

EZASSI SIGNALS

Sodium-Ion Batteries for Stationary Storage and Data Center Backup

Commercial Signals · September 2026

A Commercial watch on whether sodium-ion is becoming a real, purchasable alternative to LFP and lead-acid for stationary storage and data center backup: tax treatment, deliveries against announcements, supply, prices and safety listings. Seven signals from one cycle.

#	SIGNAL	CONFIDENCE	HORIZON	STATUS
1	China's 2% consumption tax on lithium-ion, with sodium-ion exempt through 2028, creates a verifiable but time-bounded and conditional cost wedge	High	Short-term (3–12 months)	Review
2	CATL's Chinese grid-storage delivery window is open, but no shipped GWh have been independently confirmed — the pipeline is large and real, the deliveries are not yet	Medium	Immediate (0–3 months)	Verified
3	North American sodium-ion supply has suffered its only confirmed failure and its next manufacturing milestone is 2027 at the earliest — no domestic cell production exists today	High	Long-term (1–3 years)	Verified
4	Established lithium-ion and LFP manufacturers are adding sodium-ion production lines, signalling category legitimisation rather than a separate challenger market	Medium	Short-term (3–12 months)	Verified
5	Hard-carbon anode supply is a real near-term bottleneck — producers are at capacity limits, but price pressure is squeezing margins and may slow quality investment	Medium	Short-term (3–12 months)	Review
6	Falling lithium carbonate prices in September 2026 are reopening LFP cost space, threatening to close the raw-material advantage sodium-ion had built	Medium	Immediate (0–3 months)	Review
7	Sodium-ion has reached UPS-oriented product announcements and one historical UL 1973 listing, but no independently verified safety-listed sodium-ion UPS product is currently in commercial supply	Medium	Short-term (3–12 months)	Verified

Every signal rests on two or more dated events. Confidence is published as a band. Where a signal sits below High, the reasoning names the evidence that is missing. Status says where the evidence stands: Verified, Review, or Inconclusive — we looked, and the evidence does not yet support a firmer call.

SIGNAL 1 OF 7

China's 2% consumption tax on lithium-ion, with sodium-ion exempt through 2028, creates a verifiable but time-bounded and conditional cost wedge

HIGH Short-term (3–12 months) · Regulatory & Policy Signals · Review

China formally introduced a consumption tax on lithium-ion batteries starting 1 September 2026, rising to 4% in September 2027, while sodium-ion batteries are explicitly exempt through 31 December 2028 — creating a real but expiring and standards-conditional policy advantage for sodium-ion over LFP in the Chinese market.

REASONING

This signal rests on the highest-quality sources in the entire findings: a Bloomberg Tax report on the Ministry of Finance amendment, a PwC China tax newsletter, and an HKTDC trade-policy summary — all independently confirming the same policy structure and the same exemption window. The policy is enacted, not proposed. The signal is grounded rather than speculative. Confidence is not higher because: (a) multiple sources stress the exemption is not automatic and requires national standards compliance and qualifying test reports before first filing, meaning not every sodium-ion product automatically benefits; (b) the exemption expires 31 December 2028 and could be extended, narrowed or lapsed; and (c) the findings provide no cell- or system-level yuan/Wh or dollar/kWh quantification of the actual cost delta the tax creates in practice.

PATTERN

Bloomberg Tax confirmed the Ministry of Finance amendment introducing the sodium-ion battery consumption tax exemption from 1 September 2026 through 31 December 2028. PwC China and HKTDC independently summarised the same framework. PV Magazine reported the lithium-ion rate as 2% from 1 September 2026, rising to 4% from 1 September 2027. A VAT/tax advisory site and PV Magazine both specifically flagged that the exemption requires products to meet applicable national standards and obtain qualifying test reports from recognised inspection bodies before the first filing. An industry analysis noted the exemption has a hard expiry and 'can be extended, narrowed or allowed to lapse.' SMM confirmed the December 31, 2028 deadline.

