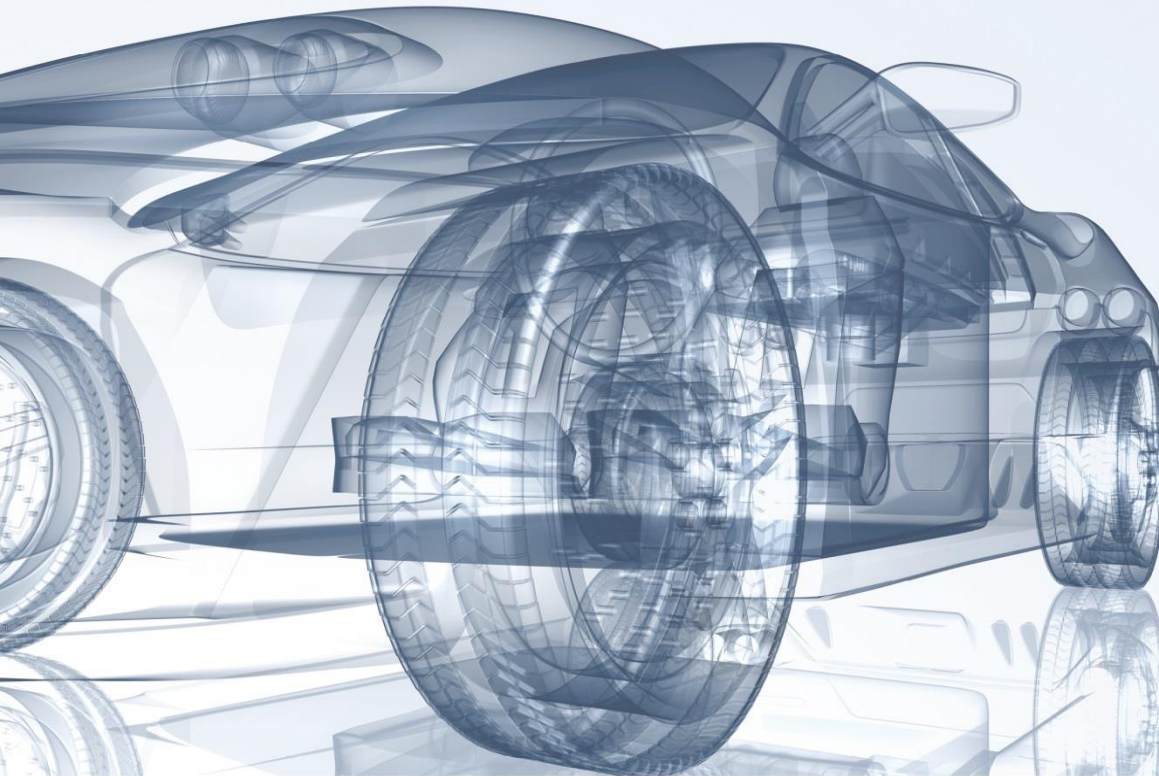


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# Stable and sustainable supply of Cathode Materials for LIB

09/10/2017

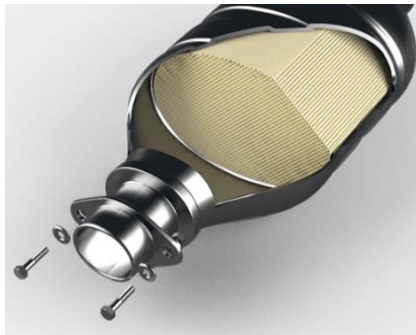
Dominic Homberger

Product & Sales  
Manager RBM



# Introduction

Umicore - A global materials technology and recycling group



One of three global leaders in emission control catalysts for light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles and for all fuel types



A leading supplier of key materials for rechargeable batteries used in portable electronics and hybrid & electric cars



The world's leading recycler of complex waste streams containing precious and other valuable metals

# Introduction

Umicore RBM has already produced enough cathode materials to...

