

PRESS RELEASE #2

EU-funded I4-GREEN project launches its Open Call for SMEs with new products, processed and/or technical services for green, circular, and social tech deployment in mining

June 26, 2023- I4-GREEN is a 30-month European project funded by the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) focused on the research and innovation for new models of interregional EU collaboration. I4-GREEN aims to drive and boost green, circular, and social tech deployment through joint investments, to ultimately reduce the EU dependence on imports of Critical Raw Materials and the negative impact on the environment of their extraction and processing.

The I4-GREEN project is focused on the sustainable improvement of the value chain of raw materials and will implement 2 consolidated and profitable pilots in the southern region of Europe (Portugal and Spain). The project includes a system of cascade funding for SMEs applying to deploy their technologies in these pilots. A total budget of up to €448.500 will be available for funding, where up to 15 SMEs will receive up to €30.000 each.

The final goal of the Open Call is to promote technology transfer, services, and products into targeted sectorial SMEs and to promote cluster collaboration tools involving business services and financial support to SMEs in the ecosystem. It requires SMEs-driven innovation projects to foster the inclusion of new products, processes and/or technical services for the development of innovation projects within its two industrial pilots, with the objective of establishing new interregional and intersectoral value chains.

The objective of the Iron Holm Oak pilot (managed by consortium partners Gevora Construcciones S.A. and Leonore Development SL, in Extremadura, Spain) is to improve the sustainability of iron ore production and the creation of a circular mine, and to create and develop a forefront technology to recover REE from iron mining waste, while reducing environmental impact and relieving EU dependence on particularly Nd supply.

The E-LIX pilot (deployed by consortium partners Atalaya Riotinto Minera SL and Lain Technologies SL in Andalusia, Spain) be implemented for scaling up hydrometallurgical leaching of primary sulphide minerals for the sustainable recovery of essential metals for the green transition.

The call for proposals is open from the 1st of July, 2023 until September 15th, 2023 (17h CET). The call contains all the documents needed for understanding the goals and the conditions (Call announcement, Guide for applicants & FAQ) and for submitting proposals for the Open Call (Application template & Supporting documents for application), which can be found in the I4-GREEN website, through the following link: <https://i3-i4green.eu/opencall/>

The I4-GREEN project is coordinated by ICAMCyL Foundation, please contact us for further information: projects@icamcyL.com or i3.i4green.eu@gmail.com