

SMM TIER 1 SELECTION METHODOLOGY

SMM Tier 1 Supplier Selection Methodology

SMM Tier 1 ESS Battery, BESS Integrator & PV Module Selection

SCOPE	ESS Battery, BESS Integrator & PV Module	ISSUE DATE	July 2026
PUBLISHER	SMM (Shanghai Metals Market)	CONTACT	tier1@smm.cn

Contents

Methodology Preface / SMM Position	02	Selection Scope & Ranking Structure	04
Eligibility & Minimum Thresholds	05	Market Boundaries & Selection Process	06
Scoring Methodology & Evidence Principles	07	Publication, Usage & Disclaimer	09
Appendix A: Scoring Weights	10	Appendix B: Scoring Details & Materials	11
Recommended Submission Materials	15		

PREFACE / SMM POSITION

SMM Tier 1 evaluates the "real, deliverable, and sustainable" competitiveness of Chinese suppliers in the global market. SMM is rooted in China, growing alongside Chinese manufacturing, and dedicated to supporting its steady and long-term development.

About This Document

This document describes the positioning, scope, eligibility thresholds, selection process, scoring principles, and usage boundaries of the SMM Tier 1 Supplier Selection. The appendices provide scoring weights, material submission frameworks, and evidence verification standards, serving as a reference for both enterprise applications and SMM review execution.

For Enterprises Clarifies application boundaries, material requirements, and logo usage rules.	For the Market Reduces supplier identification costs and provides a credible reference for the industry.
--	--

SMM Position

Real	Deliverable	Sustainable
Backed by overseas clients, projects, certifications, channels, or delivery records — not just company profiles.	Capable of turning orders into products, systems, grid connections, operations, or replicable channels.	Safety, quality, financial, compliance, and supply chain capabilities that withstand cyclical testing.

Why SMM

Data Foundation	Long-term tracking of material prices, manufacturing costs, capacity changes, shipment data, customer structures, project progress, overseas feedback, and supply chain risks.
Research Capability	Leverages SMM's proprietary databases and industry surveys to cross-verify market information, forming independent and traceable judgments.
Industry Influence	SMM is a core information service platform for the metals and new energy value chain. Ranking results are disseminated through all SMM channels, covering industry enterprises, investment institutions, and overseas buyers.

What SMM Tier 1 Selection Means

Market Endorsement	Selection results, independently reviewed by SMM based on verifiable evidence, serve as a credible reference for overseas market promotion and client communication.
Brand Value	Selected enterprises may use the SMM Tier 1 logo during the corresponding period for corporate communications, exhibitions, websites, and client materials.
Industry Recognition	Selection results are published on the SMM official website, app, official accounts, and English platform, and promoted through SMM industry conferences and events.

1. SELECTION SCOPE & RANKING STRUCTURE

1.1 Selection Targets

This selection targets enterprises registered in China, with China-based R&D, manufacturing, supply chain, and delivery capabilities as core support.

The selection covers SMM Tier 1 ESS Battery, BESS Integrator, and PV Module rankings, serving global buyers, project owners, investors, and channel partners, and supporting Chinese enterprises in going global and helping global clients identify quality suppliers.

1.2 Four Parallel Rankings

Category	Ranking Name	Key Focus
ESS Battery	SMM Tier 1 Utility-Scale & C&I ESS Battery	Utility-scale and C&I project delivery, adoption, safety, and grid-connection capability
ESS Battery	SMM Tier 1 Residential ESS Battery	Residential stationary products, certifications, channels, brand, and after-sales capability
BESS Integration	SMM Tier 1 BESS Integrator	Complete system solutions, integration, delivery, commissioning, and O&M responsibility
PV Module	SMM Tier 1 PV Module	Module product quality, overseas shipments, project adoption, and compliance capability

No primary or subordinate rankings exist; the same enterprise may be selected for multiple rankings, but each ranking is assessed and evidenced independently.

2. ELIGIBILITY & MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

2.1 Eligibility Criteria

Dimension	Requirements
Entity Scope	Registered in China, or with core R&D, manufacturing, supply chain, and delivery capabilities primarily located in China, as determined by SMM.
Business Responsibility	Bears responsibility for product, system, project delivery, channel, or after-sales — not purely trading, agency, or OEM.
Overseas Performance	Possesses overseas projects, contracts, supply records, channels, certifications, installations, or other verifiable overseas market performance.
Material Basis	Enterprise materials can be reasonably verified by SMM.
Exclusions	Purely overseas suppliers, pure traders, agents, asset-light brand licensors, and entities that do not bear product or delivery responsibility.