....provide a  
smartphone to  
every person on  
this planet



...power  
more than  
1 Million EV's



**1 out of 5 batteries** ever made  
contains Umicore technology



**Over 15 years**  
in the market



**6 production**  
sites

# Introduction

## Li-ion value chain

### Raw material



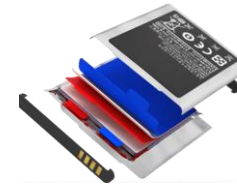
### Metal



### Product



### Application



Portable electronics



Power tools



(P) HEV / EV



E-bikes



Stationary power

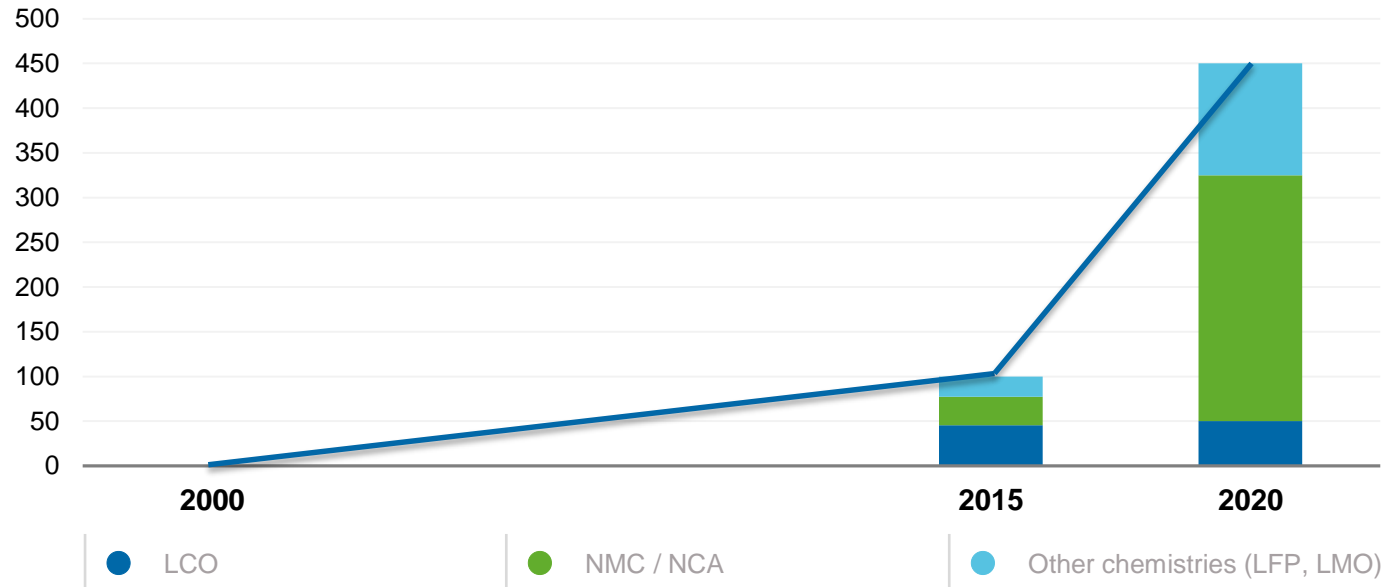
**Umicore occupies a unique position in the value chain guaranteeing high speed to market, supply security, and responsiveness to customer needs**

# Growth drivers in cathode material

Automotive and ESS type materials are the biggest contributors

## Cathode materials market

Volume indexed 2015



# Stable and sustainable supply

of Cathode Materials for LIB

## **Key challenges for cathode material producers in the decade(s) to come**

- Production capacity ramp-up
- Raw materials
- Sustainability

# Stable and sustainable supply

of Cathode Materials for LIB

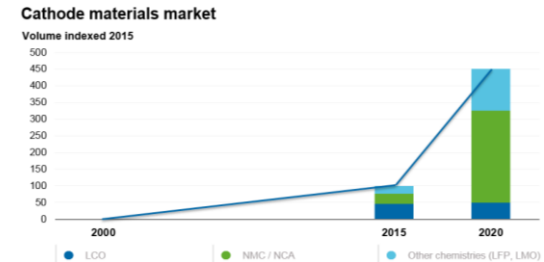
## Key challenges for cathode material producers in the decade(s) to come

