

NEO Battery & Zio Robot Enter Technology Partnership to Enhance AI Logistics Robotics Performance

- **Strategic Technology Partnership** with Zio Robot Co., Ltd., a South Korean AI logistics robotics company closely collaborating with and backed by Samsung Electronics
- **Optimizing high-energy batteries** for integration into Zio's Mobile Worker AMR platforms that handle heavy-duty payload up to 6,000 kg
- **Prototype deployment with anchor collaborators**, including Samsung Electronics, for validation in industrial and manufacturing logistics
- **Zio's proprietary modular robotics architecture** enables flexible deployment across warehouses, hospitals, and manufacturing environments

TORONTO, Ontario – February 24, 2026 - NEO Battery Materials Ltd. (“NEO” or the “Company”) (TSXV: NBM) (OTC: NBMFF), a low-cost, silicon-enhanced battery developer that enables longer-running, rapid-charging batteries for drones, robotics, and physical AI, is pleased to enter into a Strategic Technology Partnership (STP) with South Korean-based Zio Robot Co., Ltd. (“Zio”), an AI logistics robotics company, to commercially integrate high-energy lithium-ion battery cells optimized for Zio's “Mobile Worker” or MW-series of autonomous mobile robots (AMR) for payload logistics.

The partnership focuses on improving energy density and high-rate discharge capability compared to the Chinese-manufactured batteries currently used in the MW platforms. Expected system-level outcomes are **increased payload capacity and extended operational runtime**. Both NEO and Zio will prototype and deliver integrated battery solutions to **Zio's anchor collaborators, including Samsung Electronics, where MW systems are deployed for industrial and manufacturing logistics.**

Zio's MW platform handles payloads of up to 6,000 kilograms, placing significant demands on battery capacity, discharge/power rates, and cycle life. Differentiating from incumbent technologies, Zio's modular architecture enables multiple MW units to link and unlink based on site requirements, **reducing initial deployment costs while supporting flexible customization across targeted industries.** The platform combines AMR systems with intelligent control algorithms and an omnidirectional driving system to further widen mission capabilities and enhance human-robot interaction (HRI).

Dr. Tae Hun Kang, CEO of Zio, expressed, “Zio is pleased to initiate this battery development and optimization project. We anticipate that **NEO's high-performance batteries will provide MW robots with a competitive edge in logistics.** This partnership also presents an opportunity for Zio to develop higher-load MW models that exceed our current maximum payload capabilities. By diversifying battery procurement away from Chinese suppliers to NEO, we expect to expand beyond our current serviceable markets and applications.”

Mr. Spencer Huh, President & CEO of NEO, commented, “Zio's logistics robots face the same battery constraints as drone platforms: runtime and payload capacity are directly limited by cell-level performance. Following the successful live field demonstration of our NBM Drone Cell, **this partnership extends NEO's proven approach into another high-growth vertical in physical AI.**

Western and Western-allied robotics and industrial automation sectors are actively seeking non-Chinese, application-specific battery solutions, and NEO is well-positioned to fulfill and deliver this demand.”

About Zio Robot Co., Ltd.

Zio Robot Co., Ltd. is South Korean autonomous mobile robotics (AMR) company focused on shaping the paradigm of global robotics industry with a human-robot interaction (HRI)-led development approach. Founded in 2022 by researchers from Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST), Zio Robot specializes in AMR-based logistics robotics for various environments, including hospitals, industrial warehouses, and manufacturing facilities. Zio has recently received Innovation Awards from the South Korean Ministry of Finance and Economy’s Public Procurement Service, ISO 9001/14001/45001, and KC & CE certifications for international export. Zio Robot has been backed by Samsung Electronics through C-Lab Outside – a startup accelerator formed by Samsung. For more information, please visit Zio Robot’s website at: <https://www.ziorobot.com/>

About NEO Battery Materials Ltd.

NEO Battery Materials is a Canadian battery technology company focused on developing and producing silicon-enhanced lithium-ion batteries in drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), robotics, unmanned systems, electronics, electric vehicles, and energy storage systems for AI data centers. With a patent-protected, low-cost manufacturing process, NEO Battery enables longer-running and ultra-fast charging batteries and provides end-to-end battery solutions from materials selection, cell architecture, and process optimization. The Company aims to be a globally-leading producer of high-performance lithium-ion battery components and materials, building a secure, robust battery supply chain in North America. For more information, please visit the Company’s website at: <https://www.neobatterymaterials.com/>.

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with battery components and cell purchase orders and offtake supply that may not be fulfilled in full, on time, or at all as actual revenue realization depends on delivery schedules, achievement of technical milestones, and customer acceptance and validation; the risk associated with losing official vendor registration or status with existing customers; counterparty risk upon delivery of prototype and commercial products; the risks associated with constructing, completing, securing, and financing pilot, semi-commercial, and commercial battery materials, components, and cell manufacturing facilities including the Canadian and South Korean facilities; the risks associated with potential delays or increased costs with site preparation, equipment procurement and installation, and facility commissioning; the risks associated with integrating silicon anode material production, electrode manufacturing, and cell assembly within a single operational cluster or the Company's business portfolio; the risks associated with supply chain disruptions or cost fluctuations in raw materials, processing chemicals, and additive prices, impacting production costs and commercial viability; the risks associated with uninsurable risks arising during the course of research, development and production; competition faced by the Company in securing experienced personnel, contracts and sales, and financing; access to adequate infrastructure and resources to support battery materials, components, and cell research and development activities; the risks associated with changes in the technology regulatory regime governing the Company; the risks associated with the timely execution of the Company's strategies and business plans; the risks associated with the lithium-ion battery industry and end-users' demand and adoption of the Company's silicon anode technology and battery products; market adoption and integration challenges, including the difficulty of incorporating silicon anodes and silicon battery products within battery manufacturers and OEMs' systems; the risks associated with the various environmental and political regulations the Company is subject to; risks related to regulatory and permitting delays; the reliance on key personnel; liquidity risks; the risk of litigation; risk management; and other risk factors as identified in the Company's recent Financial Statements and MD&A and in recent securities filings for the Company which are available on www.sedarplus.ca. Forward-looking information is based on assumptions management believes to be reasonable at the time such statements are made, including but not limited to, continued R&D and commercialization activities, no material adverse change in precursor, raw material, equipment, and relevant cost prices, development and commercialization plans to proceed in accordance with plans and such plans to achieve their stated expected outcomes, receipt of required regulatory approvals, and such other assumptions and factors as set out herein. Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking information, there may be other factors that cause results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that such forward-looking information will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking information. Such forward-looking information has been provided for the purpose of assisting investors in understanding the Company's business, operations, research and development, and commercialization plans and may not be appropriate for other purposes. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. Forward-looking information is made as of the date of this presentation, and the Company does not undertake to update such forward-looking information except in accordance with applicable securities laws.

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