

Fuel of the future

Electrification is a key pillar of the future of the Auto industry across the world. Not just the industry, but governments are setting targets for electrification. The environmental impact of this movement is going to decide how future generations will move, utilise energy and breathe clean air.

If there is one key element that defines electrification of vehicles, it would be the batteries that hold the energy. The race to build the most power-packed and fast-charging battery has taken over the researchers in the industry.

Nexcharge, an Exide Leclanche Energy Pvt. Ltd. brand, aims to lead the pack by doing just this. The company plans to become a leading provider of storage solutions for electric vehicles and energy storage applications in India, and will also contribute to developing solutions to increase the amount of renewable energy that is used and reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels.

Nexcharge is targeting to make its module and battery pack manufacture assembly line operational by Q4-2019 and a lithium-ion cell production plant operational by 2022. The organisation will focus on e-transport, stationary energy storage systems and specialty energy storage markets.

Nexcharge announced the launch of its Disruptive Innovation Accelerator in Bengaluru earlier in June, where it partners with Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (RBEI). The centre, located at Bosch premises, was inaugurated by the management of Nexcharge.

In the first phase of operations, the centre is ramping up to 32 resources, and aims to double that figure in Phase 2. This will make it the largest lithium-ion battery pack design lab in India.

Gautam Chatterjee, Chairman of Nexcharge and MD & CEO of Exide, said, "We are pleased to announce a partnership between Nexcharge and RBEI. We see this partnership as a natural extension of our quest to also be the leader in the lithium-ion battery industry, which is expected to grow significantly in the next few years. Efforts to develop alternate state-of-the-art technologies such as lithium-ion batteries and energy storage solutions are an important step in tackling the environmental challenges."

Stefan Louis, CEO of Nexcharge, said, "We were looking for a partner to help us set up our development centre and found the best fit with RBEI. Now, with ODC in place, and in addition to the superior technology from Leclanché, we are ready to deliver the products our customers ask for, developed locally."

Swaminathan K., Sr. Vice President, RBEI, said, "We are very excited to work with a company that is as forward-looking as Nexcharge. It is motivating to work on technology that is the future of the Auto industry."

Nexcharge is a brand of **Exide Leclanche Energy Pvt. Ltd.**, an exclusive joint venture in India between two iconic organisations: Exide Industries, India and Leclanché, Switzerland. Incorporated in September 2018, Nexcharge aims to become a leading provider of customised energy storage solutions. Nexcharge is proud to live and breathe its vision and mission – fast-track the world's transformation towards sustainable energy solutions.

Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (RBEI) is a 100% owned subsidiary of Robert Bosch GmbH, one of the leading global suppliers of technology and services, offering end-to-end Engineering, IT and Business Solutions. With over 21,000 associates, it is the largest software development centre of Bosch outside Germany, indicating that it is the Technology Powerhouse of Bosch in India with a global footprint and a presence in the US, Europe and Asia-Pacific region.

