

## Kongres Container

# Netherlands sodium ion energy storage project



## Overview

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Netherlands-based startup Moonwatt plans to commercialise an energy storage solution for hybridisation with solar using two big technological deviations from today's industry standard - we hear more from the firm's CEO and COO. CEO Zukui Hu, CCO Valentin Rota and CTO Guillaume Mancini met with us.

We are excited to announce the STARBATCH project, a collaboration with Nobian, Exergy Storage, the University of Twente and ISPT. The project aims to develop a new battery technology using sodium instead of lithium. In addition to developing the technology needed for the energy transition, the project will also focus on the commercialisation of the technology.

Founded by former Tesla leaders, Amsterdam-based Moonwatt is taking a novel approach to sodium-ion battery technology, optimizing it for colocation with solar power plants. The company has raised \$8.3 million in seed funding to accelerate its growth, with plans for a pilot installation in Europe.

Amsterdam-based startup Moonwatt has raised €8 million to further develop its energy storage system utilizing sodium-ion battery technology. The growth of renewable energies over the last decade has created a surging demand for better energy storage solutions. While lithium-ion (Li-ion) technology is the dominant player in the market, sodium-ion technology is emerging as a promising alternative.

The Netherlands is now starting a research project on sodium batteries. Nobian and Exergy Storage, University of Twente and innovation platform ISPT are launching a collaboration in the project STARBATCH - aimed at developing a new battery technology that uses sodium instead of lithium. In addition, the project will also focus on the commercialisation of the technology.

Amsterdam-based Moonwatt, an energy storage startup, has raised €8 million to innovate solar power with its sodium-ion battery system. The funding round was co-led by daphni and LEA Partners, Founders Future, AFI Ventures (by Ventech) and Kima Ventures also participated alongside strategic business. Is the Netherlands launching a research project on sodium batteries?

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Can a new energy storage system use sodium ion battery technology?

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What is a sodium ion battery?

Sodium-ion batteries are suitable for applications in which lower cost is a must, such as battery ESSes.

Can nobian create a new battery value chain in the Netherlands?

The project aims to create a new battery value chain in the Netherlands, from salt extraction to battery production. Coert van Lare, Director of the Renewable and Circular Innovation Program at Nobian: 'Nobian plays a crucial role in the battery value chain by supplying the chemicals that are essential for their production.

Why are sodium ion batteries better than NMC batteries?

This is because LFP, despite being less dense than NMC, contains cheaper raw materials and offers better cycling performance." Sodium-ion batteries are a cost-effective alternative to Li-ion batteries, using sodium instead of lithium. However, these batteries have low energy density (about 140-160 Wh/kg).

Are sodium ion batteries safe?

"In terms of cycling, the typical solar + storage cycling [about 1 to 1.3 cycles per day for 20 years] also fits quite well with sodium-ion cell-cycling performance." Finally, sodium-ion batteries present interesting safety

characteristics, on par or better than Li-ion LFP cells. This means a lower fire risk at the project level, Rota said.

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