IMPLICATION

For this watch: in the Chinese market, sodium-ion now has a real, government-enforced cost advantage over LFP for qualifying products through end-2028. This is a meaningful demand-pull signal that should accelerate Chinese grid-storage deployments. However, the advantage does not reach the North American or European UPS/data-center market, is conditional on standards compliance, and disappears at end-2028 unless renewed. It also does not by itself establish price parity in dollar/kWh terms because the tax rate applies to a price not yet benchmarked in the findings.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Monitor the Chinese national standards (GB/T series) that gate the tax exemption — specifically which sodium-ion cell formats and applications qualify — and track whether CATL's Tener Sodium or HiNa's NE170 have filed and received qualifying test reports, as those filings would confirm commercial readiness under the

exemption. Note: The original signal attributed the exemption announcement to a Chinese State Council source; that attribution has been removed because the web evidence contradicts it. Verify the precise originating authority (e.g. Ministry of Finance, State Taxation Administration, or State Council) for the exemption policy to ensure the remaining source attributions are accurate.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [SMM: Sodium-ion battery included in the strengthened list during the 15th Five-Year Plan](#) — Confirms December 31, 2028 as the exemption deadline and identifies the lithium carbonate price trajectory as a competing factor.
- [VAT Update: Consumption tax introduced on lithium-ion batteries and solar cells](#) — Specifies that the sodium-ion exemption is not automatic and requires national-standard compliance and a qualifying test report before first filing.
- [Battery-Tech.net: Why China Is Taxing Lithium-Ion Batteries Again—and Handing Sodium-Ion a Two-Year Head Start](#) — Industry analysis noting the exemption has a hard expiry date and could be extended, narrowed, or lapsed.
- [\[PDF\] Resumption of consumption tax on certain battery products](#) — Establishes that PwC China independently summarized a consumption tax framework on battery products.
- [HKTDC: China Adjusts Consumption Tax Policy for Certain Batteries](#) — Fourth independent source confirming the same exemption language and dates.
- [PV Magazine: China restores 2% lithium-ion battery tax after 11-year exemption](#) — Confirms the specific tax rates (2% from September 2026, 4% from September 2027) and the standards/test-report condition on the sodium-ion exemption.
- [Bloomberg Tax: China MoF amendments to consumption tax on batteries](#) — Independent confirmation of the Ministry of Finance amendment and the specific sodium-ion exemption window.
- [PwC China Tax News 2026 Q3](#) — Professional tax advisory independently corroborating the exemption structure and its applicability to sodium-ion batteries.

SIGNAL 2 OF 7

CATL's Chinese grid-storage delivery window is open, but no shipped GWh have been independently confirmed — the pipeline is large and real, the deliveries are not yet

MEDIUM Immediate (0–3 months) · Commercial & Market Signals · Verified

CATL announced first Chinese customer deliveries for September 2026 with a 1 GWh year-end target, backed by a 60 GWh supply agreement with HyperStrong and a 5 GWh European deployment plan with Alfen, but none of these translate into independently verified shipped volume as of the research date.

REASONING

The commercial pipeline behind this signal is large and comes from a credible primary source (CATL's own press releases) and corroborated by trade press. The CATL-HyperStrong 60 GWh agreement and the CATL-Alfen 5 GWh European deployment plan are substantial commercial commitments that go beyond vague intent. However, confidence is held at Medium because: this watch demands deliveries against announcements as the most decisive test; no source in the findings confirms that any September 2026 delivery actually occurred, names a delivered project, or discloses shipped kWh; and the European Alfen deployment is reported as scheduled to begin in 2027. The signal is therefore 'real but unconfirmed at the decisive threshold.'

PATTERN

CATL stated it would begin delivering sodium-ion energy-storage systems to Chinese customers in September 2026 with cumulative shipments expected to reach 1 GWh by end-2026, and that international deliveries were scheduled to begin in June 2027. CATL and HyperStrong announced a three-year 60 GWh sodium-ion supply agreement. CATL and Alfen announced plans to deploy 5 GWh in Europe, with other reporting indicating European deployments were scheduled to begin in 2027. CATL's Tener Sodium system was separately confirmed for formal September 2026 Chinese delivery, with the international timeline again set at June 2027. A June 2026 CarNewsChina report attributed CATL statements that sodium-battery shipments were expected to reach GWh scale during 2026. A CATL press release described the Tener Sodium as 'field-validated.' None of the sources found confirms actual delivered volume, a named commissioned project, or shipped GWh.

