

SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Mercedes embarks on joint research on next-gen batteries

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*Mercedes' Electric Intelligence Concept Car. Image credit: Mercedes-Benz*

By STAFF REPORTS

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development North America is linking with clean technology company alpha-En Corporation to study potential battery technologies.

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Taking place at Princeton University under the guidance of a faculty member, the research will center on testing the use of alpha-En's lithium Nano-rods in batteries for vehicles as well as consumer products. Consumers are becoming more ecologically conscious, fueling interest in electric vehicle development and innovation.

### Charging up

Daniel Steingart, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Princeton's Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment will oversee the study. The research will be focused on attempting to improve the performance of batteries by using alpha-En's patent pending process of creating pure lithium thin-film anodes at room temperature.

The Yonkers, NY-based alpha-En says its process reduces the cost of raw materials for battery producers. It also eliminates the typical chemical byproducts of lithium production.



*Electric car batteries use lithium. Image credit: alpha-En*

"We are very pleased and proud to be part of this joint research program with one of the world's leading luxury automobile manufacturers at one of the most preeminent university and research institutions in the world," said

Jerome Feldman, founder and executive chairman of alpha-En, in a statement. "Lithium metal batteries have long been considered the Holy Grail of energy storage."

Mercedes has proven its interest in green technology is greater than vehicle production.

The German automaker is extending its eco-friendly impact beyond electric cars with the launch of a solar energy solution.

A newly established joint offer between U.S. company Vivint Solar and Mercedes-Benz Energy will see Mercedes' vehicle battery technology used to store solar energy in consumers' homes. As automakers put more focus on green technology for their cars, some are taking the concept beyond the road to have a broader effect ([see story](#)).

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