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Horizon 2020 programme to Develop Revolutionary Underwater Mining System

As part of the Horizon 2020 programme, a new 42 month Research & Development Project, has been launched to help provide an opportunity to tap into the wealth of unexploited European mineral resources. The estimated cost of the Project is approximately 12.6 million Euros.

The aim of the ¡VAMOS! (**V**iable **A**lternative **M**ine **O**perating **S**ystem) project is to design and build a robotic, underwater mining prototype with associated launch and recovery equipment, which will be used to perform field tests at four EU minesites. Three of these are inland inactive submerged mineral deposits and the other is offshore. Building on successful deep-sea excavation techniques, this prototype will provide a safer and cleaner option for extracting currently unreachable and/or uneconomic mineral deposits.

¡VAMOS! will also look to enhance currently available underwater sensing, spatial awareness, navigational and positioning technology, as well as providing an integrated solution for efficient real-time monitoring of the parameters associated with potential environmental impacts.

Under the coordination of BMT Group Ltd and the Technical management of Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd, a consortium of 17 project partners from nine EU countries will collaborate, including: Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd; Damen Shipyards Group; Instituto de Engenharia e Sistemas e Computadores; Fugro EMU Limited; Zentrum für Telematik e.V.; Montanuniversität Leoben; Minerália, Lda; Marine Minerals Ltd; Empresa de Desenvolvimento Mineiro SA; Sandvik Mining and Construction G.m.b.H; Geological survey of Slovenia; La Palma Research Centre for Future Studies; European Federation of Geologists; Trelleborg Ede Bv; Federalni zavod za Geologijo and Fondacija za obnovu i razvoj regije Vareš.



This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 642477".

Based on its broad European and international network, the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) will support the consortium through stakeholder engagement and diffusion. Within the scope of this task, EFG will mobilise the consortium's industrial and scientific networks, participate in the organisation of stakeholder workshops and support applied and scientific dissemination activities.

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More information:

www.vamos-project.eu

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