IMPLICATION

For this watch: CATL's September 2026 delivery window is the most important near-term verification point. If deliveries are confirmed with named projects and GWh figures in October-November 2026 reporting, this becomes the decisive signal that Chinese grid-scale sodium-ion is real and purchasable — the necessary precondition for the technology eventually reaching UPS and data-center supply chains. If the delivery window slips or no independent confirmation emerges, the risk is that announced volumes are being confused with contracted ones.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Monitor CATL's Q3 2026 earnings call and any post-September project commissioning announcements in China for the first independently named sodium-ion grid-storage delivery with a disclosed GWh figure — that would be the trigger event this watch is looking for.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [CATL: First sodium-ion storage deliveries announcement](#) — Primary CATL source stating September 2026 first customer deliveries and 1 GWh year-end cumulative target, with international deliveries from June 2027.
- [CATL: 60 GWh sodium-ion supply agreement with HyperStrong](#) — Documents the largest announced sodium-ion supply commitment, establishing the scale of the commercial pipeline even though no shipped GWh are confirmed.
- [ESS News: Alfen and CATL partner to deploy 5 GWh of sodium-ion storage in Europe](#) — Signals European integrator engagement with CATL sodium-ion, but confirms deployment is planned rather than completed.
- [Battery-News.de: Alfen and CATL plan 5 GWh sodium-ion battery storage deployment in Europe](#) — Confirms European deployments are scheduled to begin in 2027, not 2026, distinguishing plan from delivery.
- [XenoSpectrum: CATL Tener Sodium grid storage timeline](#) — Corroborates the September 2026 Chinese delivery date and June 2027 international delivery schedule.
- [CarNewsChina: CATL to deliver first sodium-ion storage systems in September](#) — Attributes CATL statements that sodium-battery shipments were expected to reach GWh scale during 2026.
- [PR Newswire: CATL debuts world's first field-validated sodium-ion BESS](#) — CATL's own characterisation of the Tener Sodium as field-validated — the strongest language in the findings, but still from the manufacturer rather than an independent delivery report.

SIGNAL 3 OF 7

North American sodium-ion supply has suffered its only confirmed failure and its next manufacturing milestone is 2027 at the earliest — no domestic cell production exists today

HIGH Long-term (1–3 years) • Infrastructure & Supply Chain Signals • Verified

Natron Energy — the only North American company to have achieved a UL 1973-listed sodium-ion battery — collapsed in September 2025 with WARN-documented layoffs and the abandonment of a planned North Carolina factory; the next North American supply prospect, Peak Energy's Sacramento facility, is scheduled for 2027, and GM's commercial production partnership with Peak is not expected until approximately 2029.

REASONING

Confidence is high because the Natron closure is documented by multiple independent sources including a WARN filing (a legal, regulatory event) and contemporaneous press coverage confirming the specific facility addresses, employee count, and stated cause. The Peak Energy and GM-Peak timelines are manufacturer and media statements rather than operating-plant evidence, but they are consistent across sources and explicitly place commercial production in the future. The combination — one confirmed failure, one 2027 prospect, one 2029 commercial target — constitutes a clear and durable supply-gap signal. This directly answers this watch's question about whether a North American cell supply exists.

PATTERN

Natron Energy permanently closed its Holland, Michigan and Santa Clara, California facilities on 3 September 2025, citing failure to raise sufficient funding. A WARN notice covering 95 employees including 37 at the Holland plant was filed with an August 28 board determination date. Natron's planned approximately 1.4 billion USD North Carolina factory did not proceed. Peak Energy's Sacramento, California facility was announced as a 183,000-square-foot plant with planned annual capacity of up to 4 GWh, with commercial shipments reported as scheduled for Q1 2027 and the facility coming online in 2027. GM was reported to expect commercial production of sodium-ion cells with Peak Energy around 2029.

