

## Battery Metals Market Signals

### Bull

- Preliminary statistics from industry agencies show that officially announced energy storage orders (covering cells and integrated systems) from domestic manufacturers have surpassed 180GWh since early June. Booming overseas project wins and concentrated contract signings at the SNEC exhibition jointly drove robust demand for storage batteries, lifting long-term growth expectations for the lithium battery sector.
- Three core projects of CALB Technology (Shandong) Co., Ltd. with a total investment of RMB 9.9 billion have received official approval, including a 50GWh commercial vehicle battery line, a 50GWh energy storage cell plant and a 60GWh battery pack integration project.
- The Jianxiawo lithium mica mine has not issued its second EIA public notice, leaving its resumption timeline highly uncertain.

### Bear

- Ganfeng Lithium announced on the evening of June 16 that its wholly-owned overseas subsidiary GFL International sold approximately 35.09 million ordinary shares of Australian lithium miner Pilbara Minerals (ASX: PLS) via block trades on the Australian stock exchange, raising around A\$222 million (roughly RMB 1.1 billion). Prior to the disposal, GFL International held a 4.36% stake in PLS; post-transaction, its shareholding fell to 3.27%.
- Bulk shipments of Zimbabwean lithium ore to Chinese ports are set to ramp up from July, while sodium-ion batteries are expected to see first deliveries in September with GWh-level annual shipments; China's first 10,000-ton solid electrolyte production line has gone online, and the industrialisation of new battery technologies will unlock long-term growth potential.

- Spot quotations for both LFP and ternary cathode materials have fallen in tandem. The downward price momentum of lithium carbonate has gradually transmitted to midstream battery materials.
- The lithium battery sector is receiving fundamental support from recovering profitability among leading cell makers and easing warehouse receipt pressure, yet high upstream raw material prices are squeezing the margins of many lithium iron phosphate producers.
- Retail sales of new energy passenger vehicles hit 341,000 units during June 1–14, down 8% YoY but up 5% versus the same period of May. Cumulative retail volume since the start of this year stands at 4.039 million units, a 15% year-on-year decline reflecting lingering weak overall industry demand.
- Cobalt salt prices remain under sustained downward pressure, trapped in a vicious cycle of sluggish end demand and forced inventory liquidation at discounted prices. Downstream cathode material producers prioritise destocking with only sporadic restocking to meet immediate requirements, while bulk shipments of overseas cobalt feedstock are not expected to arrive at Chinese ports until around August.

### **Other**

- As of the week ending Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, the weekly trading volume of lithium carbonate on the Guangzhou Futures Exchange was 990,011 tonnes, down 21.50% on the week due to the Dragon Boat Festival. The open interest was 605,564 tonnes, down 0.20% on the week.
- The registered warehouse warrants of lithium carbonate on the Guangzhou Futures Exchange were 51,975 tonnes last week, compared with 53,787 tonnes in the previous week.

## Weekly Futures Price and Open Interest Change

OI / lots	Cobalt Metal	Lithium Hydro	OI WoW %	Cobalt Metal	Lithium Hydro	Price	Cobalt Metal	Lithium Hydro	Price WoW %	Cobalt Metal \$/mt	Lithium Hydro \$/mt
Jun-26	974	2,044	Jun-26	0.0%	0.0%	Jun-26	57,937	20,580	Jun-26	0.1%	-1.7%
Jul-26	1,257	2,139	Jul-26	0.8%	-10.0%	Jul-26	55,997	20,070	Jul-26	1.4%	-4.9%
Aug-26	1,407	1,895	Aug-26	1.3%	3.1%	Aug-26	55,843	20,310	Aug-26	1.0%	-5.0%
Sep-26	1,075	1,884	Sep-26	0.7%	-0.8%	Sep-26	55,821	20,210	Sep-26	0.9%	-6.0%
Oct-26	851	1,495	Oct-26	2.0%	-0.4%	Oct-26	55,777	20,900	Oct-26	1.1%	-5.6%
Nov-26	858	1,859	Nov-26	2.0%	11.5%	Nov-26	55,777	20,740	Nov-26	1.1%	-5.6%
Dec-26	953	1,450	Dec-26	1.8%	1.8%	Dec-26	55,777	20,900	Dec-26	1.1%	-5.6%
Jan-27	505	571	Jan-27	3.1%	0.0%	Jan-27	55,226	21,050	Jan-27	0.1%	-6.0%
Feb-27	460	587	Feb-27	3.4%	0.0%	Feb-27	55,226	21,230	Feb-27	0.1%	-6.7%
Mar-27	451	594	Mar-27	3.4%	0.0%	Mar-27	55,226	21,350	Mar-27	0.1%	-6.8%
Apr-27	418	310	Apr-27	3.7%	18.8%	Apr-27	55,226	22,030	Apr-27	-0.2%	-5.4%
May-27	418	310	May-27	3.7%	19.2%	May-27	55,226	22,030	May-27	-0.2%	-5.4%
Jun-27	323	310	Jun-27	4.9%	19.2%	Jun-27	55,226	22,030	Jun-27	-0.4%	-5.4%
Jul-27	270	115	Jul-27	0.0%	0.0%	Jul-27	55,755	22,080	Jul-27	0.1%	-7.2%
Aug-27	270	115	Aug-27	0.0%	0.0%	Aug-27	55,799	22,080	Aug-27	0.1%	-7.8%
Sep-27	316	115	Sep-27	0.0%	0.0%	Sep-27	55,821	22,150	Sep-27	0.0%	-8.1%
Oct-27	299	115	Oct-27	0.0%	0.0%	Oct-27	55,931	22,600	Oct-27	-0.1%	-7.4%
Nov-27	301	115	Nov-27	0.0%	0.0%	Nov-27	55,975	22,750	Nov-27	-0.1%	-7.3%

Source: CME

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