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PRESS RELEASE

Eramet / ÉS: Ageli geothermal lithium project officially recognized as a “strategic project” by the European Union

The Ageli (Alsace Géothermie Lithium) low-carbon geothermal lithium production project in Alsace, developed by Eramet and Électricité de Strasbourg (ÉS), was recognized as a “strategic project” by the European Commission on Tuesday, March 25th.

The European Commission today recognized Ageli as a project that can make a significant contribution to the European Union's security of supply of strategic raw materials, and as an essential tool for the energy transition on the European continent. This recognition follows its call for applications launched by the European authorities as part of the European regulation on critical raw materials (Critical Raw Materials Act), which comes into force in May 2024. Thanks to this status, Ageli will be able to benefit from priority processing to accelerate certain administrative deadlines and facilitate the search for funding.

The aim of the Ageli project is to harness the geothermal waters of the Rhine Graben in Northern Alsace to produce decarbonated energy and the lithium needed for Europe's future battery industry. To achieve this, Eramet has adapted its patented process for direct extraction of battery-grade lithium, one of the most responsible in the world, which is already operational on the Centenario site in Argentina.

This French production could meet the needs associated with the commissioning of around 250,000 electric vehicle batteries per year, i.e. 15-20% of French requirements expected from 2031 onwards. The Ageli project, for which the final investment decision is expected at the end of 2027, will also produce carbon-free geothermal energy for a range of local customers, contributing to the economic development and energy transition of the Alsace region.

Geoff Streeton, *Strategy Vice President, Innovation and Business Development, Eramet:*

« We are delighted that the European Commission considers Ageli to be a “strategic project” capable of making a lasting contribution to the European Union's security of supply. We hope that this label will act as a lever for the development of this ambitious project, and that it will result in political and financial support commensurate with the technological, economic and strategic challenges to overcome. »

Marc Kugler, *Chief Executive Officer, ÉS group:*

« The European Commission's recognition marks an important step forward for the Ageli project. It encourages us in our ambition to develop, with our partner Eramet, one of the most responsible lithium production projects in the world, with a positive impact on the region. Our teams are committed to providing Alsace with our expertise in the development of high-temperature geothermal projects and our experience in operating two geothermal plants for almost 10 years. »



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: 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 ÉLECTRICITÉ DE STRASBOURG

Électricité de Strasbourg (ÉS) is developing its activities to offer Alsace a future with low-carbon energy. Its distribution subsidiary, Strasbourg Electricité Réseaux, maintains and operates a 15,000 km network in Alsace.

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.

Since June 28, 2024, ÉS has become a company with a mission, and is committed in the social, societal and environmental fields to strengthening the positive impact of its activities on the Alsace region.

www.es.fr

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