IMPLICATION

For this watch: there is currently no North American sodium-ion cell plant in commercial production. The only domestic manufacturer that had a UL-listed product is gone. Any sodium-ion UPS or data-center product supplied to North American buyers in the near term will depend on Chinese cells, which exposes buyers to FEOC risks and tariff exposure not addressed in the current findings. This gap is structural, not cyclical, and is unlikely to close before 2027-2029.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

File Peak Energy's Sacramento facility as the primary North American supply watch-point: track its permitting progress, any WARN filings, and whether its Q1 2027 commercial-shipment target is confirmed or slips — any delay would push North American supply further out and increase dependence on Chinese cells.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [Slashdot / AOL: America's first grid-scale sodium-ion battery plant gets its first big test](#) — Reports Peak Energy's first commercial shipments as scheduled for Q1 2027, confirming the facility had not yet shipped commercially during the research period.
- [Carolina Journal: Energy company pulls the plug on operations at 1.4B NC factory](#) — Documents the WARN filing covering 95 employees, including 37 at the Holland, Michigan plant, with the August 27 board determination date — the strongest regulatory evidence of the closure.
- [ESS News: US sodium-ion specialist Natron Energy ceases operations](#) — Confirms Natron's permanent closure, the facility locations, and the stated cause of funding failure.
- [Manufacturing Dive: Natron Energy shuts, halts NC factory plans](#) — Confirms the North Carolina factory plan did not proceed alongside the operational closure.
- [AOL: Sodium-ion batteries another shot](#) — Confirms Peak Energy's California factory is scheduled to come online in 2027.
- [PV Magazine USA: Peak Energy to build 4 GWh grid-scale sodium-ion BESS factory in California](#) — Describes the Sacramento facility plan as the next North American sodium-ion manufacturing prospect, with announced 4 GWh annual capacity.
- [CNBC: GM plans US battery development as DOT attacks Ford-China ties](#) — Reports GM expects to launch commercial production of sodium-ion battery cells with Peak Energy around 2029, placing the earliest credible North American commercial cell supply at that date.

SIGNAL 4 OF 7

Established lithium-ion and LFP manufacturers are adding sodium-ion production lines, signalling category legitimisation rather than a separate challenger market

MEDIUM Short-term (3–12 months) · Commercial & Market Signals · Verified

Ronbay has retrofitted 22,000 tonnes of LFP cathode capacity for sodium cathode materials, CBAK is running internal sodium-ion cell tests with a 12 GWh long-term plan, and LG Energy Solution is establishing a sodium-ion mother line in South Korea — together indicating that sodium-ion is being absorbed into existing battery manufacturing ecosystems rather than built by dedicated startups.

REASONING

Each of these three events is independently reported and comes from named, established manufacturers — not unknown entrants. Taken individually, each could be dismissed as exploratory. Taken together, they form a distinct pattern: incumbent battery makers are hedging into sodium-ion using existing capital assets, which is a lower-risk, faster-to-scale path than greenfield startup construction. This matters for this watch because it suggests sodium-ion's path to the UPS market may run through existing UPS-qualified vendors adding a sodium-ion line, rather than through new entrants building certification from scratch. Confidence is not higher because all three are planned or early-stage activities — no commercial shipments from these lines have been confirmed in the findings.

PATTERN

Ronbay was reported to have retrofitted 22,000 tonnes of LFP-related production capacity for sodium cathode materials at facilities in Guizhou and Hubei, targeting 28,000 tonnes of sodium cathode production in 2026 and planning a dedicated 300,000-tonne line for construction from H2 2026 through 2027. CBAK reported internal test results for a 32140 NH-7Ah full-tab sodium-ion cell and outlined a long-term plan for 12 GWh of annual sodium-ion production capacity on lines compatible with existing lithium-ion production. LG Energy Solution was reported to be establishing a sodium-ion battery mother line at its Ochang Energy Plant by end-2026, with a pilot line already operating at its Nanjing plant, partly motivated by reducing dependence on China.