- **Production capacity ramp-up**  
whilst meeting automotive cost and quality targets
- Raw materials
- Sustainability

# Production capacity ramp-up

Automotive and ESS are driving the overall cathode material market growth

- Automotive tenders reached critical volume requirements
  - Smaller players don't have sufficient installed capacity
  - Break-through production processes required
  - Leading producers expected to increase market share due to market consolidation
- Above market growth investments required



→ Umicore increases total production capacity more than six fold between 2015 and 2020

# Production capacity ramp-up

It's more than building factories

- Is the supply chain doing the same?
- Can your equipment suppliers keep up?
- Can the local community support your staffing requirements?
- And so much more...
  - Logistics
  - Utilities
  - ...

# Stable and sustainable supply

of Cathode Materials for LIB

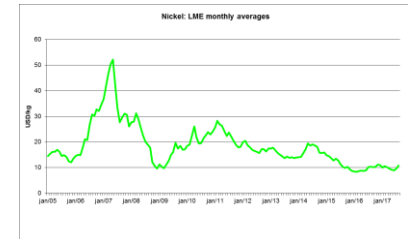
## Key challenges for cathode material producers in the decade(s) to come

- Production capacity ramp-up
- **Raw materials**  
sourced in right quantity and price range
- Sustainability

# Raw material sourcing for NMC

Nickel, Cobalt and Lithium have each their own risk profile

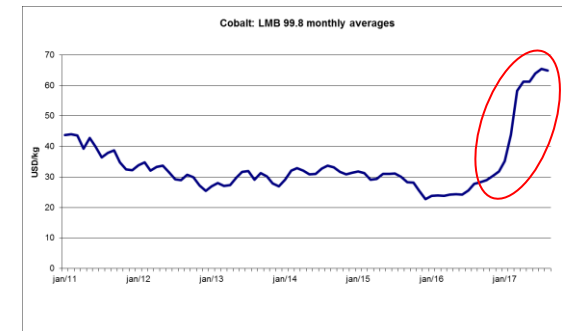
- Driven by stainless steel and less by LIB
  - Prices are historically low
  - New projects lead-time >5 years from decision to implementation
  - **Investment environment not favorable today**
- 
- Only ~20% of the Nickel market usable for LIB
  - In May 2017, the salt premium for NiSO<sub>4</sub> on top of LME nickel was >50%
  - **Grade risk further intensifies the situation**
- 
- **Chemistry decision should not be based on 2017 pricing**



# Raw material sourcing for NMC

Nickel, **Cobalt** and Lithium have each their own risk profile

- Majority of Cobalt is sourced as a by-product of Nickel and Copper mining
- **High dependency on Nickel and Copper investment plans**
  
- >65% of today's Cobalt production is based in DRC
- Behavior of current Kabila government and opposition difficult to predict
- **Geo-political risk is present**
  
- Cobalt market size relatively limited
- **Speculation can influence Cobalt pricing in a tangible way**



# Raw material sourcing for NMC

Nickel, Cobalt and **Lithium** have each their own risk profile

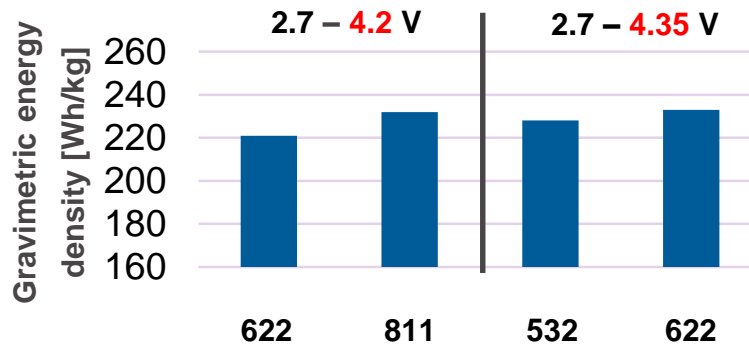
- Supply / Demand balance remains uncertain in 2018
- **Numerous new projects both brine-based and spodumene-based coming mid-term**
  
