

## TaiSan raises £4.65m to bring sodium-ion batteries to the mass market

TaiSan – a UK company whose technology could unlock the use of sodium-ion batteries for mass market applications such as electric bikes, scooters, vehicles and power tools – has raised £4.65m.

The round was co-led by Eos Advisory, and the Midlands Engine Investment Fund II through fund manager Mercia Ventures, with participation from AFI Ventures, EverQuest Capital Partners, Adeline Arts & Science, Techmind, angel François Badelon, and existing investors InnoEnergy, TSP Ventures, Exergon, and Heartfelt. Of the total raised, £700,000 came from Innovate UK, which provided grant funding through its Investor Partnerships Programme to match fund part of the private investment.

The funding will enable TaiSan to advance its technology and begin pilot tests with leading manufacturers. The company has signed a number of letters of intent with prospective customers, demonstrating strong market interest.

With concerns about the cost and scarcity of lithium used in conventional batteries, sodium – one of the most abundant elements on Earth – offers an alternative. However, until now sodium-ion batteries have been large and heavy, limiting their use mainly to stationary energy storage.

TaiSan's technology delivers batteries that are lighter and more compact than existing sodium-ion and lithium-ion alternatives, making them suitable for a much broader range of applications. Designed for long service life, the batteries use TaiSan's proprietary solid-state

electrolyte, which is safer than conventional flammable liquid electrolytes.

TaiSan was founded by Sanzhar Taizhan, a former research electrochemist at Jaguar Land Rover and The Faraday Institution. Born in Kazakhstan, where he was a local chess champion, Sanzhar moved to the UK at the age of 18 to study engineering. During his studies he founded and led a team that in three successive years reached the finals of the international Hyperloop competition organised by SpaceX and The Boring Company – a first for an England-based team.

TaiSan has secured multiple innovation grants and raised £1.3m in pre-seed funding to date. The company is positioned to scale rapidly through a capital-efficient business model. Following the latest funding round, the company plans to expand its existing Cambridge laboratory and establish operations in Coventry.

**Sanzhar Taizhan, Founder and CEO, said:** “At TaiSan, we are pushing the limits of electrochemistry in our mission to create more sustainable energy storage. While we’ve kept our most exciting breakthroughs in stealth, this funding will help us enhance the performance of sodium-ion batteries and bring the benefits to a mainstream audience. Watch this space.”

**Shubham Jaipuria, Investment Manager at Mercia Ventures added:** “With a growing battery market, manufacturers are seeking alternative technologies with a more reliable supply chain. TaiSan is well placed to capitalise on this. We believe its innovations will enable widespread take-up of sodium-ion batteries and make them a genuine alternative to standard batteries for many day-to-day applications.”

**Andrew Durkie, Partner at Eos added:** "We are delighted to co-lead this round and support Sanzhar and the TaiSan team as they take this exciting technology to market. Advances in sodium battery technology promise a credible and cost-effective alternative to lithium batteries, whilst addressing supply chain and safety concerns. This is exactly the kind of deep technology innovation, built of world class science and driven by a passionate founder, that we at Eos are dedicated to support."

**ENDS**

**Pictures:** [https://taisan.live/pr\\_seed](https://taisan.live/pr_seed)

**Web-Site:** [www.taisan.co.uk](http://www.taisan.co.uk)

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#### **About Mercia Ventures:**

Mercia Ventures is a proactive venture capital investor focused on being the first-choice partner for growth. Mercia Ventures makes equity investments of up to £10million across all sectors, with specialisms in Software, Consumer, Healthcare and Deep Tech.

Mercia Ventures is part of Mercia Asset Management PLC and sits alongside its wider private equity, debt and proprietary balance sheet capital operations. The Group has 11 offices in the UK and Mercia Ventures' national footprint and 48 strong investment team draws on their experiences as founders, PhD scientists, software engineers, corporate financiers and management consultants to help its partner companies successfully achieve their ambitions.

[www.mercia.co.uk](http://www.mercia.co.uk)

#### **About the Midlands Engine Investment Fund II:**

Operated by the British Business Bank, the Midlands Engine Investment Fund II (MEIF II) provides a mix of debt and equity funding. MEIF II offers a range of commercial finance options with small loans from £25k to £100k, debt finance from £100k to £2m and equity investment up to £5 million. It works alongside the Combined Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), and Growth Hubs, as well as local intermediaries such as accountants, fund managers and banks, to support smaller businesses in the Midlands at all stages of their development.

The funds in which the MEIF II invests are open to businesses with material operations, or planning to open material operations, in the West and East and South Midlands.

Supported by Nations and Regions Investments Limited, a subsidiary of British Business Bank plc, the Bank is a development bank wholly owned by HM Government. Neither Nations and Regions Investments Limited nor British Business Bank plc are authorised or regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) or the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

#### **About Eos Advisory:**

Eos invests in and commercialises early-stage science and technology with the potential to scale globally, with a focus on improving the health of people and the planet. Founded in St. Andrews in 2014, Eos brings the skills and experience to understand knowledge intensive technology companies and support their growth internationally. Eos manages the Eos Innovation Fund, operates a thriving community of Direct Investors and has a mandate to invest on behalf of the British Business Bank.

