A Powerful Climate Control Solution Providing Cellular Transportation

SMARTair

All-electric vehicles are undoubtedly easier on the environment. But they can be harder on the supply chain professionals who have to manage the flow of their components. Just ask this car manufacturing leader. When it started manufacturing the world's first cars powered by lithium batteries it knew it needed an especially reliable and careful way to transport the live organic cells that would power these batteries. "Organic cells are high-value and challenging to produce; it's a 30-day evolution just to grow one container of them," explained one source close to the project. "They're also temperature-and humidity-sensitive." Due to these constraints, the company explored the possibility of shipping these cells via air – a method that proved to be effective but not economical. Ultimately it turned to its longtime ocean provider, APL, for an equally reliable yet more cost-effective ocean solution.

APL responded with a door-to-door, low-humidity/temperature-controlled reefer service. Each reefer is equipped with technologies that allow APL to enhance dehumidification while keeping temperatures precise. As a result, the company's cells can travel from their chemical plant in Korea to a Michigan battery factory with the utmost of care – and arrive in optimal condition. Throughout the journey, the company stays informed via frequent downloads of each reefer's readings.

APL also provides the company with "liner train" service from the port of entry to Chicago, an option that allows the company's live organic battery cells to travel via the same container from end-to-end.

To date, all APL shipments of this company's battery cells have maintained the required temperature and humidity levels so important for their safe transit. Just as important, all shipments have arrived on time, and all have been backed by flawless communication to the company and its LSCs.