IMPLICATION

For this watch: if incumbent manufacturers with existing UL-listed product portfolios — particularly a company like LG — eventually qualify sodium-ion cells through their existing safety-certification pipelines, the path to a UPS-qualified sodium-ion product shortens significantly. Ronbay's LFP-line retrofitting also signals that sodium-ion cathode supply is not being built in isolation — it is parasitic on, and therefore partially de-risked by, the proven LFP supply chain. Watch for LG or a Korean peer to announce a sodium-ion product seeking UL 1973 certification.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Track LG Energy Solution's Ochang mother-line progress and whether any LG sodium-ion cell format is submitted for UL 1973 or IEC 62619 certification — that would be the first signal of a non-Chinese, potentially FEOC-compliant sodium-ion cell entering the qualification pipeline for stationary storage.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [**Net Zero Age: Sodium-ion batteries approach their LFP moment**](#) — Reports Ronbay's retrofit of 22,000 tonnes of LFP cathode capacity for sodium cathode production, the 28,000-tonne 2026 target, and the planned dedicated 300,000-tonne line.
- [**Business Insider Markets: CBAK reports sodium-ion cell tests and 12 GWh plan**](#) — Documents CBAK's internal sodium-ion testing and the 12 GWh long-term production plan on lines compatible with lithium-ion manufacturing.
- [**ChemAnalyst: LG Energy Solution to set up sodium-ion battery mother line**](#) — The most significant non-Chinese manufacturing signal: an established global cell maker establishing a sodium-ion mother line by end-2026, partly motivated by reducing China dependence.

SIGNAL 5 OF 7

Hard-carbon anode supply is a real near-term bottleneck — producers are at capacity limits, but price pressure is squeezing margins and may slow quality investment

MEDIUM Short-term (3–12 months) • Infrastructure & Supply Chain Signals • Review

Chinese hard-carbon producers were reported at approximately 100% utilization in July 2026 with year-over-year output up 101%, while simultaneously facing 'fiercely competitive' selling prices and thin or negative margins — creating a structural tension between the supply growth needed to scale sodium-ion and the economic conditions discouraging that investment.

REASONING

The signal rests on two SMM reports — a specialist metals-market data provider — that are internally consistent and mutually reinforcing: one reports the capacity constraint from the demand side, and the other identifies the margin pressure from the price side. The combination of high utilization, low inventory, and collapsing margins is a classic materials-market stress signal. Confidence is not higher because the findings are SMM industry analyses, not audited production or trade data, the figures are Chinese domestic in scope, and the key utilization, production, and margin figures could not be independently verified in public sources reviewed for this signal.

PATTERN

SMM reported that July 2026 hard-carbon anode production increased approximately 4% month-over-month and approximately 101% year-over-year, that mainstream producers were approaching 100% utilization, and that further growth depended on new capacity releases; inventories were reported as low, with finished products generally shipped immediately — though these figures have not been independently verified in public sources reviewed. SMM separately stated that global annual supply of coconut-shell-based hard carbon is less than 80,000 metric tons, establishing a potential structural scale ceiling — this figure could not be confirmed in independently reviewed public sources. A third SMM report described hard-carbon selling prices as 'fiercely competitive,' with producers described as operating under severe margin pressure — again sourced to SMM analysis not independently verified in the sources reviewed for this signal.

IMPLICATION

For this watch: hard-carbon supply is a reported constraint on rapid sodium-ion scaling, particularly for high-cycle-life applications (long-cycle hard carbon was identified as the most constrained segment). Thin producer margins may slow capacity investment precisely when demand is accelerating, reproducing the same commoditization dynamic that has periodically undermined lithium-ion anode suppliers. For data-center UPS applications requiring high cycle life, this reported bottleneck in premium hard carbon is directly relevant to whether claimed 15,000-cycle products can be manufactured at scale.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Monitor hard-carbon spot prices from SMM and any announcements of new hard-carbon capacity from non-coconut-shell feedstock sources (e.g., biomass, resin-derived) as indicators of whether the bottleneck is

resolving or intensifying as CATL's delivery ramp begins. Verify the SMM utilization, production growth, margin, and coconut-shell supply figures against primary trade data before treating them as established facts.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [SMM: Sodium-ion battery included in the strengthened list during the 15th Five-Year Plan](#) — Reports the less-than-80,000-metric-ton global coconut-shell hard-carbon supply ceiling per SMM analysis, suggesting a structural scale constraint on sodium-ion production; figure not independently verified in public sources reviewed.
- [SMM: Sodium-ion battery competitive landscape — cathode shortage persists, hard-carbon anode margins under pressure](#) — Reports price-margin compression in the hard-carbon market per SMM analysis; the co-occurrence of cathode material supply stress is noted in the SMM source title but could not be independently verified in public sources reviewed.
- [SMM: China sodium-ion battery market — robust demand fuels capacity expansion in July](#) — Reports near-100% utilization, approximately 101% year-over-year production growth, and the expectation that the supply bottleneck would persist into August 2026, per SMM industry analysis.

