

Samsung SDI to supply electric car batteries for Volkswagen

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South Korea's rechargeable battery maker Samsung SDI, which selects electric vehicle batteries as one of its five growth engines, is set to provide Volkswagen with a large volume of electric vehicle batteries.

A deal to provide Volkswagen with lithium-ion batteries for electric cars was recently reached between Samsung SDI and Volkswagen, according to sources in the auto and electronic devices industries Thursday.

Samsung is yet to unveil which electric cars would use its batteries. The deal will put Samsung in position to be a major supplier for Volkswagen which aims at becoming the top electric car maker with the production of green cars including the Gold Blue-e-Motion, e-up, XL1 and E-Bugster.

Under the deal, Samsung SDI commenced its work to expand production lines for electric vehicle batteries at its Ulsan plant. The Ulsan plant has manufactured 50,000 batteries (60 Ah basis) a month and its production will be expanded to 400,000 a month in the first half (H1) of this year, eight times higher than last year.

Samsung was selected as an electric vehicle battery provider for BMW in August 2009 and will supply the battery for the production of BMW's electric car i3 and plug-in hybrid car (PHEV) i8 this year. The Korean company also inked a deal to supply battery packs for Chrysler's electric car Fiat 500EV in November 2010.

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