



Press release

## **sonnen launches industry wide initiative for cobalt-free batteries in home storage systems**

**By means of a new trust mark, sonnen hopes to draw attention to the use of cobalt-free lithium ion batteries in home storage systems. Furthermore, sonnen also wants to encourage other manufacturers of residential storage systems to use cobalt-free alternatives.**

**Wildpoldsried, 4th April 2019** – sonnen launched a industry wide manufacturer initiative to push the use of cobalt-free lithium ion batteries for home storage systems. To increase awareness for more sustainable materials and longer-lasting batteries. To start with, sonnen will be introducing a trust mark, which will make it clear to customers and installers that its batteries are cobalt-free.

“Our customers are not only taking a sustainable approach when it comes to their energy, but also in the manufacturing inputs of products. As a global leader, we want to send out a clear signal for less cobalt and greater sustainability is needed. We would like to encourage other manufacturers to adapt their technology for the benefit of the environment and communities,” says Christoph Ostermann, CEO of sonnen. He added, “Of course, replacing cobalt is no easy task, but where we are able to, we should. This includes batteries in home storage systems, where cobalt-containing materials are proven to be neither technically or environmentally necessary.”

Since the company's founding in 2010, sonnen has exclusively used lithium iron phosphate batteries in its storage systems. Alongside the fact that they do not contain any cobalt independent studies<sup>1,2</sup> have shown that these types of batteries offer greater cycle stability and improved safety. Greater cycle stability results in batteries having a longer life span and this enhances the sustainability of any batteries in the long-term with an extended product life

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cycle. Having a battery with a longer product life cycle opens new possibilities such as grid stabilisation with virtual power plants which require long-lasting batteries.

The manufacturer-neutral trust mark is freely available for any companies who use, or would like to use, cobalt-free lithium ion batteries. sonnen operates a battery laboratory where various technologies are tested for in home storage systems. It will collaborate and share its know-how on lithium iron phosphate technology and other battery technologies with other manufacturers.

There is an increasing push towards the adoption of cobalt-free battery technologies. On 1st April 2019, the Bavarian state capital, Munich, published a storage system support programme, which for the first time explicitly excluded lithium nickel manganese cobalt batteries (NMC) from its promotion.

Studies:

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.ressource-deutschland.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/downloads/studien/VDI-ZRE\\_Studie\\_Energiespeichertechnologien\\_bf.pdf](https://www.ressource-deutschland.de/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/studien/VDI-ZRE_Studie_Energiespeichertechnologien_bf.pdf) (P. 27)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.dke.de/resource/blob/933404/fa7a24099c84ef613d8e7afd2c860a39/kompodium-li-ionen-batterien-data.pdf> (P. 25)

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## **About sonnen**

The sonnen Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of smart energy storage systems and a pioneer of clean, decentralised and networked energy system technologies. As one of the fastest growing tech companies in Europe, sonnen has received numerous internationally recognized awards. With its virtual battery, which consists of digitally networked home storage systems, sonnen offers new and highly innovative energy services for network operators and customers. sonnen's products are available in many countries and has offices located in Germany, Italy, Australia, the UK and the USA.

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