

# China Lithium Carbonate Industry Report, 2009-2010

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## Abstracts

During 2004-2008, the global lithium carbonate market saw a stable growth. However, due to the financial crash in 2009, the market demand of lithium carbonate declined to 68,500 tons from 95,400 tons in 2008. Alongside with the economic recovery in 2010, the lithium carbonate demand from downstream industries rebounded fast, with the expected demand being over 100,000 tons.

Lithium carbonate is fundamental raw material for the production of lithium, which is mainly for lithium battery manufacturing, especially for new energy vehicles in the future. In the era of new energy revolution and with growing awareness of environmental protection, lithium carbonate, as a new breed of power battery, is becoming more and more feasible. Once it gets promoted, lithium battery will achieve growth by folds or higher

When it comes to the competition pattern of world's lithium market in 2009, the three leading manufacturers including SQM, Chemetall and FMC enjoyed a market share of 31%, 19% and 20% respectively. Lithium carbonate can be made through lithium extraction from salt lake brine. Due to the low cost, this method, employed by the three aforementioned, will be the development trend of lithium carbonate production.

Although China abounds in salt lake resources, the output of lithium from brine extraction merely took a share of 25% or so in the total output of lithium carbonate in 2009 due to technological bottlenecks.

The leading manufacturers of lithium carbonate in China include: CITIC Guoan Information Industry Co., Ltd, Tibet Mineral Development Co., Ltd, Sichuan TianQi Lithium Industries, etc. In 2009, the lithium sales volume of Chinese manufacturers accounted for 29% of global total, up 7 percentage points over the previous year. It is expected that the market occupancy of Chinese lithium producers will grow

continuously.

The report spotlights the lithium carbonate resources and production, the demand volume and structure of lithium carbonate, and the leading manufactures in this sector, conducting an in-depth analysis of Chinese lithium industry.

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