

China Lithium Carbonate Industry Report, 2009-2010

<https://marketpublishers.com/r/CA9DDCFF9A6EN.html>

Date: April 2010

Pages: 73

Price: US\$ 2,000.00 (Single User License)

ID: CA9DDCFF9A6EN

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.

Contents

1. OVERVIEW OF LITHIUM CARBONATE

- 1.1 Definition & Characteristic of Lithium
- 1.2 Application & Categories of Lithium Products
- 1.3 Application of Lithium Carbonate
- 1.4 Lithium Carbonate Industry Chains
- 1.5 Process of Lithium Carbonate Manufacturing

2. DEVELOPMENT OF LITHIUM CARBONATE GLOBALLY

- 2.1 Global Distribution of Lithium Resources
- 2.2 Global Supply of Lithium Carbonate
- 2.3 Global Demand of Lithium Carbonate
- 2.4 Supply & Demand Analysis of Global Lithium Carbonate Market

3. DEVELOPMENT OF LITHIUM CARBONATE IN CHINA

- 3.1 Distribution of Lithium Resources
- 3.2 Production of Lithium Carbonate
- 3.3 Demand of Lithium Carbonate
- 3.4 Problems in Lithium Carbonate Industry

4. IMPORT & EXPORT OF CHINA'S LITHIUM CARBONATE INDUSTRY

- 4.1 Import & Export, 2009
 - 4.1.1 Import & Export Volume, 2009
 - 4.1.2 Import & Export Prices
- 4.2 Import & Export Distribution of China's Lithium Carbonate, 2009

5. COST & PRICE OF LITHIUM CARBONATE

- 5.1 Cost
- 5.2 Price
 - 5.2.1 Price of Battery-grade Lithium Carbonate
 - 5.2.2 Price of Industrial-grade Lithium Carbonate

6. DEVELOPMENT OF LITHIUM CARBONATE DOWNSTREAM INDUSTRIES

6.1 Development of Lithium Battery Industry in China

6.1.1 Profile of Li-ion Battery

6.1.2 Application of Lithium Battery in Traditional Industries

6.1.3 Progress of Power Lithium Battery

6.2 Development of Lubricant Grease Industry

7. LEADING COMPANIES

7.1 SQM

7.1.1 Profile

7.1.2 Operation

7.1.3 Lithium Carbonate Business

7.1.4 Prospect

7.2 FMC

7.2.1 Profile

7.2.2 Operation

7.2.3 Lithium Carbonate Business

7.2.4 Prospect

7.3 CHEMETALL

7.3.1 Profile

7.3.2 Operation

7.3.3 Lithium Carbonate Business

7.3.4 Prospect

7.4 CITIC GuoAn Information Industry Co., Ltd

7.4.1 Profile

7.4.2 Operation

7.4.3 Lithium Carbonate Business

7.4.4 New Projects

7.5 Tibet Mineral Development Co., Ltd

7.5.1 Profile

7.5.2 Operation

7.5.3 Lithium Carbonate Business

7.5.4 Prospect

7.6 Qinghai Salt Lake Industry Group

7.6.1 Profile

7.6.2 Operation

7.6.3 Lithium Carbonate Business

7.7 Western Mining Co., Ltd

- 7.7.1 Profile
- 7.7.2 Operation
- 7.7.3 Lithium Carbonate Business
- 7.8 Qinghai Lithium Industry Co., Ltd
 - 7.8.1 Profile
 - 7.8.2 Lithium Carbonate Business
- 7.9 Others
 - 7.9.1 Sichuan Tianqi Lithium Industries
 - 7.9.2 Xinjiang Lithium Salt Plant
 - 7.9.3 Sichuan Ni & Co Guorun New Materials
 - 7.9.4 Sichuan Jixiang Lithium Technology Cooperation
 - 7.9.5 ABA Guangsheng Lithium Co., Ltd
 - 7.9.6 Shanghai China Lithium Industrial Co.
 - 7.9.7 Foshan Electrical and Lighting Co., Ltd (FELCO)
 - 7.9.8 Sichuan Western Resources Holding Co., Ltd
 - 7.9.9 Luxiang Co., Ltd.

8. DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS & OPPORTUNITY OF CHINA LITHIUM CARBONATE INDUSTRY

- 8.1 Development Characteristics
- 8.2 Opportunity

Selected Charts

SELECTED CHARTS

Product Chain of Lithium Carbonate Industry
Lithium Carbonate Production Technology Roadmap
Proven Lithium Resource Reserves and Distribution Worldwide
Global Lithium Resource Reserves Structure
Lithium-bearing Brine Resources Abroad
Lithium Ore Resources Abroad
Present Output Capacity & Planned Capacity of Global Leading Lithium Carbonate Enterprises
Competition Patterns of Global Lithium Market, 2009
Global Demand for Lithium Carbonate, 2004-2009
Structure of Downstream Demand for Lithium Carbonate, 2009
Lithium-bearing Brine Resources in China
Lithium Ore Resource of China
Output Capacity of Leading Lithium Carbonate Manufacturers in China
China's Output of Lithium Carbonate, 2006-2009
Potential Explosive Growth in Lithium Carbonate Downstream Markets
China's Import of Lithium Carbonate, 2009
China's Export of Lithium Carbonate, 2009
China's Import Price of Lithium Carbonate, 2005-2009
Import Price vs Export Price of Lithium Carbonate, 2005-2009
Export Destinations of China's Lithium Carbonate, 2009
Distribution of China's Lithium Carbonate Export, 2009
Production Cost of Lithium Carbonate of Manufacturers
Price Fluctuation of Lithium Carbonate (Battery Grade) in China, 2009-2010
Price Fluctuation of Lithium Carbonate (Industrial Grade) in China, 2009
Li-ion Battery Industry Chains
Main Application & Product Categories of Lithium Carbonate
Production Paths of Lithium Battery
Demand Volume of Lithium Battery from Global Leading Mobile Phone Manufacturers, 2007-2009
Automotive Population in China
China's Dependency on Imported Crude Oil, 2007-2009
SQM's Lithium Carbonate Manufacturing Process
SQM's Revenues, 2003-2009
SQM's Revenue Structure by Product, 2009

SQM's Revenue Structure by Region, 2009
SQM's Revenue from Lithium Carbonate, 2003-2009
Proportion of SQM's Lithium Carbonate Revenue to Its Total Revenue, 2003-2009
FMC's Revenue Structure by Field, 2009
FMC's Revenue Structure by Field, 2008 vs.2009
FMC's Revenue Structure by Region, 2009
FMC's Revenue from Lithium, 2003-2009
Lithium Carbonate Downstream Fields into which FMC Marched, 2009
Chemetall's Revenues, 2003-2009
Revenues of CITIC GuoAn Information Industry Co., Ltd, 2005-2009
Prime Operating Revenue of CITIC GuoAn Information Industry, 2009
Revenues of CITIC GuoAn and Qinghai GuoAn, 2005-2009
Revenues of Tibet Mineral Development, 2005-2009
Revenues of Qinghai Salt Lake Industry Group Co., Ltd, 2005-2009
Revenues of Western Mining Co., Ltd, 2005-2009
Lithium Carbonate Output Capacity of Sichuan TianQi Lithium Industries, Inc.,
2007-2009
Lithium Carbonate Sales & Value of Sichuan TianQi Lithium Industries, Inc., 2007-2009

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