# Roll to Roll Equipment Business for EV Batteries

ULVAC, Inc. Yoshiki Iso, Business Planning Dept., FPD Division Masaki Takei, FPD Technology Research Dept., Institute of Advanced Technology

Leading the World In Vacuum Technology



# Summary

### □ Why is Roll to Roll (R2R) Deposition Technology necessary?

With the rapid expansion of EVs and EV batteries, vacuum deposition technology is newly adopted and gaining importance, which enables battery components to be thinner and purer.

- Growing demand for R2R Thin Film Formation Technology as an alternative manufacturing method for Lithium-ion battery components
- Potential for further demand growth in anticipation of all-solid-state batteries

### □ <u>Why is ULVAC?</u> :

ULVAC is a manufacturer that can solve technical problems through thermal damage suppression technology for thin films and double-sided batch deposition technology.

- Electrode formation on ultra-thin film (suppression of thermal damage)
- High production efficiency and low cost (double-sided deposition technology)

Today, we will introduce the development status of "R2R deposition technology for Metalized polymer current collector" and the Initiative in the project of the METI Green Innovation Fund for "lithium vacuum deposition technology".



# Acceleration of EV shift worldwide

 Prohibit the sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles (gasoline/diesel), including hybrids, by 2030

Ban on sales of new gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035 (except for hybrid vehicles)





 California bans Sales of New Gasoline-Powered Vehicles by 2035 Ban on sales of new gasoline-powered vehicles in 2035 (except for hybrid cars)

# Rapid expansion of EV market ⇒ Rapid increase in EV battery demand



Increase to 60 million worldwide by 2040 (55% of all passenger cars)

# Technology competition for next-generation EV batteries (LiB)



Key technologies to satisfy the requirements above simultaneously ULVAC's R2R Thin Film Formation Technology

# Trends in EV Battery Technology and Vacuum Technology Adoption



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NEDO Rechargeable Battery Technology Development Roadmap 2013, p.10

- Developed Roll to Roll evaporation equipment to realize smaller, larger capacity, and safer EV batteries
- Current collector: Started investment to replace metal foil with double-sided vapor-deposited film to achieve safety and weight reduction (FY2022)
- ② Anode: To replace conventional "graphite + silicon" to achieve high capacity  $\Rightarrow$  "lithium vapor deposition film" :
- ⇒Adopted by NEDO Green Innovation Fund Project "Development of Next-Generation Storage Batteries and Next-Generation Motors" to enhance development



# Advantages of Metalized polymer current collector (double-sided vapor deposited film)

### (1) Safety

The structure of "insulating substrate + thin-film conductive layer enable short-circuit current to be interrupted immediately when the battery is shortcircuited and effectively prevents melting of the film and thermal runaway of the EV battery.

### (2) High energy density

The weight of the Metalized polymer current collector can be significantly reduced to increase the battery's weight energy density due to the low density of the PET film used as the base material.

 (3) Reduction of Environmental Impact Reduction in the use of metal materials that have a high environmental impact during refining. Also can reduce material costs.



# Production technology for Metalized polymer current collector (Metal/PET/Metal laminated film)

## Suppression of thermal damage to film

While PET film has a thermal resistance of about 100°C, the deposition of evaporated particles usually heated to about 1000°C

⇒ Technology is needed to control thermal damage to the film

### **Productivity Improvement of vacuum equipment**

While raw material costs have been reduced due to lower use of metal materials, the processing costs increased due to the use of expensive vacuum equipment.

This is a challenge, and there is a need to improve the productivity of the vacuum equipment.

⇒ Wide film support, increase production speed, and batch processing on both sides of the film are the key to the "Productivity Improvement".



Wrinkles and tears. Thermal damage occurs

### Suppression of thermal damage to film



## **Productivity Improvement of vacuum equipment**



# M Cooling roller Vapor Deposited small drops

Evaporation Source

### **ULVAC's Core technologies**

- Ultrathin film winding and conveying technology
- High-speed deposition technology
- Double-sided batch deposition transfer technology



(1) Current Collector



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20m

Available for 1650mm film width Roll to Roll deposition system for Metalized polymer current collector EWG-165

**6**m

5m

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### Lithium metal anode production technology

### **Production of lithium metal foil with low impurities**

If impurities or surface irregularities are existing on the surface of the lithium metal anode, the Needle-like protrusions called "Dendrites" are formed, and Dendrites will be ignitioned when reaching the cathode.

⇒ Necessary to form metallic lithium with high purity and less surface irregularities.

### Copper foil conveying technology in vacuum

Conventional Roll to Roll equipment handles highly elastic plastic film. On the other hand, usually the Anode of a lithium battery has low elasticity. ⇒ Necessary to handle wrinkle-prone metallic foil.

# Anode Technology Issues

When the dendrites (needle-like protrusions) reached the cathode...



Ref. ) K. Kanamura *et al.*, BLI X, Symposium on Energy Storage (2017), p. 4, 6 O. Mashtalir *et al*, ACS Omega (2018) 3, 181-187



### (2) Anode



Source) 60th Battery Discussion Group 2019, 1B29





A production technology for lithium metal foil with high purity and smoothness has been established. Transition to the development of applications for the anode of next-generation batteries, represented by all-solid-state batteries

Surface smoothness

### Lithium metal anode production technology

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Lithium metal anode (Li/Cu)



## Copper foil conveying technology in vacuum

Conventional Roll to Roll equipment handles high Elastic plastic film. On the other hand, usually the Anode of a lithium battery has low Elasticity. ⇒ Necessary to handle wrinkle-prone metallic foil.

| Substrate<br>Properties     | PET   | copper foil (using<br>copper plating) |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Elasticity<br>(Growth rate) | 188%. | 7%                                    |

ULVA

# **NEDO / Green Innovation Fund**

### (2) Anode

グリーンイノベーション基金事業/次世代蓄電池・次世代モーターの開発 研究開発項目1-1 高性能蓄電池・材料の研究開発、研究開発項目1-2 蓄電池のリサイクル関連技術開発



Source: New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) Web site https://www.nedo.go.jp/content/100945458.pdf Adopted by NEDO Green Innovation Fund Project "Development of Next-Generation Storage Batteries and Next-Generation Motors"

 Battery Materials (R&D Items 1-1)
Development of material technology for next-generation storage batteries Supporting the development of material technologies for high-performance lithium-ion batteries, including All-Solid-State batteries, such as Cathodes, Anodes, and Electrolytes.

### • ULVAC, Inc.

Lithium Metal Anode ProductionTechnology Development of thin-film lithium metal anode production technology utilizing proprietary vacuum technology with a view to realize All-Solid-State batteries

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# ULVAC Vacuum Technology Contributes to Many Industries and Applications

