

May 19-20, 2026 | Chicago

Sodium-Ion Energy Storage & Battery Symposium

Achieving Scale: Innovation, Integration and Impact

Sodium-ion battery innovation is accelerating. In energy storage applications as well as next-gen EV batteries, sodium-ion is increasingly seen as a cost-effective, safer, and more sustainable alternative -- thanks to abundant sodium-based raw materials and favorable performance in stationary and hot-climate duty cycles. Indeed, the global sodium-ion battery market was valued at approximately US \$270 million in 2024, and is forecast to grow at a CAGR of ~26% from 2025 to 2034, reaching around US \$2.7 billion by 2034.*

To help industry stakeholders realize this opportunity, the **Sodium-Ion Energy Storage & Battery Symposium**, May 19-20, 2026 in Chicago, brings together the full value chain -- materials innovators, manufacturers, system integrators, utilities, and investors -- to explore how sodium-ion can scale, integrate, and impact the energy-storage and EV battery landscape. If your organization is involved in storage for e-mobility or grid-scale applications, this is a unique deep-dive into promise and progress of sodium-ion advances.

Topics to be Addressed Include:

Innovation in sodium-ion cell chemistry:

Cathodes (layered oxides, Prussian white), anodes (hard carbon), electrolytes & temperature stability

Manufacturing and scale-up:

Production readiness, cost curves, supply-chain resilience, quality assurance

System integration & deployment:

Pack design, BMS architecture, safety & certification, thermal management, utility-scale use cases

Advances for EV battery applications:

Technology developments positioning sodium-ion as a key enabler for affordable, mass-market EVs

Utility and grid perspectives:

Long-duration storage use cases, renewables firming, frequency regulation, sub-station reinforcement

Commercialization & financing:

Bankability criteria, warranty/performance guarantees, project financing pathways, risk mitigation

Symposium Audience:

- Battery-materials researchers and developers
- Cell and module manufacturers
- System integrators, BESS OEMs and EPC contractors
- Utilities, IPPs, grid operators and transmission/distribution executives
- Investors, financiers, and project-developers focused on energy-storage opportunities
- Policy-makers, regulators, and industry-association representatives interested in emerging storage technologies
- Consultants and strategic advisors serving the energy-storage, battery, and grid markets

Organized by



<https://na-ion-symposium.com>

Preliminary Agenda *(Note: subject to change)*

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Pre-Symposium TechBriefing:

Pre-Symposium TechBriefing: Grid-Scale Energy Storage and EV Battery Alternatives — Technologies, Market Drivers, and the Road to Cost Parity

This TechBriefing provides a context for the Symposium by discussing the evolving landscape of technology alternatives for grid-scale storage and EV batteries. From lithium-ion to sodium-ion, flow, and thermal systems, this briefing examines cost trajectories, policy incentives, and deployment trends shaping market adoption of various technology strategies. Learn how technology performance, Inflation Reduction Act incentives, and real-world project data are redefining competitiveness and bankability in large-scale energy storage -- as well as in next-gen batteries for electric vehicles.

5:00 - 6:00 pm Reception -- *Open to all Symposium attendees*

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 am Welcome Breakfast and Registration

9:00 - 9:30 am Opening Address -- From Lab to Grid: The Advance of Sodium-Ion Storage

A discussion of the accelerating emergence of sodium-ion technology as a viable, cost-effective alternative to lithium-ion systems. The session highlights recent breakthroughs, supply-chain resilience, and sodium's role in supporting global energy security and grid reliability.

9:30 - 10:30 am Comparing Chemistries: Sodium-Ion vs. Lithium-Ion for Utility and EV Applications

This session explores the comparative performance of sodium-ion and lithium-ion batteries across key metrics—energy density, safety, lifecycle cost, and resource availability. Field data from early demonstration projects and SIB EVs will illustrate evolving performance curves and cost competitiveness.

10:30 - 11:00 am Networking Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:15 pm A Sodium-Ion Breakthroughs: Chemistry, Materials, and Manufacturing Pathways for a Scalable Future

A deep dive into the electrochemical innovations driving sodium-ion's performance gains. Panelists will discuss layered oxide and Prussian white cathodes, hard carbon anodes, electrolyte optimization, and temperature stability. Emphasis will be placed on scalability, cost reduction, and sustainability in material sourcing.

12:15 - 1:15 pm Lunch Break

1:15 - 2:30 pm Advances in Sodium-Ion Batteries for EVs

This session explores research advances and technology developments driving higher energy density, improved safety, and better cold-weather performance. Panelists will compare sodium-ion with LFP and LMFP chemistries, highlight early OEM adoption, and examine cost, sustainability, and supply-chain benefits positioning sodium-ion as a key enabler for affordable, mass-market electric vehicles.

