

Neometals updates on their LIB recycling test plant which “exceeds expectations”

Neometals {ASX: NMT}

Announced its lithium battery recycling pilot test-work generated high purity cobalt sulphate at a high recovery rate that exceeded over 98 per cent.

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Neometals has provided the market on its lithium-ion battery (LIB) pilot test-work.

The company reported that its pilot test-work generated high purity cobalt sulphate at a recovery rate that exceeded over 98 per cent. This has exceeded the company’s expectations, and represents a significant milestone in its technology.

Managing Director Chris Reed congratulated the Neometals team on this achievement: “It represents the most significant technical milestone in what has been a very comprehensive

Pilot campaign to deliver the most robust, eco-friendly recycling solution to the lithium-ion battery supply chain," Chris said.

"Our strategy of disciplined evaluation with business model flexibility has attracted a multi-billion dollar equipment manufacturer to consider a 50:50 JV to fast track commercialisation," he added.

This pilot test-work is being undertaken by SGS of Canada. The test-work represents part of the pre-development for a proposed LIB recycling plant. The recycling plant is targeting a 90 per cent recovery of LIB materials from electric vehicles and consumer production scrap and end-of-life cells.

Neometals successfully shredded and processed 2.3 tonnes of spent commercial LIB.

A total of 980 kilograms of unbeneficial mixed cathode and anode materials (Black Powder) were fed into the Hydrometallurgical Processing stage, from which cathode metals are currently being recovered and refined into high-purity chemical products.

"The Hydrometallurgical Processing stage leaches the Black Powder and sequentially recovers cathode materials which are refined to generate high-purity chemical products for sale directly into the battery supply chain," the company said.

Neometals said that the pilot test-work program is nearly

completed as it has recovered copper, manganese and now cobalt sulphates. It says the recovery of nickel and lithium into sulphate products will commence very soon.

The company now aims to target the recovery of nickel sulphate.