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PRESS RELEASE

Eramet and Électricité de Strasbourg inaugurate a pilot for the direct extraction of geothermal lithium in Rittershoffen, Eastern France

Less than a year after signing their partnership in January 2023, Eramet and Électricité de Strasbourg (ÉS) are continuing the development of their low-carbon geothermal lithium production project in Alsace with the establishment of a pilot unit for direct lithium extraction at the Rittershoffen power plant. The objective of this pilot is to demonstrate the effectiveness of the direct lithium extraction process developed by Eramet in the real operating conditions of the geothermal power plant operated by ÉS and to confirm the sustainability of its performance over the long term.

Eramet, a French mining and metallurgical group, and Électricité de Strasbourg (ÉS), an Alsatian energy company and producer of local renewable energy, have been involved in a partnership since January 2023 within the "Alsace Géothermie Lithium" (Ageli) project for the sustainable recovery of Alsatian geothermal lithium.

The new pilot is now installed at the Rittershoffen power plant, for a minimum period of 6 months, in order to demonstrate the efficiency of the process and to ensure the long-term stability of the active lithium extraction material developed by Eramet processing brines in the geothermal conditions of the Alsatian territory. The first two pilots were installed at the Rittershoffen and Soultz-sous-Forêts power plants in 2020 and 2021 for the first test phases, which proved encouraging.

This innovative direct lithium extraction process, patented by Eramet, is already in place in Centenario, Argentina, where the mining group will soon commence operations at one of the largest lithium deposits in the world. Industrial production of battery-grade lithium carbonate should begin in Q2 2024 and reach full ramp-up at 24,000 tonnes per year by mid-2025. Eramet will thus become Europe's leading lithium producer by volume.

In Alsace, the two partners aim to be able to produce at least 10,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate per year from geothermal waters by the end of the decade.

This French production, carried out by two leading industrial players, would meet the needs of around 250,000 electric vehicle batteries per year. This project, whose final investment decision is expected at the end of 2026, would also make it possible to produce carbon-free geothermal energy and contribute to the economic development and energy transition of the Alsatian territory.



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.

www.eramet.com

ABOUT ELECTRICITE DE STRASBOURG

Électricité de Strasbourg (ÉS) is developing its activities to offer Alsace a future with low-carbon energy. ÉS is turning Alsace to an energy territory committed for the future through the production of local renewable energy, the supply of energy incorporating a growing share of renewable energy and the search for energy efficiency in its installations dedicated to its customers.

ÉS advises and supports its clients by proposing an innovative energy approach to meet the challenges of the region's energy transition. ÉS has placed responsibility and trust at the heart of its relationship with its clients and partners, and of the Alsace region.

www.es.fr

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