

# News Release

P122/24e  
April 16, 2024

## **Recovering valuable metals in Schwarzheide: BASF has started prototype metal refinery for battery recycling**

- **Innovative technology extracts lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese and copper from end-of-life lithium-ion batteries and battery production scrap**
- **Plant represents further milestone in building Europe's first co-located center of battery material production and battery recycling in Schwarzheide**

BASF has successfully started operating its prototype metal refinery for battery recycling in Schwarzheide, Germany. The state-of-the-art plant allows for the development of operational procedures and the optimization of innovative battery recycling technology, processing end-of-life lithium-ion batteries and battery production scrap. This will facilitate optimal recovery of valuable metals such as lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese and copper when scaling up the technology. The prototype metal refinery is another milestone in the construction of Europe's first co-located center of battery materials production and battery recycling in Schwarzheide. It complements BASF's existing cathode active materials plant and the battery recycling plant for the production of black mass, which is scheduled to start operations later this year.

Recognizing the strategic importance of securing a reliable supply of critical battery raw materials, BASF is committed to recovering valuable metals to increase the self-sufficiency of Europe and comply with the EU Battery Regulation. At the same time, battery recycling improves the sustainability of electric vehicles as recycled metals have a significantly lower carbon footprint.

“With the expected rapid growth of the electric vehicle market, battery recycling

provides competitive and sustainable access to critical metals,” said Dr. Daniel Schönfelder, President of BASF’s Catalysts division, who is also responsible for the company’s battery materials and battery recycling business. “We will use the extracted metals to enable a truly local circular economy for the battery value chain.”

BASF is committed to further developing and scaling up its metal refining technology, with the goal of establishing a commercial-scale refinery in Europe in the next years. This will strengthen BASF’s footprint in Europe, complementing a strong collection network for end-of-life batteries and battery production scrap, black mass production as well as battery materials production to accelerate the transition to a circular electromobility in Europe and support the development of a sustainable battery materials ecosystem.

#### **About BASF Battery Materials**

BASF is a leading global supplier of advanced cathode active materials (CAM) for the lithium-ion batteries market, providing high-performance CAM to the world’s largest cell producers and for leading OEM platforms. We complement our portfolio with base metals sourcing and management, as well as various battery recycling solutions, including closed loop offerings. By leveraging our industry-leading R&D platforms and passion for innovation, BASF Battery Materials develops unique, proprietary solutions that drive customer success. Further information is available on the internet at [www.catalysts.basf.com](http://www.catalysts.basf.com).

#### **About BASF**

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Around 112,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio comprises six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €68.9 billion in 2023. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the United States. Further information at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).