Local competitiveness in EV, Pack, and Cell Manufacturing Going beyond scale and subsidies

Nathan Niese February 2025



OEMs must first and foremost chart a path to profitability

SUV example	(\$, thousands)	Advantage vs ICE
BEV selling price	45.0	
Dealer related fees	6.0	8
Powertrain	14.0	00
Other materials	12.0	~
Assembly	2.0	+
Overhead	4.0	8
D&A	2.0	
R&D	2.0	
Other SG&A	3.5	8
Advertising	1.0	8
Freight & Warranty	1.5	8
Total costs	48.0	
Op income	(3)	

Needed cost reductions include: \$3k to breakeven \$7-8k to match ICE profitability

Main levers to reduce total delivery costs:

- 1. Incremental "design to cost" (10%+ savings potential)
- 2. "Transformative design" (5-10%)
- 3. De-contenting (up to 5%)

Source: BCG analysis

The customer and supplier need to be considered within the solution path

Suppliers getting squeezed

Cars have become "too expensive"

New vehicle average transaction price over time





Production costs set to rise

Additional labor cost per vehicle by 2028



Tariffs do not change the fundamental long-term advantages of China-made EVs



Note: EU tariff announced in 2024 of xx% on BYD; ranges by automakers and is subject to change Source: Rhodium Group, BCG analysis

3

Cell-maker conversion costs can vary meaningfully by geography

But hidden savings (on materials, in quality) matter more for near-term competitiveness & landed cost advantage



Note: Assumes same factory setup across different countries using equipment from Asian suppliers to produce NMC811 in pouch format, with stable operations and same level of efficiency 4 and quality; 2024 cost baseline. D&A = depreciation and amortization. Source: BCG analysis ("Battery Cell Factory of the Future")

That said, there remain multiple opportunities to improve – and re-imagine

Impact of factory of the future on conversion costs for battery cells



Note: The analysis is based on a US factory producing NMC811 cells in the pouch format; 2024 cost baseline. Conversion costs = production costs minus material costs (excluding overhead and R&D). Source: BCG analysis ("Battery Cell Factory of the Future").

Plant under-utilization needs to be an ecosystem-wide problem to (re)-solve

Impact of utilization on margin (battery cells) – *representative example*



Note: Full utilization is defined here as meeting target utilization (less planned downtime, scrap, etc), not nameplate capacity Source: BCG analysis

6

A change of heart can also be expensive; prepare for a future, not only the now

Which dimensions are agnostic to chemistry or format?

	Chemistry ¹	Format
Building		
Process		\times
Equipment		×
Tooling	×	×
Parameter setting	×	×

What is the capex cost of switching formats?



Pouch \rightarrow Prismatic: Equipment CAPEX [\$M/GWh]

Note: Baseline scenario: NMC811, pouch format, 43M cells/yr; CAPEX excl. water recycling & external electricity/gas line setup costs for both location; OPEX excl. tariffs & duties Source: BCG

A winning recipe

Bridges, not walls: Re-think supply chain collaboration Voice of customer, supplier contracting, etc

Float like a butterfly: operate with speed and incorporate flexibility, <u>expecting</u> that the landscape will change

Sting like a bee: Claim relevant control points Or become unshackled from those that currently exist

Secure long-term alignment & support from policy-makers Cut thru the noise, and make cleantech a winning issue

Question everything No sacred cows, no stone unturned

Act with purpose and strong commitment There is little/ no time to lose



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