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ALD – Enabling the Frontiers of Energy Research



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- ALD Energy Storage
- ALD Catalyst Research

Summary

euris Energy Storage – Growing Electric Vehicle Market





Public demand for electric vehicles is expected to grow.

Cano, Zachary P., et al. "Batteries and fuel cells for emerging electric vehicle markets." Nature Energy 3.4 (2018): 279.

⁷ The Future of Energy Storage Requires New Materials

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g used es at id ion	Required Coating properties	Anode	Cathode
	Uniform Coverage		
	Lithium-ion Conductive	\checkmark	
	Electronically Conductive		
	Chemical stability		\checkmark
	Prevent Metal Dissolution		\checkmark
	Provide Mechanical Stability		\checkmark

ALD is one coating strategy that can be used to address challenges at both the anode and cathode of lithium ion batteries.

5 Birkl, Christoph R., et al. "Degradation diagnostics for lithium ion cells." *Journal of Power Sources* 341 (2017): 373-386.

euris Example of ALD Enhancing Cathode Performance





- ALD provides unique surface coverage required to mitigate metal dissolution
- ALD nanolaminates used to tune film properties, such as lithium ion diffusion.

Li, Xifei, et al. "Atomic layer deposition of solid-state electrolyte coated cathode materials with superior high-voltage cycling behavior for lithium ion battery application." *Energy & Environmental Science* 7.2 (2014): 768-778.

Example of ALD/MLD Application to Anode



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Recharging battery made using pure lithium metal results in uncontrolled growth of lithium dendrites which degrade cell performance and can cause short circuits



Pure Lithium Metal

Confidential and Proprietary



Conclusions – Energy Storage



- In order to meet future consumer demand for electric vehicles, lithium ion batteries need to adopt new materials
- Several engineering challenges impede the commercialization of these materials – primarily at the interface between the electrode and the electrolyte
- ALD is a unique coating strategy that can tackle many interface problems
- At the cathode, ALD can prevent dissolution of metals while enhancing electrical conductivity and lithium conduction
- At the anode, ALD/MLD can help to stabilize the surface of pure lithium metal

euris Nobel Metals Empower Catalyst Reactions



Supported noble metal catalysts nanoparticles are among the most important catalyst that enable many critical technologies



De, S., Zhang, J., Luque, R., & Yan, N. (2016). *Energy & Environmental Science*, *9*(11), 3314-3347. Tavakkoli, M., Holmberg, N., Kronberg, 2017). *ACS Catalysis*, *7*(5), 3121-3130.

euris Reducing Size of Catalyst Particles



High price and low natural abundance of noble metals is an issue.



Important aspect that determines catalytic performance is nanocatalyst size



ALD has unique advantages for deposition of particles by allowing control over:



2cng, M., & Li, Y. (2015). Recent advances in heterogeneous electrocatalysts for the hydrogen evolution reaction. *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*, *3*(29), 14942-14962. Yang, X. F., Wang, A., Qiao, B., Li, J., Liu, J., & Zhang, T. (2013). Single-atom catalysts: a new frontier in heterogeneous catalysis. *Accounts of chemical research*, *46*(8), 1740-1748.

Example of ALD deposited Pd Nanoparticles





euris Atomic Control Over Particle Size





Yan, Huan, et al. "Bottom-up precise synthesis of stable platinum dimers on graphene." Nature communications 8.1 (2017): 1070.

Conclusion- Catalytic Research



- Many critical technologies require the use of noble metals as catalyst.
- Unfortunately, these metals are very expensive therefore their use must be maximized
- One way to accomplish this is to shrink the size of the particles, while also using high surface area substrates
- ALD is an ideal technology in both reducing noble metal particle size while being able to deposit on high surface area materials
- ALD accurately controls average size of noble metal particles





- ALD key enabler for energy research
- ALD addressed some of the challenges in lithium ion battery devices
- ALD thin films improve battery technology safety
- ALD particle coatings increase catalytic performance



