

May 23, 2022

## PRESS RELEASE

### Eramet launches Safety First Innovation Challenge 2022 in partnership with EIT RawMaterials

Eramet has embarked on a new innovation journey in partnership with EIT RawMaterials: The Eramet Safety First Innovation Challenge 2022 to promote the development of novel solutions for Occupational Safety in the Mining and Metals industry.

At Eramet, safety is the first priority. Ensuring the safety of its employees and subcontractors and achieving Zero accidents is one of thirteen commitments within the group's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) roadmap.

This challenge highlights Eramet's vision to grow its partner network and provide access to a rich variety of interesting start up players for their own strategic purposes.

As industry technologies and standards advance, safety provides flexibility, productivity and contributes towards an organisation's responsibility and obligation to its people and its environment.

The Challenge is focused on discovering innovative safety solutions for either of the following areas<sup>1</sup>:

- Safety of lone workers in Exploration
- Hazard detection and prevention systems
- Human-machine interaction in Mining & Metallurgical Processing
- Transport & Logistics in Mining.

Start-ups and SMEs which offer smart technologies (at least TRL5) to keep workers safe in the Mining and Metals industry are invited to apply to the **Eramet Safety First Challenge 2022** from 23 May to 1 September 2022. The winning team will be awarded a collaboration contract with Eramet (up to €50k in funding to realise a proof of concept), with potential extension to a long-term collaboration.

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<sup>1</sup> This is not a strictly definitive list. Other solutions that fit the topic of occupational safety will also be considered.

A total of 10 candidates will be selected to pitch their solution to the jury while just three candidates will have the opportunity to be coached by Eramet and EIT RawMaterials experts to better adapt their solution to the specific challenges required. The winner will be named at the final round in early 2023.

*“Emerging technologies play a major role in advancing the safety in the Mining and Metals industry. Improving the safety of workers is an absolute priority and we must explore all possible solutions to achieve our target of zero accidents by 2023. Scalability, adaptability and innovativeness are the key factors of a winning project in this challenge,”* says Marion Lenoir, Head of Open Innovation Department at Eramet.

*“We are delighted to continue our collaboration with Eramet Ideas to broaden access to the best and most exciting start-ups and entrepreneurs. Discovering them at the beginning of their journey can only help fast track them to success. The collaboration with an industry leader will give them the competitive edge needed to secure the big vision which is to attain a sustainable supply of mineral resources for Europe,”* says Michel Vanavermaete, Director Innovation Hub Central and West at EIT RawMaterials

Innovators are invited to find out more about the challenge and to apply here: <https://open-innovation.eitrawmaterials.eu/opportunities/eramet-challenge/>

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## ABOUT EIT RAWMATERIALS

**EIT RawMaterials** is the leading European raw materials partnership established in 2015 with the purpose to advance Europe's transition into a sustainable economy. EIT RawMaterials overarching mandate is to support securing the supply of critical raw materials to European industry by driving innovation, education and technology along the raw materials value chain.

EIT RawMaterials builds on the world's largest network partners in raw and advanced materials – strong in large industry, academia and research presence, needed for innovation in the sector, and integrating start-ups and SMEs that play an important role as innovators, suppliers and customers to large industry actors.

[www.eitrawmaterials.eu](http://www.eitrawmaterials.eu)

## ABOUT ERAMET

Eramet transforms the Earth's mineral resources to provide sustainable and responsible solutions to the growth of the industry and to the challenges of the energy transition.

Its employees are committed to this through their civic and contributory approach in all the countries where the mining and metallurgical group is present.

Manganese, nickel, mineral sands, lithium, and cobalt: Eramet recovers and develops metals that are essential to the construction of a more sustainable world.

As a privileged partner of its industrial clients, the Group contributes to making robust and resistant infrastructures and constructions, more efficient means of mobility, safer health tools and more efficient telecommunications devices.

Fully committed to the era of metals, Eramet's ambition is to become a reference for the responsible transformation of the Earth's mineral resources for living well together.

For further information, go to [www.eramet.com](http://www.eramet.com)

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