

PRESS RELEASE #5

Seville Hosts a Strategic European Investment Forum for the Critical Raw Materials Sector

- Over 40 mining sector companies and associated services participate in the event, with 10 presenting their innovation projects
- International experts provide key insights on seeking investments through European Commission and EIB programs
- The forum was organised by the Iberian Sustainable Mining Cluster and ICAMCYL Foundation, and supported by the I4-GREEN project

Seville, June 18, 2024 – The European Investment Forum in Raw Materials was held on Monday, June 17, in Seville, showcasing funding opportunities and investment strategies for a crucial sector in the Spanish industry that holds strategic importance for Europe: raw materials and sustainable mining. As part of the I4-GREEN EU funded project, the forum also launched the first activity of the 'Sustainable Practice Exchange Platform': an emulation session showcasing sustainable and circular practices in mining.

The forum, organized by the Iberian Sustainable Mining Cluster (ISMC) and the International Center for Raw Materials and Advanced Materials of Castilla y León (ICAMCYL), was officially inaugurated by the Junta de Andalucía, represented by the General Director of Mines, Jesús Portillo, and the Executive Director of AMINER, Marta Cerati.

Experts from the European Commission, including representatives from the Executive Agency for the European Innovation Council and SMEs (EISMEA) and the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and SMEs, discussed the significance of the European Raw Materials Alliance and the related administrative process for declaring strategic projects for Europe. They also introduced the European Interregional Innovation Investment (i3) mechanisms as tools to boost the sector and invigorate the region.

More than forty companies participated in the event, with ten of them having the opportunity to present their innovation projects to European experts specializing in investment opportunities from the European Investment Bank (EIB). According to Cuesta López, “this forum provides Spanish companies, particularly those from Andalusia, with a unique opportunity to present their projects to European investment experts. This, in turn, will facilitate the necessary funding to promote sustainable transformation for a vital sector in the European industrial plan, where Spain can and should be a key player.”

Business Opportunities Within Innovation

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The event was organized as part of the pioneering I4-GREEN initiative, a project funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe program and supported from its inception by the Junta de Andalucía.

I4-GREEN “aims to establish sustainable, circular, and socially responsible mining practices across Europe through technological innovation and interregional collaboration,” with its two pilots, 'Iron Holm Oak' and 'Atalaya/Lain Tech', located in Extremadura and Andalusia, respectively. “We seek to reduce dependence on critical raw material imports and minimize the environmental impact of their extraction and processing,” emphasized Cuesta López.

The whole I4-GREEN consortium was present at the event: ICAMCYL Foundation, the Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources (ACPMR), Gevora, Leonore Development, Atalaya, Lain Tech, the Iberian Sustainable Mining Cluster (ISMC) and Nanofabre. It is important to note the presence of the Andalusian Government (Junta de Andalucía), an active Associated Partner within the project.

*The I4-GREEN project is coordinated by ICAMCYL Foundation, please contact us for further information:
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