

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-TRAN-03
<b>Project Title:</b>	PowerForward: ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant
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<b>Document Title:</b>	South 8 Technologies, Inc Comments for 23-TRAN-03 Manufacturing Block Grant
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
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<b>Organization:</b>	South 8 Technologies, Inc.
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*Comment Received From: South 8 Technologies, Inc.  
Submitted On: 9/17/2023  
Docket Number: 23-TRAN-03*

**Comment for 23-TRAN-03 Manufacturing Block Grant**

Comment attached.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

South 8 Technologies, Inc.  
3030 Bunker Hill St.  
Ste. 105  
San Diego, CA 92109

Re: Comment for 23-TRAN-03 Manufacturing Block Grant

Dear CALSTART Committee,

Many thanks for putting together an effective PowerForward program to Advance California Battery Manufacturing. The ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant (23-TRAN-03) is a great opportunity to the several businesses throughout the state focused on advanced battery material, manufacturing, and recycling technologies. California is home to the most innovative minds to surely meet the state's goals to electrify the state.

There are innovative technologies and entrepreneurs throughout the state of California which are focused on advanced clean energy through a battery and electrification revolution. These advances require support to make these dreams a reality. California has long been a supporter of these programs to help advance startups and large businesses alike to this shared goal. South 8 Technologies, a developer of an advanced Liquefied Gas (LiGas) electrolyte for next-generation lithium batteries, is a grateful recipient of such support from the California Energy Commission for both their BRIDGE and RAMP programs. These programs have not only advanced both South 8's MRL and TRL levels, but created over two dozen jobs and allowed South 8 to mature to the next phase where our company is ready to scale to meet the challenges at the giga factory level.

To reach the requirements on the gigafactory level and make an impact on the electric vehicle industry, South 8 will require partnerships and financial assistance in the form of investment and public grants. South 8 is already partnered with leaders throughout the industry from global gas and cell manufacturers to large customers throughout the electric vehicle industry and DoD. Public grants in the form of the ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant (23-TRAN-03) are a great match to help accelerate the manufacturing of our electrolytes to accelerate the growth and adoption of electric vehicles. It was noted, however, during the public workshop that while battery component materials such as anodes and cathodes were included in scope, electrolyte and separator materials were not discussed. It is noted that in the discussions after the workshop, it was mentioned that electrolyte and separator materials would both be considered in scope for this block grant. This letter serves as an affirmation and support for this inclusion of these materials since they are as critical to the growth of the battery industry within our state as many other technologies across the battery value chain. Seeing as these materials are nearly completely dominated by an Asian supply chain, it would be beneficial to onshore these technologies to the U.S., starting with California.

South 8 looks forward to the solicitation release and applying for this manufacturing block grant. With the support of your organization, we look forward to advancing California's battery manufacturing goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cyrus Rustomji', written in a cursive style.

Cyrus Rustomji  
Chief Science Officer  
South 8 Technologies, Inc.