

## **Natron Energy Expands Management Team with Solar and Battery Veterans to Scale Supply of World's First Commercialized Sodium-Ion Products**

Santa Clara, CA

Natron Energy, the world leader in sodium-ion batteries using Prussian Blue chemistry has retained veteran executive leaders to drive product line and supply chain growth.

Doug Countess joined Natron as Vice President of Operations. Most recently, Mr. Countess was the Vice President of Manufacturing at First Solar, where he led the corporate transition from the Series 4 solar panel to the Series 6 solar panel. Mr. Countess also built and led First Solar's Program Management Office which guided and streamlined new technology development into international high-volume manufacturing. Previously he held various operations roles at Intel and Harley Davidson. He holds an MBA in Operations from Lebanon Valley, a BS in Electrical and Computer System Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and is a Veteran of the United States Navy Pilot program.

"I am thrilled to join Natron and scale manufacturing of this unique battery technology. Unlike many battery products, Natron's technology utilizes industry standard manufacturing techniques, allowing a capital efficient scaleup employing existing manufacturing capacity on a global scale. No manufacturing "miracles" are necessary. Natron is a rare opportunity to build a global supply chain for an energy storage technology with such efficiency and speed, which our customers are demanding," says Mr. Countess.

Paul Krueger joined Natron as VP of Product Engineering, and leads battery hardware product development for datacenter, telecom, and transportation and logistics customers. Most recently, Mr. Krueger was Vice President of Engineering at Lithium Werks. Prior to this, Mr. Krueger was Vice President of Engineering at Valence Technology, also a lithium-ion battery company. In these roles, he was responsible for development and commercialization of battery modules and battery management systems, as well as applications engineering to provide customer technical support. Mr. Krueger has held engineering management and technical procurement roles at Hewlett-Packard, Agilent Technologies, and PMC-Sierra. He has led organizations in taking products from concept to production, managed joint development programs, and has worked extensively with companies and entities internationally. Paul holds a MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

"Natron's sodium-ion chemistry is truly unique and differentiated from anything else on the market. The combination of power density, extreme fast charging, long cycle life, and lack of thermal runaway have never been available in a commercial product. We are shipping our first UL listed product to data center customers today, and the product portfolio we are building will

allow customers to use energy storage in completely new ways to optimize their businesses and products,” says Mr. Krueger.

Collin Wessels, Natron Energy CEO comments, “Natron is thrilled to have Doug and Paul join the management team. Natron has made tremendous progress launching the first commercially available Sodium-ion Prussian blue battery, and with their help we will quickly scale our ability to deliver solutions to our tier-1 clients in the data center, logistics, and EV-fast charging markets.”

### **About Natron Energy**

Natron Energy’s mission is to transform industrial and grid energy storage markets by providing customers with lower cost, longer lasting, more efficient, safer batteries. Natron’s battery products are based on a unique Prussian blue chemistry and can integrate into a wide variety of energy storage applications ranging from critical backup power systems to EV fast charging and behind-the-meter applications.

Natron’s batteries are UL 1973 recognized and have passed rigorous UL 9540A fire testing, offer higher power density, faster recharge and significantly longer cycle life than other energy storage technologies. Natron builds its batteries using commodity materials on existing cell manufacturing lines. Natron is backed by leading venture capital investors including ABB Technology Ventures, Chevron, Khosla Ventures, Nano Dimension, Prelude Ventures and Volta Energy Technologies. To learn more, visit [www.natron.energy](http://www.natron.energy).

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