

PRESS RELEASE



Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between RAASI Solar Energy Private Limited, Bangalore and CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi on 9th June 2018

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 9th June 2018 between RAASI Solar Energy Private Limited, Bangalore and CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi for the collaborative development of indigenous Lithium ion cells for Energy Storage Systems encompassing various application segments.

CSIR-CECRI is a pioneer in rechargeable battery research and has developed various patented Li-ion battery cell chemistries and demonstrated prototypes of Pouch and 18650 cell configurations in partnership with other CSIR Labs, including CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi and CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI), Kolkata. The group at CECRI under the leadership of Dr. GopuKumar has developed cells using globally secured IPRs having a strong potential to enable cost reduction, coupled with appropriate supply chain and manufacturing technology for mass production.

This is especially suitable for multifarious applications like industrial transportation, defence and renewable energy storage.

RAASI Solar Energy group, a Bangalore based private company has gained enough knowledge by visiting various global lithium ion cell manufacturing plants in China, Japan, Germany, etc. to gauge the technology and have been in discussions with CSIR-CECRI for more than 1 ½ years. Recently, they have also visited and interacted with our scientists in our semi-automatic Li-ion prototype manufacturing facility at Chennai, where 100 cells per day could be fabricated. They are keen to jointly plan India's first indigenous Lithium ion cell manufacturing plant in the next one to two years by partnering with CSIR laboratories and others to deploy various sizes of Lithium ion batteries useful for applications ranging from solar energy storage to Electric Vehicles (EV).

Dr. S. Gopukumar, Scientist of CSIR-CECRI briefed about the importance and vision of this memorandum of agreement and Dr. Vijayamohan K .Pillai, Director, CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi presided over the function. Mr. C. Narasimhan, Ex-MP and Chairman of Raasi Group stressed the need and importance of manufacturing indigenous Li-ion battery. Dr. Jitendra Yadav, Director, CSIR- National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bengaluru and Dr. Vidyadhar Mudkavi, Director, CSIR-4PI offered felicitations. The event was also witnessed by Dr. Annadurai Mayilswami, Director, ISRO, Bangalore, Mr Dinesh Batra, General Manager, BEL, Pune and Mr Sunit Tyagi, Managing Director, InSloare Energy Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore who also agreed to provide all support for the public –private partnership. Dr Annadurai stressed that the Li-ion cells developed by ISRO is primarily for space applications and the need for convergence.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, explained the importance of rechargeable Li-ion batteries aligned with the current missions of the Government in particular to Make in India, National Mobility Plans especially to commensurate with the aspiration of the government to be a future leader in sustainability providing clean energy solutions environmental challenges.

Hon'ble Minister congratulated Raasi Group and the CSIR-CECRI scientists for initiating this successful and enduring partnership hoping to manufacture and commercialize affordable Li-ion batteries over a period of few years.