SIGNAL 6 OF 7

Falling lithium carbonate prices in September 2026 are reopening LFP cost space, threatening to close the raw-material advantage sodium-ion had built

MEDIUM Immediate (0–3 months) • Commercial & Market Signals • Review

Battery-grade lithium carbonate declined in the first half of September 2026, and SMM analysis estimates this translates to roughly 14-16 yuan per kWh of cost reduction space for LFP cells — directly eroding the raw-material input advantage that sodium-ion's lithium-free chemistry offered when lithium prices were elevated.

REASONING

The price movement is sourced from SMM, a credible specialist data provider, and the cost-per-kWh translation methodology (tonnes of lithium carbonate per GWh of LFP, times price change) is clearly stated. Confidence is not higher for two reasons: first, the findings reflect a single SMM report for a 17-day price window — not a structural trend — and lithium carbonate prices are notoriously volatile; second, the analysis produces an estimated cost space for LFP, not an actual confirmed price reduction at cell or system level, and no comparable sodium-ion price benchmark exists in the findings to quantify the narrowing gap. However, the mechanism is real: lower lithium carbonate input costs reduce LFP cell costs, and this is precisely the dynamic identified in this watch as having contributed to previous sodium-ion failures.

PATTERN

According to SMM analysis, battery-grade lithium carbonate prices declined in the first half of September 2026 — the precise index level on 1 September could not be confirmed in public sources as of September 2026 and should be treated as unconfirmed. SMM reportedly found that its battery-grade lithium carbonate index fell to 133,148 yuan per metric ton by 17 September 2026, though the full extent of the decline from the start of the month remains unconfirmed in independently reviewed sources. SMM estimated that, based on roughly 550 metric tons of lithium carbonate consumed per GWh of LFP, every 10,000 yuan per metric ton change in lithium prices corresponds to approximately 5.5-6 yuan per kWh in LFP cell cost, and that the reported decline theoretically creates approximately 14-16 yuan per kWh of cost space for LFP cells. A separate report benchmarked domestic 314 Ah LFP energy-storage cells at approximately 0.365 yuan per Wh in August 2026, providing the LFP reference price against which any widening or narrowing of the gap should be measured.

IMPLICATION

For this watch: if lithium carbonate prices continue to fall through late 2026, LFP manufacturers have room to lower cell prices, which could neutralise or reverse the cost advantage that sodium-ion has been building through materials substitution and the new China tax exemption. This is not yet a decisive reversal — the tax exemption creates an offsetting advantage for sodium-ion in China — but a sustained lithium carbonate decline combined with competitive hard-carbon anode margins could put sodium-ion back in a position where the economics do not compel procurement officers to switch.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Establish a monitoring threshold: if battery-grade lithium carbonate falls below 100,000 yuan per metric ton and holds for more than 30 days, trigger a reassessment of whether the sodium-ion cost advantage survives the China consumption-tax exemption period in a realistic procurement scenario.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [SMM: Sodium-ion battery included in the strengthened list during the 15th Five-Year Plan](#) — Documents a lithium carbonate price decline in the first half of September 2026 and the SMM methodology for translating that decline into LFP cell cost reduction space of approximately 14-16 yuan per kWh.
- [CarNewsChina: China is gradually phasing out subsidies for new energy vehicles](#) — Provides the August 2026 LFP 314 Ah energy-storage cell price benchmark of approximately 0.365 yuan per Wh, the reference price against which any sodium-ion gap narrowing should be assessed.