2.2 Minimum Quantitative Thresholds

Thresholds are the baseline for participation, not the standard for selection. Meeting the minimum threshold only qualifies an enterprise for the evaluation pool; it does not guarantee selection as SMM Tier 1.

Ranking	Minimum Threshold
SMM Tier 1 Utility-Scale & C&I ESS Battery	At least 1 overseas utility-scale or C&I ESS project delivery, supply, or adoption record (utility-scale single project no less than 5 MWh); or cumulative overseas ESS battery supply of no less than 20 MWh.
SMM Tier 1 Residential ESS Battery	Overseas shipments of stationary residential storage products of no less than 500 units or 3 MWh, with target market certifications, channels, or installation records.
SMM Tier 1 BESS Integrator	At least 1 complete ESS system integration project delivery record; or cumulative system integration delivery of no less than 10 MWh, with overseas contract, delivery, or customer collaboration records.
SMM Tier 1 PV Module	Overseas module shipments of no less than 50 MW; or at least 1 overseas utility/C&I project supply record, with core certifications for the target market.

Thresholds may be updated with methodology revisions based on market maturity and ranking cycles, but should remain consistent within each publication cycle.

2.3 Disqualifying Factors

Facts & Safety	Compliance & Fulfillment
Data falsification, concealment of major safety incidents, or material misrepresentation of key projects.	Severe compliance risks, or major financial crises affecting the ability to fulfill obligations.

3. MARKET BOUNDARIES & SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 Market Segment Boundaries

Ranking	Included	Excluded
SMM Tier 1 Utility-Scale & C&I ESS Battery	Standalone energy storage stations, grid-side storage, generation-side paired storage, IPP/utility projects, renewable base paired storage; factories, industrial parks, commercial buildings, charging stations, hospitals, schools, integrated solar-storage-charging systems, C&I microgrids, data center paired storage.	UPS, telecom base station backup, portable energy storage, light-duty power batteries.
SMM Tier 1 Residential ESS Battery	Residential solar-plus-storage, home storage all-in-one systems, home backup power, residential EMS supporting products.	Portable energy storage, outdoor power stations, camping power supplies, small emergency power, traditional UPS.
SMM Tier 1 BESS Integrator	Complete system solutions, key equipment integration, project delivery, commissioning and grid connection, O&M services.	Standalone cell, PCS, EMS, BMS, fire suppression, or thermal management suppliers; EPCs that do not bear system responsibility.
SMM Tier 1 PV Module	Crystalline silicon modules, thin-film modules (e.g., CdTe, CIGS, perovskite and other technology routes), BIPV modules and other module-based products.	Wafers, cells, inverters, mounting and structures, pure EPC, trading agents, non-module-based BIPV solutions.

3.2 One-Month Selection Process

1 Week 1	2 Week 2	3 Week 3	4 Week 4
Lock the candidate pool, collect enterprise submission materials, complete initial completeness screening.	Cross-verification, interviews as needed, flag anomalous data.	Score review, review committee audit, form provisional selection list.	Finalize list, internal approval, publication preparation, and enterprise communication.

Publication Frequency	Semi-annual publication, twice per year.
Data Cutoff Date	The end of the calendar quarter preceding each ranking publication.
Ranking Validity	Until the publication of the next ranking cycle.
Publication Platform	First published on SMM official website, app, official accounts, and English platform; subsequently featured with award ceremonies at relevant conferences.
Appeal Mechanism	After publication, factual appeals are accepted for factual errors, material omissions, or data verification issues; repeated negotiation over scoring judgments is not entertained.
Right of Correction	SMM reserves the right to correct, suspend, or revoke selection results due to material changes in facts.

4. SCORING METHODOLOGY & EVIDENCE PRINCIPLES

4.1 Main Scoring Framework

Each ranking has a maximum score of 100 points, composed of five capability dimensions. Dimension weights vary by ranking and are detailed in Appendix A.

1 Globalization & Overseas Projects 20 pts	2 Market & Customers 20–25 pts	3 Product & Safety 20–28 pts	4 Delivery & Service 15–25 pts	5 Operations & Compliance 7–20 pts
Overseas projects, clients, certifications, channels, service networks	Shipments, adoption, customer quality, repeat purchases, brand coverage	Certifications, quality systems, reliability, safety records	Project delivery, grid connection, installation, O&M, responsiveness	Financial soundness, ESG, compliance, supply chain resilience

Note: Specific weights for each dimension vary by ranking. See Appendix A for details.



