

Nippon Shokubai to offer Electrolytes for Lithium Ion batteries

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Nippon Shokubai will start selling heat-resistant electrolytes that help prevent the expansion of lithium ion batteries, with 100-ton-level shipments planned for 2015.

Fluorine is typically used as an electrolyte but turns into a gas at high temperatures, causing the battery to swell. Nippon Shokubai has developed a fluorine-based electrolyte that is less likely to gasify.

It began shipping the material on a trial basis last year, reportedly confirming that it reduces battery swelling by 40-50% compared with typical electrolytes. With inquiries from foreign and domestic battery makers increasing, the company will add production subcontractors and may also build its own plant. It is targeting annual sales of around 2 billion yen in 2015.

Amid growing concerns about battery safety in the wake of fires aboard Boeing Co.'s 787 passenger airliners, Nippon Shokubai sees an opportunity to grab a share of the market.

SOURCE Nikkei Report