SIGNAL 7 OF 7

Sodium-ion has reached UPS-oriented product announcements and one historical UL 1973 listing, but no independently verified safety-listed sodium-ion UPS product is currently in commercial supply

MEDIUM Short-term (3–12 months) · Regulatory & Policy Signals · Verified

Supplier pages and a product announcement claim UL certifications and a UPS-cabinet application for sodium-ion, but the only verified UL 1973-listed sodium-ion battery for data-center use (Natron's BlueTray 4000, announced 2020) came from a company that has since ceased operations, and no current product carries an independently verifiable UL Product iQ listing in the findings.

REASONING

This signal is intentionally limited in scope: it does not assert that no sodium-ion UPS listing exists in the world, only that the findings do not surface one currently active. The Natron 2020 UL 1973 announcement is the only independently credible, source-backed listing event — and it comes from a company that subsequently failed. The Coulomb Technology and BenAn Energy items are supplier claims that lack UL Product iQ confirmation numbers. Confidence is held at Medium because the evidence base is thin on the positive side (only one verified historical listing, now orphaned) and the absence of current listings in the findings is a search outcome, not a confirmed market fact — a product could exist that the search did not surface. The signal is still worth emitting because the gap between marketing claims and verifiable listings is itself analytically meaningful for procurement decision-makers.

PATTERN

Natron Energy announced in September 2020 that its BlueTray 4000 was the first sodium-ion battery to receive a UL 1973 certification, intended for data centers and telecom facilities, with disclosed UL 9540A fire-test results. Natron subsequently ceased operations in September 2025. Coulomb Technology's 279V Series DC product page claims UL 1973, UL 9540, UL 9540A, UN 38.3, and IEC 62619 compliance, but provides no independently verifiable UL Product iQ listing number in the findings. BenAn Energy announced the RockNa sodium-ion battery cabinet as a UPS backup-power solution in August 2026, but the source provides no UL listing, no UPS-vendor qualification, and no named data-center customer. UL 9540A testing criteria were reported to now include non-lithium technologies including sodium-ion, confirming the standards framework is available — but no sodium-ion product with an active listing was identified in the findings.

IMPLICATION

For this watch: the UPS and data-center backup segment remains the decisive gap. The standards framework exists and has been applied once (Natron). The next trigger event is a currently-operating manufacturer achieving and publicly disclosing a UL Product iQ-verifiable UL 1973 or UL 9540 listing for a sodium-ion product, followed by a named UPS vendor integrating it. Until that happens, sodium-ion cannot be specified by a procurement team for a data-center backup application in a jurisdiction requiring UL compliance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Run a direct UL Product iQ search for active UL 1973 and UL 9540 listings under sodium-ion cell chemistry, filtering for listings dated 2025 onward, to determine whether any of the supplier claims in the findings correspond to real active certificates — this is the single most decisive verification step available.

SOURCES & WHAT THEY SIGNAL

- [**Business Wire: Natron Energy announces first-ever UL-listed sodium-ion battery**](#) — The only verified UL 1973-listed sodium-ion battery in the findings, intended for data centers — but from a company that has since ceased operations.
- [**BenAn Energy: RockNa sodium-ion battery cabinet for UPS backup power**](#) — A direct product announcement targeting UPS backup power — the category this watch focuses on — but without a UL listing, vendor qualification, or named customer.
- [**Coulomb Technology: 279V Series DC sodium-ion battery product page**](#) — A current supplier page claiming UL 1973, UL 9540, UL 9540A, and IEC 62619 certifications for a DC battery product, but without a verifiable UL Product iQ listing number in the findings.
- [**US sodium ion specialist Natron Energy ceases operations**](#) — Confirms that US sodium-ion battery specialist Natron Energy ceased operations in September 2025.
- [**ESS News: Fire safety — UL Solutions tests thermal runaway to new UL 9540A standard**](#) — Confirms that the UL 9540A testing framework now explicitly covers non-lithium chemistries including sodium-ion, establishing that the certification path exists even though no active sodium-ion listing was found.

PUT A WATCH ON YOUR QUESTION

A watch on your question runs every cycle.

These signals came from one cycle of a standing watch. Name a company, a market or a regulation, and the watch keeps running whether or not anyone opens the platform. Every signal arrives rated for confidence and horizon, with the dated events behind it and the sources that carry the weight.

See all the samples and tell us your question at ezassi.com/ezassi-signals-sample-library.

info@ezassi.com • ezassi.com