



Progress beyond

## Solvay inaugurates state-of-the-art innovation pilot unit for solid state batteries in Europe

This one-of-a-kind pilot unit, located in La Rochelle, France, will expand Solvay's research and innovation capabilities and help support the battery industry in meeting rising demand for electric vehicles (EV).

Brussels, September 16, 2022

Solvay opens a new pilot research unit today at its plant in La Rochelle, France. The unit will enable Solvay to scale up development of advanced inorganic materials for solid electrolytes – a key component of the next generation of batteries for the automotive industry.

The new unit will assess the industrial feasibility of the materials used in the manufacturing process of generation 4 batteries, or so-called "solid state" batteries. Solid state batteries are expected to replace lithium-ion batteries in the coming years, offering increased safety, improved performance and a reduction in the total cost of ownership.

Solvay's leading position in battery technologies makes it a key player in this field, well placed to support its customers in this transition. The pilot unit, which is part of Solvay's Battery growth platform, will enable the Group to answer customers' needs by delivering products on a semi-industrial scale. Solvay will also carry out process studies to help prepare for the industrialization phase in the coming years.

"The world has never needed so many batteries, powering today's and tomorrow's sustainable cities, communities and technologies. We are contributing to this underlying trend by focusing our efforts on innovation that will bring new, safer and more efficient solutions to our customers – meeting the automotive industry's rising demand for electric vehicles," said Ilham Kadri, Solvay CEO. "With more than 20 years of expertise, Solvay is the front-runner in Europe for this new technology and we'll continue to work on innovative and disruptive technologies for the next generations of battery technologies."

The Nouvelle Aquitaine region and the French state supported Solvay on this project, as part of a wider EU package to boost battery innovation in Europe. This comes under the European Commission's Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) programme, through which Solvay has been approved to receive substantial grants over the coming years from participating member states, backed by its own investments, to accelerate EV battery innovation in the European Union.



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Furthermore, as a significant player in the European Battery Alliance, Solvay is committed to working across this network to build an ecosystem within the entire value chain by delivering advanced materials and partnering for innovation.

### Related media



Building housing the research pilot unit in the La Rochelle site ©Solvay



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## About Solvay

Solvay is a science company whose technologies bring benefits to many aspects of daily life. With more than 21,000 employees in 63 countries, Solvay bonds people, ideas and elements to reinvent progress. The Group seeks to create sustainable shared value for all, notably through its Solvay One Planet roadmap crafted around three pillars: protecting the climate, preserving resources and fostering a better life. The Group's innovative solutions contribute to safer, cleaner, and more sustainable products found in homes, food and consumer goods, planes, cars, batteries, smart devices, health care applications, water and air purification systems. Founded in 1863, Solvay today ranks among the world's top three companies for the vast majority of its activities and delivered net sales of €10.1 billion in 2021. Solvay is listed on Euronext Brussels and Paris (SOLB). Learn more at [www.solvay.com](http://www.solvay.com).

## About Solvay La Rochelle

Solvay's La Rochelle plant, founded in 1948, is dedicated to rare earth-based formulations. This 40-hectare site, located in the Chef de Baie industrial zone on the seafront, employs over 300 people. The plant manufactures approximately 4,000 tons of rare earth-based formulation products per year for the catalysis, automotive pollution control, polishing and electronics markets.



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