2:30 - 3:00 pm **Networking Coffee Break**

3:00 - 4:00 pm Designing and Deploying Utility-Scale Systems: Engineering, Integration, and Use Cases

This discussion focuses on the practical realities of deploying sodium-ion systems at multi-MWh scale. Engineers and integrators will share insights on pack design, BMS architecture, safety validation, and thermal management. A key focus will be grid-scale use cases — including renewables firming, long-duration storage, frequency regulation, peak shaving, and substation reinforcement — highlighting why sodium-ion is particularly suited for hot-climate, stationary, and long-cycle applications.

4:00 - 5:00 pm Path to Commercialization: Bridging R&D, Manufacturing, and Utility Demand

An interactive panel discussion exploring the challenges and opportunities in commercializing sodium-ion at scale. Panelists will discuss performance guarantees, bankability criteria, certification hurdles, and project financing pathways.

5:00 - 6:00 pm Reception

Speaking Opportunities

Individuals who wish to speak in one of the above sessions are invited to submit the following:

1. Name of speaker, title, company, and contact information
2. Presentation title
3. Abstract of presentation
4. Speaker biography and photo
5. Bullet list of 3-4 Key Learning Points

Proposals should be emailed to speak@smartgridobserver.com by **Friday, February 6, 2026**

We ask that proposals be non-commercial in nature. Submissions will be carefully reviewed by the Program Advisory Group to ensure depth and relevance to the program. Presentations that emphasize case studies, best practices, and real-world data are encouraged.

For further information or to discuss a possible presentation, feel free to contact us.



Previous Attendees at Recent SGO Forums on Storage and EV Topics Include:

- AARGO EVsmart
- ABB
- AddEnergie
- AECOM
- Al Masaoood LLC
- Alberta Electric System Operator
- AlphaStruxure
- Amazon
- American Wire Group
- Analytics Fire
- AnnDyl Policy Group
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Atlis Motor Vehicles
- Avivv LLC
- Baltimore Gas & Electric
- Bluewav-ai
- Bolt industries
- BorgWarner Inc.
- Boston Consulting Group
- bp pulse
- British Consulate-General, Houston
- Bronzeville Partners LLC
- Burns & McDonnell
- C&H Technology Inc.
- California Energy Commission
- Canadian Electricity Association
- Carleton University
- Catalyze
- CEATI International
- Centre for Environment, Human Rights & Development Forum
- CENTROSUR
- Chapel Hill Transit
- ChargeHub | Mogile Technologies Inc.
- ChargePoint
- Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
- CIBC Capital Markets
- City of Anaheim Public Utilities
- City of Chicago
- CityVitae
- Clark University
- Commonwealth Edison
- Concordia Group
- Core One Consulting USA
- County of Los Angeles
- Cox Enterprises
- Customized Energy Solutions
- Danlaw Inc.
- Deepsea Developments
- Duke University
- Eaton
- Ecoenergi, LLC
- ecoPreserve
- Electric Conduit Construction
- Electric Power Board of Chattanooga
- Electrify America
- Enel X
- ESource
- EV Connect
- Fermata Energy
- Flash
- FMI Capital Advisors
- Ford Motor Company
- Francis Energy
- Franklin Electric
- Fullerton Engineering
- General Motors
- George Washington University
- Geotab
- Green Job Builders Inc
- Green Spark
- Green Ways 2 Go
- GTI Energy
- Guidehouse Insights
- Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative
- HARTING
- Hawthorne CAT Power Systems
- HBK Engineering
- HEMBUS
- HP Legacy
- Hunt Energy Solutions
- IEEE Chicago Section
- Illinois Commerce Commission
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Finance Authority
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Indiana Toll Road Concession Company
- Interstate Renewable Energy Council
- Inyo Energy
- Itron
- JCREMC
- Jitney EV
- Keysight Technologies
- Kiewit
- Kitu Systems
- KPMG
- Landis+Gyr
- Leidos
- Locusview
- Lubrizol Corp
- Megavolt
- Meruelo Enterprises Inc
- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- Microgrid Labs
- NACFE
- NARUC
- New Flyer of America
- New York Institute of Technology
- Nextech Energy Systems
- NextEnergy
- Niroo Research Institute
- Nissan North America
- Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC)
- NV Energy
- Omaha Public Power District
- Ondevan Campervan
- Own Engineering
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Peyser Associates LLC
- Phoenix Mecano
- Pieper Electric
- Plugged in Strategies
- Port of Seattle
- Powering Chicago
- Promise, Inc.
- Prism Energy Services
- Puget Sound Energy
- PureB2B
- Purolator
- Quality Logic
- R3
- Resilient Power
- Rivian Automotive
- S&C Electric Company
- Salt River Project
- Schneider Electric
- SenKox Technologies
- Shared-Use Mobility Center
- Sicame North America
- Siemens
- Siemens Mobility
- SIR Capital Management
- Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative
- Southern California Edison
- Spinetic
- Stanford University
- Sternberg Lighting
- Sustainable Power Solutions
- Syracuse University
- The Brattle Group
- The Harbinger Group
- Touchstone Energy
- Tundra Process Solutions
- United Airlines
- U.S. Gain
- Ugesi Energy
- University of Illinois - Chicago
- UK Department for International Trade
- United Power
- Universal Air Filter
- University of Queensland
- University of San Diego
- University of Wisconsin
- Vellore Institute of Technology
- Vincere
- Volta Charging
- Washington CORE, L.L.C
- WeaveGrid
- WEC Energy Group
- WEL Networks
- West Monroe Partners
- Weston Solutions, Inc.
- Wieland Electric
- WiTricity
- Wood Mackenzie
- Xcel Energy

