasts that China' s NEV production will reach 2million sets by 2020, which is equivalent to the total current NEV production worldwide. In a word, NEV industry springing up in China is bound to boost the rapid increase of lithium batteries demand. Lithium carbonate industry by virtue of resources products is supposed to grow further in the future.

Lithium salt price hits historical high

In the first half of 2016, battery grade lithium carbonate prices once soared to 167,000-178,000 yuan/t in China, increasing three times from early 2015 to hit a ten-year' s high. Even though price experienced a tepid decrease in the second half of 2016, lithium salt supply remain tight in 2017 to guarantee the price rise again.

Lithium resources exploitation slowdown in China

China has abundant lithium resources with reserves among the highest in the world. The resources mainly include spodumene, lepidolite and salt lake lithium, 80% of which are salt lake brine. Salt lake lithium is mainly located in salt lakes of Qinghai and Tibet, among which those conduct brine extraction of lithium include Zhabuye salt lake (Tibet), East Taigener salt lake (Qinghai), and West Taigener salt lake (Qinghai), etc. spodumene is mainly located in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture; lepidolite, mainly located in Yichun city of Jiangxi province, has been in a stage of resource development and application.



Lithium Resources Distribution in China

In the context of rapid development of NEV industry and high level of lithium salt price, China's lithium resources exploitation has caught more global concerns nowadays. This report will focus on the research on characteristics of China's lithium resources, exploitation progress, technology, and enterprise planning layout, etc, to provide an important reference for the price trend of lithium industry in the future.

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