

News Release

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BASF starts commercial operation of Black Mass plant for Battery Recycling in Schwarzheide, Germany

BASF has successfully started the commercial operation of its Black Mass plant in Schwarzheide, Germany. This state-of-the-art facility represents a significant milestone for BASF's battery recycling business. It is one of the biggest commercial Black Mass plants in Europe, with an annual processing capacity of up to 15,000 tons of end-of-life lithium-ion batteries and production scrap. This equals roughly 40,000 electric vehicle batteries per year.

The successful start of the commercial operation of this plant therefore marks an important step for the European battery industry. Battery recycling is a key factor in increasing independence from primary raw material sources and meeting the ambitious requirements of circular economy policies. Black mass production is a key step in the battery recycling process and is based on mechanical treatment of the batteries. The Black Mass contains high amounts of key metals used to produce cathode active materials (CAM): lithium, nickel, cobalt, and manganese. These valuable metals can be chemically recovered and used to produce new CAM, enabling circularity and reducing the carbon footprint compared to using only primary raw materials.

“Our new Black Mass plant is another proof for our commitment to the Battery Materials and Recycling industry, which remains to be one of the most significant growth opportunities in the chemical industry and for BASF Battery Materials. It will become a cornerstone of our offerings to our customers to increase raw materials self-sufficiency and comply with the EU Battery Regulation,” said Dr. Daniel

Schönfelder, President of BASF's Battery Materials division. "With the new Black Mass plant, we strengthen our position as the preferred battery recycling partner for customers along the entire battery recycling value chain in Europe."

BASF's offering in Europe covers all steps along the battery recycling value chain, from collecting end-of-life batteries and production scrap, discharging and dismantling, as well as Black Mass production and refining – leveraging a strong and reliable partner network in addition to BASF's own Black Mass production facility. In addition to the new Black Mass production, BASF also operates in Schwarzheide Europe's first fully automated CAM production, a prototype metal refinery for battery recycling, and one of Europe's largest Black Mass storage facilities.

About BASF Battery Materials

BASF's Battery Materials business is a global leader in advanced cathode active materials (CAM) for lithium-ion batteries. We empower the world's leading cell manufacturers and OEM platforms with high-performance solutions tailored to their needs. Our portfolio includes base metals sourcing and management, as well as various battery recycling solutions. By leveraging our industry-leading R&D platforms and passion for innovation, we develop unique, proprietary solutions that drive customer success and support the transition towards electromobility.

Our global production and R&D footprint across key regions ensure a reliable supply of high-quality materials and localized support for our partners. This allows us to better serve our customers worldwide. For more information, visit www.battery-materials.basf.com.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. Our ambition: We want to be the preferred chemical company to enable our customers' green transformation. 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, as core businesses, the segments Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, and Nutrition & Care; our standalone businesses are bundled in the segments Surface Technologies and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €65.3 billion in 2024. 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.