- World's supply still very much dependent on 2 regions: Australia & Chile/Argentina
- **Local events e.g. rain in Atacama can have a global impact**
  
- Right now, Chinese LiOH is cheaper than Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>
- **High-Ni cathodes (NCA) is very much focused towards one specific supply chain. Overall demand is still lower than many market observers expected**

# Raw material sourcing for NMC

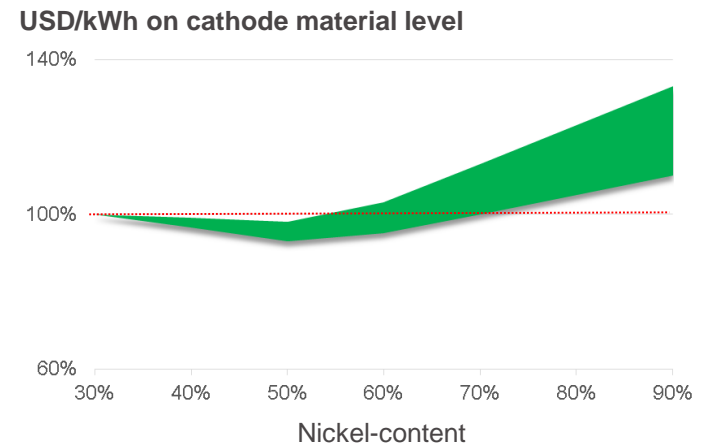
## Mitigation strategies

### Product development

- Higher Nickel materials operated at conventional voltage compete with medium Nickel materials operated at increase voltage also due to financial risk profiles



Simulation results: 120Ah prismatic hard case cell, C/5 discharge rate



# Raw material sourcing for NMC

## Mitigation strategies

### Primary sourcing

- Long-term strategy, keeping the changing market in mind, is necessary

### Secondary sourcing

- Battery and production scrap recycling are a strategic pillar
- Umicore invested in a 7000mT p.a. pilot installation to proof its unique recycling technology
  - Best in class environmental impact
  - Scalable to industrial size
  - Future proof in regard to changes in chemistry intake
  - Recovery of key metals like Co, Ni, Li,...
  - Separation down to refined metals allows flexibility and re-use in latest cathode materials

# Raw material sourcing for NMC

Mitigation strategies

## Umicore battery recycling approach

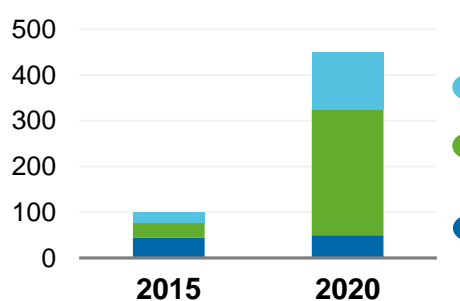


# Raw material sourcing for NMC

## Battery recycling in perspective of timing

- Similar to lead-acid, Li-ion battery recycling will be a must for the automotive and industrial applications in the longer term  
 → **Battery recycling will be a strategic pillar in the supply chain**
- Today there is not enough recycling feed collected to support the LIB market growth in a tangible way  
 → **Current LIB growth will be mostly fed by primary raw materials**

Cathode material volume indexed



Chemistry	Valuable metals	Application	Time to recycling	Collection
LFP, LMO	Li	Automotive, ESS,...	10-15 years	Potentially high
NMC, NCA	Li, Co, Ni	Automotive, ESS, portable electronics	10-15 years 2-5 years	Potentially high Low
LCO	Li, Co	Portable electronics	2-5 years	Low