<https://eos-advisory.com/>

#### **About Innovate UK:**

Innovate UK's is the UK's innovation agency. We back the nation's most promising deep tech businesses in the UK's priority sectors: providing the funding, expert support and connections that help them start, scale and stay in the UK. If you're an innovative business ready to scale, we're ready to back you.

<https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/>

#### **About Adeline Arts & Science:**

Adeline Arts & Science is a family office based in London, funding early-stage tech startups, creative projects and scientific research. We back pre-seed to Series A tech startups. As former operators, we look for founders driven by curiosity, data, and lasting impact. Our average cheque size is £150K, and we support founders as they grow by following on in later rounds. We are sector-agnostic, investing across frontier technologies, infrastructure tools, AI, and deep science-led solutions. We also operate an equity free incubator programme to support early stage founders.  
<https://www.adeline.co.uk>

#### **About AFI Ventures:**

AFI Ventures, the early-stage impact arm of Ventech, is a seed and pre-seed fund that supports impact startups addressing environmental and social issues. Managed by Ventech, AFI Ventures is committed to backing the emergence and scaling of entrepreneurs at the intersection of “for profit” and “for good” in France and in largely in Europe, to develop fairer and more sustainable solutions for all sectors of the economy.  
<https://allianceforimpact.com/ventures/>

#### **About Techmind:**

Techmind is an independent investment studio dedicated to breakthrough innovation and high-conviction investing. Guided by intellectual curiosity and a refusal of consensus, Techmind identifies "unthinkable" opportunities at the margins of the known. Through its unique investment models - including VC as a Service, Club Deals, and collaborative vehicles - Techmind offers its community of investors a hands-on, ultra-selective approach that prioritizes direct involvement and deep proximity to founders. Techmind is committed to the "thrill of discovery," partnering with visionary entrepreneurs to write the next great stories in technology.  
<https://techmind.vc/>

#### **About EverQuest Capital Partners:**

EverQuest Capital Partners is a venture capital investor focused on later-stage growth opportunities within the industrial supply chain, backing companies developing disruptive enabling technologies across advanced processes, materials and design. The firm specialises in Deep MakeTech, investing in sectors including semiconductors, healthcare, renewables, automotive, agriculture and defence.

EverQuest's model combines venture investment with deep technical insight through its partnership with CPI (Centre for Process Innovation), providing access to proprietary deal flow and a network of technical expertise that supports portfolio companies in scaling advanced manufacturing technologies globally.  
[www.everquestcapital.com](http://www.everquestcapital.com)

#### **About Francois Badelon:**

François graduated from ESCP Business School in Paris in 1984, where he began investing in the stock market. After spending two years in Kenya with Total, he

returned to Paris to work as a broker and later took part in the development of Exane between 1990 and 2001. In 2002, he founded Amiral Gestion, which grew to €4.5 billion in assets under management by 2018. Since then, he has increasingly focused on investing in startups.

#### **About InnoEnergy:**

Transitioning global energy. Transforming every industry. [InnoEnergy](https://innoenergy.com) is industrialising clean tech innovation to enable and grow a global net zero economy. Active in Europe and the US, the company invests in early-stage startups and the current and future workforce, building resilient clean tech value chains that drive sustainable economic growth. Through its ecosystem – with 1,400 partners including 39 shareholders spanning industry, finance, public policy, and academia – the company scales the energy transition at speed.

<https://innoenergy.com>

#### **About TSP Ventures:**

TSP Ventures is an early-stage venture investment firm backing hard science and breakthrough technologies. These technologies allow countries, companies and communities to secure a resilient supply of the critical resources we all need in order to thrive...energy, food, water, metals and minerals. TSP's mission is to find and invest in technologies that cost less than the incumbent, perform at least as well, are more sustainable and are geo-secure. And critically, must have the potential to be truly transformative on a global scale.

<https://tspventures.co.uk>

#### **About Exergon:**

Launched by Audacia, the Exergon fund supports and scales highly disrupting industrial decarbonization technologies across Europe, including new nuclear, energy storage, and energy efficient & AI enabled solutions. Investing from early stage, Exergon focuses on companies addressing critical industrial scale-up challenges and benefits from close ties with European industrial players to accelerate market access and deployment. The management team combines technical and financial expertise with a resolutely entrepreneurial identity, the signature of Audacia.

<https://www.exergon.com>

#### **About Heartfelt:**

Heartfelt Ventures is the first-check investor for exceptional founders building transformative companies across Europe. We are passionate about helping founders go from 0 to 1. With deep experience and a strong network, we offer initial investments from €100k to €400k, plus follow-on capital.

<https://heartfelt.vc>