

Dreamliner battery maker ties up with Germany's Bosch

RELEASED ON 20/06/13 (DD/MM/YY)

Japan's GS Yuasa, the battery supplier for Boeing's troubled Dreamliner, on Thursday announced a tie-up with German technology giant Bosch to develop lithium-ion batteries. The pair are planning to set up a joint venture early next year with trading house Mitsubishi Corp. that would research and develop "high-performance" powerpacks, GS Yuasa said.

"These batteries are fundamental for future forms of mobility, such as plug-in hybrid or all-electric vehicles," it said in a statement, adding that it hoped the venture's research would "significantly increase energy content". "This will reduce weight and space requirements, and increase the range of electric vehicles."

GS Yuasa's Tokyo-listed shares jumped 7.86 percent to 439 yen (\$4.55) in morning trade following the announcement. Bosch would control 50 percent of the venture with the Japanese firms each holding 25 percent of the business, which will have its headquarters in Stuttgart.

Mitsubishi Motors' i-MiEV electric cars have a range of about 180 kilometres (110 miles) per charge, but "we hope to produce batteries that double this distance", a GS Yuasa spokeswoman said.

Production is expected to start by the end of 2017.

GS Yuasa drew global attention following the worldwide grounding of Boeing's next generation Dreamliner aircraft after problems were discovered with its battery systems in January.

The aircraft has since returned to the skies and Japanese investigators said they found no major fault with GS Yuasa's production.

SOURCE [Yahoo News](#)