# Stable and sustainable supply

of Cathode Materials for LIB

## Key challenges for cathode material producers in the decade(s) to come

- Production capacity ramp-up
- Raw materials
- **Sustainability**  
implement proper policies and control mechanisms along the entire supply chain

# Sustainability

is becoming a requirement in order to supply LIB

- Cobalt has been on the radar screen due to unsafe / unethical practices in a limited part of the supply chain
- More than 65% of annual Cobalt production happens in Congo, of which 20% happens via artisanal small-scale mining
  - High risk of child labor and insufficient health and safety conditions
  - **Proper due diligence system (including on-site visits) is required**
  - **Umicore does not support a general ban of Congolese material and is committed to engage with trustworthy Congolese companies**
- Material flows from the mine to the application are complex and interlinked
  - **Risk of mixing**
  - **Profound investigation of upstream supply chain is key**



**"THIS IS WHAT WE DIE FOR"**

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO POWER THE GLOBAL TRADE IN COBALT





# Sustainability

## Next Steps

Several industry initiatives have emerged

- RCI
- CDI initiative
- WEF / The Battery Alliance

Umicore is exploring how to contribute and share its expertise

→ **Sustainability is more than child labor only**

→ **Occupational health and safety, as well as environmental topics need to be addressed**

# Summary

## Stable and sustainable supply of cathode material for LIB

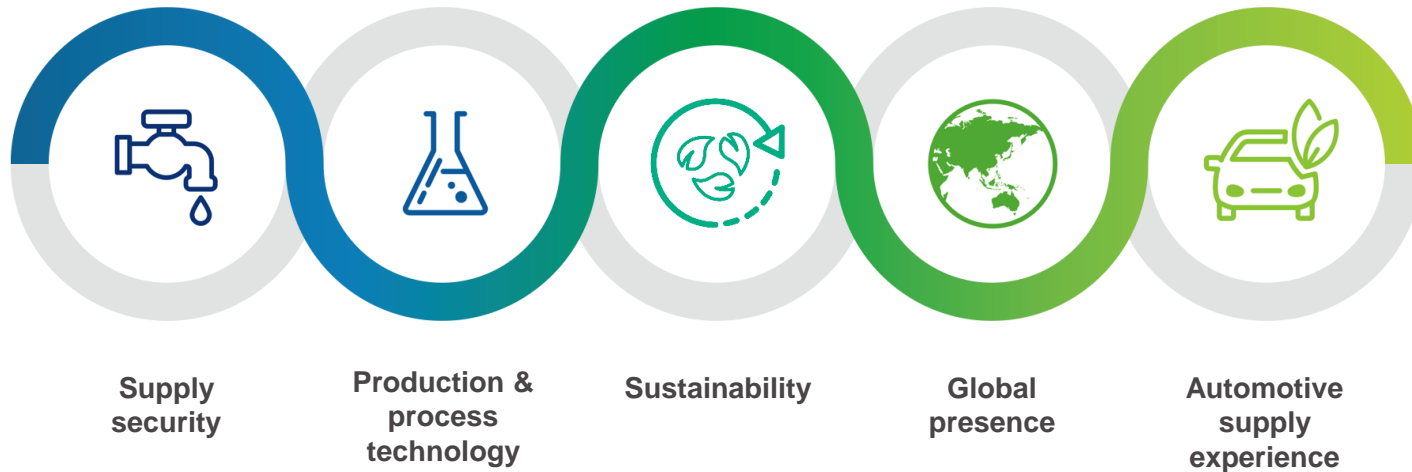
- The overall market conditions are changing dramatically and put stress on all components of the supply chain
- Significant investments in production but also new processes and technologies, staffing and others are needed to follow the growth
- The raw materials market is turning into a sellers market
- Sustainability efforts and recycling are key strategic pillars within the LIB supply chain

# Umicore Value Proposition

Ultimate peace of mind ensured through 5 pillars:



## Clear leadership in clean mobility materials and recycling





Thank you

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