Sponsorship Packages

- Tabletop exhibit space
 - 3 complimentary Standard passes
 - Panel speaking or moderator slot
 - Top-level logo visibility in on-site signage, on event website and in all marketing communications
 - Top-level logo recognition throughout the Symposium, during breaks and session introductions
 - White paper or executive interview published on event website
 - Attendee list and copy of presentation PDFs
 - Corporate description with link on "Sponsors" page
 - Post-Symposium communication with attendees
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- Tabletop exhibit space
 - 2 complimentary Standard passes
 - Attendee list and copy of presentation PDFs
 - White paper or executive interview published on event website
 - Prominent logo visibility in on-site signage, on event website and in all marketing communications
 - Prominent logo visibility throughout the Symposium, during breaks and session introductions
 - Corporate description with link on "Sponsors" page
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- 1 complimentary Standard pass
 - Attendee list and copy of presentation PDFs
 - Prominent logo visibility in on-site signage, on event website and in all marketing communications
 - Prominent logo recognition throughout the Symposium, during breaks and session introductions
 - Corporate description with link on "Sponsors" page
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Lanyard Sponsor (one available) **Platinum - \$5,500**
Same deliverables as Gold above, plus logo on attendee lanyards

Reception Sponsor (one available) **Platinum - \$5,500**
Same deliverables as Gold above, plus logo acknowledgement (e.g., tent cards and signage) as sponsor of drink receptions on May 19 and 20.

To arrange your participation, contact:
Daniel Coran, Program Manager, dcoran@smartgridobserver.com

About the Organizer



The Smart Grid Observer is an weekly e-newsletter serving the global smart energy industry. SGO organizes a number conferences each year on topics such as EV charging, V2G, industrial control systems cybersecurity, microgrids, EV batteries, and next-gen smart grid technologies. For a list of upcoming and recent Forums, visit <https://smartgridobserver.com/events>

Sponsors of Recent SGO Events Include:



Registration

<https://na-ion-symposium.com/register>

Registration includes access to all sessions, lunches, coffee breaks, and drink receptions on May 20, as well as pre-Symposium TechBriefing on May 19. Includes presentation PDFs and attendee list.

Early Bird Standard -- Equipment and software providers, consultants, OEMs and services providers \$695.00
Available until April 17, 2026 -- \$895.00 afterwards

Early Bird Non-Profit -- Academic, government, military, students and other non-profits \$595.00
Available until April 17, 2026 -- \$795.00 afterwards *.org, .edu, .gov, or .mil email address required*

Event Venue



Chicago Executive Conference Center 205 W. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Located in downtown Chicago's Loop, the Conference Center is steps away from the city's magnificent lakefront with world-renowned Millennium and Grant Parks, marvelous museums, restaurants and retail shopping.

[>> Directions in Google Maps](#)

[>> Nearby Hotels](#)



Sample Feedback on Recent SGO Forums:



I enjoyed this conference - it exceeded my expectations! I liked best the mix of utility and vendor participants
- Eric Lambert, EV Charging Product Manager, Hubbell

Great diversity of companies and good speech topics. Nice variety.
- Benjamin Spiro, Business Development American Wire Group



Excellent and informative
- Jack McElligott, Emergency Fuel Management, Macro Logistics

Great presentations and variety of topics covered - great mix of thought leaders
- Pat McGinnis, Chief Strategy Officer, Tweddle Group



The Summit was great - informative and productive. The participants are deeply involved and fit the topic
- Palina Leibinskaya, CEO & Founder, TimeTick

I thought the conference was overall great due to the structure of the event and the diversity of presentations. *- Jack van Schoonenberg, Account Manager, Keysight Technologies*



Very good conference -- the format kept things moving.
- Rex Peckens, Director of Trades Technology, Lansing Community College

This has truly been an excellent experience in every way - well organized, well-rounded agenda, excellent speakers and good exhibits. There really wasn't anything that was not high quality at this conference. This was not only extremely informative but truly an exciting forum experience.
- Larisa Dobriansky, Chief Business & Policy Innovation Officer, General Microgrids