

Bratislava battery technologies

InoBat, a Slovak company dedicated to developing and manufacturing innovative batteries for electric vehicles, has announced another significant milestone. The first batteries labelled 'made in Slovakia'; have been successfully produced. Concurrently, the company has obtained all necessary certifications and initiated production of the first high-performance cells.

With the production launch in Voderady, Slovakia joins Sweden, Norway, Germany, and France as the fifth European country capable of producing certified battery cells with European know-how. Voderady serves as a vital catalyst for transitioning from a mere assembly plant to a center of innovation. 'We not only manufacture batteries but also design and tailor them to meet each customer's needs. This process requires exceptional knowledge and specialized skills, and I am proud that we have developed it in Slovakia,' emphasizes InoBat CEO, Marián Božek.

In recent months, InoBat has also expanded its personnel. Dozens of operators and maintenance technicians from Slovakia have joined the production, necessitating their requalification due to the modern and advanced technologies involved. Currently, the company employs an international team of experts from 18 countries worldwide. The combination of direct experience with battery technology and local talent has enabled the creation of the first requalification course in Slovakia, laying the foundation for a new profession - battery cell production operator.

'The preparation for the production of our products involves not only careful adjustment of technological processes and production lines but also ensuring an adequate supply of qualified personnel. We aim to educate top-notch experts and professionals and provide opportunities for those who have worked in similar segments. We intend to create a team that is not only competitive in the market but also capable of presenting revolutionary and innovative products to our customers,' explains InoBat CEO Marián Božek.

InoBat initially requalified its workers within the existing research and development center in Voderady, where a pilot battery production line is located. The requalification process itself is divided into three main parts: theoretical training, technical training, and on-the-job training. The educational program has been developed in-house and tailored to the company's needs, combining the expertise of InoBat employees with engineers from the Chinese company Wuxi Lead, the supplier of the production line.

The established educational and requalification processes are planned to be implemented in the planned gigafactory in ?urany, a joint project of InoBat and the Chinese company Gotion High-Tech (GIB - Gotion InoBat Batteries). Together, they aspire to build the most advanced battery factory in ?urany with a zero carbon footprint not only in Europe but also globally. GIB estimates that more than 1500 employees will work in the factory, the majority of whom will require requalification or professional vocational education.

Set to be operational in early 2022, the new battery centre is being built by leading European electric vehicle battery developer and producer, InoBat Auto ("InoBat"), who is developing premium batteries which can be quickly and efficiently tailored to meet the specifications of any electric vehicle.

Powered by green energy through grid electricity and solar panels, the 290,000 ft² (27,000m²) site will create up to 150 skilled jobs, and will include a technical training centre, modern office space, research labs and manufacturing line. InoBat, who purchased the existing brownfield site to reduce the need for carbon intensive construction methods, will use the new battery centre, to identify the optimum cell chemistries to meet the exact requirements of any vehicle maker or manufacturer faster and more efficiently than competitors.

"The European Commission will therefore continue to mobilise all industrial actors, Member States and the European Investment Bank to shift things into a higher gear - leveraging investment, establishing a fit-for-future regulatory framework, building our raw materials resilience and upskilling people to meet the fast-growing needs of the battery ecosystem - so that our automotive industry can stay out in front."

InoBat has also announced a strategic partnership with leader in automation, industrial software and intelligent infrastructure, Siemens, to digitalize InoBat's entire value chain for electric vehicle battery production. InoBat will use Siemens' solutions to develop a holistic digital factory approach throughout its R& D battery centre and production line, which was designed by architectural firm, Takenaka.

InoBat Auto, a Bratislava-based R& D and battery production company, has secured EUR10 million in a round led by IPM Group. The Slovakian startup also received EUR5 million in government funding just three months ago. The Slovakian startup InoBat Auto's objective to produce customised batteries for electric cars will place Bratislava on the map as an innovative city.

"The governments of the Czech Republic and Slovakia announced a partnership in electromobility, and this is one of the projects that fulfil this initiative," says Pavel Cyrani of CEZ. Both countries rely heavily on the auto industry and are trying to keep up with the shift to e-mobility.

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