

## **Dowa Eco-System Commercializes Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Business** **Harnesses network and existing facilities to meet diverse customer needs**

Dowa Eco-System Co., Ltd. (14-1 Sotokanda 4-Chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Capital: ¥1,000 million; President: Yoshito Koga), a subsidiary of Dowa Holdings Co., Ltd. (same location; Capital: ¥36,400 million; President: Masao Yamada), commercializes lithium-ion battery recycling business at its existing facilities. The new business will recycle the scraps produced from the lithium-ion battery manufacturing process as well as used batteries.

In addition to their use in mobile phones and home appliances such as personal computers, lithium-ion batteries have rapidly begun to find application in automobiles and other industries. With continued increases in production expected in the future, there is a need to recycle the rare metals contained in lithium-ion batteries, including cobalt, nickel and lithium, even from the perspectives of recycling resources and securing raw materials. Moreover, with the content of expensive metals such as cobalt falling with advancements that have made batteries lighter and cheaper to produce, there is a growing need for appropriate, low-cost recycling solutions.

Dowa Eco-System Co., Ltd. recycles metals by collecting the scraps that manufacturers generate in the production process, from the manufacturing of materials for lithium-ion batteries to the production of finished products, as well as by recovering used batteries. High-purity cobalt is recovered from cathode material scrap and recycled as battery cathode raw materials. Utilizing existing facilities such as Dowa's industrial waste intermediate treatment plants, each year over 1,000 tons of used lithium-ion batteries can be received, treated, separated and turned into raw materials for smelting. Further, in the recovery of lithium-ion batteries, Dowa uses the collection and transportation network it has built to enable the efficient collection of shipments. The Dowa Group aims to leverage its strengths in existing businesses, and will respond to rising use of lithium-ion batteries by developing optimum recycling methods that meet the needs of its customers.

Dowa Eco-System Co., Ltd. has also developed a technology to refine high-purity lithium from lithium-ion batteries, and is studying the possibility of supplying lithium as a raw material for lithium batteries.

Dowa Eco-System will continue to develop its environmental management and recycling business by addressing a wide range of needs of society and its customers, as it aims to become the No. 1 environmental management and recycling company in Japan and across Asia.