4.2 Scoring Method: Weighted Average

Each ranking has a maximum score of 100 points. Scoring is conducted at the sub-indicator level: reviewers assign scores from 0 to the maximum based on the enterprise's actual performance on each indicator; the sum of all indicator scores equals the enterprise's total score for that ranking.

Appendix B provides scoring anchor descriptions for each sub-indicator to help reviewers maintain consistency. Enterprises may also refer to Appendix B when preparing submission materials to understand the assessment focus of each dimension.

Evidence Reliability Tiers

During scoring, the credibility of information directly affects the score an indicator can receive. The harder the evidence, the higher the score it can support. SMM classifies evidence into three reliability tiers:

Evidence Tier	Definition	Impact
Tier A	Independent public information or third-party verifiable materials, such as public project announcements, certification reports, third-party databases, and owner disclosures.	Can support full score
Tier B	Enterprise-submitted but SMM-verifiable materials, such as contract summaries, client attestations, delivery records, and internal project lists.	Supports mid-to-high scores
Tier C	Enterprise self-reported materials lacking external verification, such as unnamed performance descriptions, verbal explanations, and unverified forecasts.	For reference only; cannot independently support high scores

Verification Principle: SMM verifies and cross-validates based on public information, enterprise-submitted materials, third-party sources, and SMM's own industry research and databases.

5. PUBLICATION, USAGE & DISCLAIMER

5.1 Selection Rules

SMM determines the selected list based on composite scores, threshold requirements, evidence quality, and review committee results. Only the selected list is published externally; enterprise rankings, scores, or individual assessments are not disclosed.

5.2 Logo Usage Rules

- Usage is limited to the corresponding ranking and cycle; cross-ranking use is prohibited.
- Usage is not permanent; upon expiration of the validity period, usage must cease or reauthorization must be obtained.
- Selection for one ranking must not be promoted as selection for another ranking.
- Unverified expressions such as "No.1," "Rank First," or "Market Leader" that are not confirmed by SMM are prohibited.
- Using SMM market total data to self-derive market share, rankings, or competitive conclusions is prohibited.

5.3 Intellectual Property

All names, logos, methodology, scoring systems, ranking reports, charts, and data descriptions related to SMM Tier 1 are owned by SMM. Enterprises using names, logos, badges, certificates, ranking screenshots, or selection results must comply with SMM's authorization guidelines.

5.4 Annual Methodology Update

SMM publishes an annual methodology update statement disclosing criteria adjustments, ranking cycles, and significant rule changes. Individual enterprise materials, scoring details, and internal review opinions are not disclosed externally.

5.5 Disclaimer

- The ranking does not replace due diligence and does not constitute procurement, investment, financing, or transaction advice.
- The ranking does not constitute a product quality warranty, nor does it guarantee future business stability of the enterprise.
- Ranking results reflect the comprehensive judgment formed during the evaluation period based on available information.
- SMM is not responsible for misinterpretation, over-extended use, or cross-ranking use in enterprises' secondary promotional activities.
- SMM reserves the right to adjust the methodology, rankings, and interpretation standards.

APPENDIX A: SCORING WEIGHTS

The main text presents first-level dimensions; sub-indicators and material checklists are provided in Appendix B.

Ranking	First-Level Dimension	Score
SMM Tier 1 Utility-Scale & C&I ESS Battery	Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
	Project Delivery & Channel Replication Capability	25
	Safety & Reliability	20
	Technology & Scenario Adaptability	15
	Market, Financial Operations & ESG	20
SMM Tier 1 Residential ESS Battery	Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
	Channel & Brand Coverage	20
	Product Safety & Certification	20
	Market Performance & After-Sales Service	25
	R&D, Financial Operations & ESG	15
SMM Tier 1 BESS Integrator	Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
	System Solution Design & Integration Capability	20
	Project Delivery, Commissioning & Grid Connection Capability	20
	Safety, Reliability & Multi-Scenario Adaptability	25
	Customer Recognition, Financial Operations & ESG	15
SMM Tier 1 PV Module	Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
	Market Performance & Customer Adoption	20
	Product Performance, Quality & Reliability	28
	R&D, Cost & Supply Capability	25
	Financial Operations & ESG Compliance	7

APPENDIX B: SCORING DETAILS & MATERIALS

Appendix B presents the complete scoring dimensions for each ranking. Each ranking includes first-level dimensions and sub-indicators, with all scores summing to 100 points.

