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The Company:

Natron Energy is a battery technology start up company that has developed unique hardware solutions delivering high power, long cycle life, and industry-leading safety at a very low cost. Natron's battery packs can be fully discharged in as little as one minute and fully recharged in less than ten minutes. They have a proven deep discharge cycle life of over sixty thousand cycles. They are nonflammable, contain no lead or acid, and survive electrical faults with no damage. These characteristics result in a unique value proposition for stationary applications including data center UPS, fast charge forklifts, EV fast charging support, and behind-the-meter grid applications. Today, Natron's rack mounted battery packs are in customer validation testing by world leading system integrators and data center operators.

To achieve this unique performance, Natron developed a new battery cell chemistry based on Prussian blue electrodes and a sodium-ion electrolyte. Prussian blue is a commodity consumer product pigment that has a unique crystal structure capable of absorbing and releasing charge more rapidly and reversibly than any other battery electrode. Natron's proprietary grades of Prussian blue delivery world class battery performance from a materials commodity retailing at 1/10th the cost of conventional electrode materials.

Natron is headquartered in Santa Clara, California. It has forty employees. Natron is backed by four leading venture capital firms and has received support from ARPA-E.

The Position:

Natron seeks a Process Chemist to assist with the scale-up of its anode and cathode synthesis processes from lab scale to full production scale at contract manufacturers. The person in this position will act as the bridge between Natron's internal materials development team and manufacturing partners for the production of the active electrode materials used in Natron's batteries. Once full-scale partners are established, this person will work closely with manufacturing partners to provide technical guidance for securing and maintaining a steady supply of anode and cathode materials, including ongoing quality improvement and cost reduction. Qualified candidates have prior hands-on lab experience with bench-scale and pilot scale synthesis of fine chemical compounds, as well as fine chemical synthesis at full production scale. The person for this position has a positive attitude, collaborates well, and does what it takes to get the job done.

Responsibilities:

- Contribute to the development of scalable synthesis processes in Natron's lab and bench-scale operations by providing an industrial perspective to guide development trials directed at scale-up.
- Prepare technology transfer documents for contract manufacturers (CM) and review/approve batch instructions, operating procedures, and batch record documents prepared by CMs.
- Contribute to the evaluation and selection of potential CM partners in North America and Asia.
- Lead the technology transfer activities and provide Natron-specific training of CM partners.
- Establish product quality assurance procedures and acceptance criteria with CM partners.
- Monitor all internal Natron qualifications of batches made by CM partners, follow up and troubleshoot quality problems, drive continuous improvement and cost reduction at CM partners.

Experience and Skills:

- Prior experience scaling up fine chemical synthesis processes from lab to full production scale.
- Prior data analysis experience with statistical analysis software and statistical process monitoring and improvement methods.
- Strong experience executing laboratory/experimental SOPs.
- Knowledge of industrial chemical synthesis unit operations, especially crystallization, filtration, drying, and powder handling.
- Organized, thorough and has a critical eye for identifying problems.
- Effective communicator verbally, in writing, and in presentations, and comfortable speaking up.
- Has a do-whatever-it-takes attitude, thrives in a fast-paced start up environment and can deliver project deliverables on time.
- A master's degree in chemistry or chemical engineering plus seven years industrial experience, or a bachelor's degree with over 10 years industrial experience.

Logistics:

- Compensation: competitive with experienced materials and chemical engineer positions at Bay Area start-up companies.
- This position is a regular, full-time position.

Contact Information:

- sabrina@pacificsearchfirm.com
- jobs@natron.energy