Greece lithium-iron-phosphate batteries lfp

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ReLiFe (Recycling Lithium Ferrophosphate) is a project developed in collaboration with a consortium of partners, aiming to demonstrate, initially at pilot scale, an environment-friendly and cost-effective technology for recycling lithium ferrous phosphate (LFP) scrap and end of life (EoL) batteries.

The pilot plant, with a nominal capacity of 500 tn/year, will be established in Xanthi, northeastern Greece, at the industrial complex of Sunlight Group Energy Storage Systems S.A, the project"s Lead Partner.

ReLiFe Project will eventually pave the path for the successful commercialization of an industrial scale LFP recycling plant, which will cover EU"s raw material requirements for battery cells manufacturing and supply 1.5% of lithium demand in Europe.

The project will run for three years, from 1.1.2023 to 31.12.2025, and has received ca. EUR3.6m funding from EIT RawMaterials under the Grant Agreement 22020, while the partners are also contributing ca. EUR1.5m of their own funds to the project.

The ReLiFe Project aims to establish and demonstrate, initially at pilot scale, a robust metallurgical technology for recycling all sizes of LFP scrap and EoL batteries - i.e. the specific type already produced by Sunlight Group in its facilities worldwide.

The subsequent industrialization will not only further support core EU energy targets, but also secure Sunlight"s supply chain in critical raw materials for LFP cell manufacturing, and also expected to create more than 250 direct and 1,000 indirect jobs.

The diverse partners comprising the ReLiFe consortium are also contributing EUR1.5m in own funds for the implementation of the project. The consortium represents a unique mix of academic and industrial partners well-geared towards the goal of establishing an optimized plant for LFP battery recycling.

Sunlight Group Energy Storage Systems announces that the innovative lithium batteries recycling ReLiFe Project, developed in collaboration with a consortium of partners, has been awarded ca. EUR3.6m in total funding from EIT RawMaterials, and begins implementation. The partners are also contributing ca. EUR1.5m of their own funds to the project.

The implementation of this ambitious project meets a series of core EU targets regarding Critical Raw Materials (CRMs), sustainability, energy transition, and circular economy. ReLiFe stands for Recycling Lithium Ferrophosphate and is a decisive step to address one of the most pressing global energy-related needs: developing effective ways to recycle lithium-ion batteries, themselves the driver of a carbon-free all-electric

future, and ensure sustainability.

Following the successful operation of the pilot recycling plant, additional capital investments can ramp-up production and establish a full-scale recycling facility of lithium batteries with an annual capacity of thousands of tonnes. This development will allow for the recovery of three EU-critical raw materials from end-of-life and scrap LFP batteries (namely lithium, iron phosphate, and graphite), strongly supporting circular economy. Additional base metals like copper and aluminum will also be retrieved in the process.

Commenting on the awarding of the funding and implementation of the ReLiFe project, Dr. Nikolaos Tsiouvaras, CTO at Sunlight Group Energy Storage Systems, noted: "This is a true game-changer and the first step to establish an industrial-grade LFP recycling plant in Europe. At Sunlight we have been investing time and resources to identify the optimal way of recycling lithium products, as efficient as our EMAS-certified lead-acid battery recycling operation."

Carlo Novarese, Director of Lithium-ion Cell Engineering at Sunlight Group, added: "We are embarking on this significant project with the best possible partners to develop an effective and sustainable recycling method for LFP batteries. We are contributing 30+ years of manufacturing experience, state-of-the-art facilities in our industrial complex in Xanthi, and the know-how of our excellent team. We"re very excited about this!"

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