B.1 SMM Tier 1 Utility-Scale & C&I ESS Battery

First-Level Dimension / Sub-Indicator	Score
Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
Overseas project delivery & channel coverage	10
Global footprint & localization capability	5
Overseas certifications & market access	5
Project Delivery & Channel Replication Capability	25
Project scale, delivery completeness & adoption	10
Channel network scale & activity	8
Standardized product & solution replication	7
Safety & Reliability	20
Safety incident record	8
Safety certifications & testing	6
Quality management system	6
Technology & Scenario Adaptability	15
Technology route advancement & innovation	7
Grid connection & multi-scenario adaptability	4
R&D investment & IP	4
Market, Financial Operations & ESG	20
Shipment volume & market share	5
Customer structure & repeat purchases	5
Financial soundness	3
Capacity & supply chain assurance	2
ESG disclosure & ratings	3
Compliance & sustainable supply chain	2
Total	100

B.2 SMM Tier 1 Residential ESS Battery

First-Level Dimension / Sub-Indicator	Score
Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
Overseas market coverage & shipments	10
Localized brand & channels	5
Overseas certifications & market access	5
Channel & Brand Coverage	20
Channel network scale & depth	8
Brand awareness & market reputation	7
Installer network & training system	5
Product Safety & Certification	20
Safety certification completeness	8
Safety incident record	7
Product quality & reliability	5
Market Performance & After-Sales Service	25
Shipment volume & market share	8
Growth trend & customer repeat purchases	7
Global service network coverage	5
Response speed & customer satisfaction	5
R&D, Financial Operations & ESG	15
R&D investment & team	4
Technology innovation & IP	4
Financial soundness	4
ESG & compliance	3
Total	100

B.3 SMM Tier 1 BESS Integrator

First-Level Dimension / Sub-Indicator	Score
Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
Overseas integration project delivery track record	10
Global delivery & service network	5
Overseas certifications & market access	5
System Solution Design & Integration Capability	20
System solution design capability	8
Key equipment selection & integration capability	7
Multi-technology route adaptability	5
Project Delivery, Commissioning & Grid Connection Capability	20
Delivery completeness & on-time rate	8
Commissioning & grid connection capability	7
O&M service capability	5
Safety, Reliability & Multi-Scenario Adaptability	25
Safety incident record	6
Quality management system	5
Safety certifications & testing	4
Scenario coverage breadth	5
Scenario depth & solution maturity	5
Customer Recognition, Financial Operations & ESG	15
Top-tier customer recognition	3
Bankability	2
Financial soundness	3
Capacity & supply chain assurance	2
ESG disclosure & ratings	3
Compliance & sustainable supply chain	2
Total	100

B.4 SMM Tier 1 PV Module

First-Level Dimension / Sub-Indicator	Score
Overseas Projects & Globalization Capability	20
Overseas project delivery & shipment track record	10
Global footprint & localization capability	5
Overseas certifications & market access	5
Market Performance & Customer Adoption	20
Module shipment volume	10
Overseas shipment ratio & market coverage	5
Customer structure & repeat purchases	5
Product Performance, Quality & Reliability	28
Module efficiency	8
Reliability & degradation rate	7
Third-party testing & warranty	5
Product certification completeness	5
Quality management system	3
R&D, Cost & Supply Capability	25
Technology route advancement	8
R&D investment & IP	7
Manufacturing cost efficiency	5
Supply chain vertical integration capability	5
Financial Operations & ESG Compliance	7
Financial soundness	4
ESG & compliance	3
Total	100

APPENDIX B: RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Recommended Submission Package

Basic Materials	Project Materials
Company introduction, product catalog, certification list, target market description, contact information.	Project list, client attestations, contract summaries, delivery records, grid connection or operation materials.
Operational Materials	Compliance Materials
Shipment data, financial summaries, capacity information, quality systems, after-sales network.	ESG, trade compliance, carbon footprint, incident and recall descriptions.

Evidence Verification Note: Evidence tier definitions and verification rules are provided in Section 4.2. SMM verifies and cross-validates based on public information, enterprise-submitted materials, third-party sources, and SMM's own industry research and databases.