

EIT InnoEnergy shows the potential of the Spanish battery industry to the Vice-President of the European Commission

MADRID, May 19 2021. EIT InnoEnergy, the world's largest ecosystem of innovation in sustainable energy, has presented this Wednesday some of the Spanish industrial projects in the value chain of electric batteries. **Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President for Institutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission**, and leader of the European Battery Alliance (EBA) wanted to support these cutting-edge industrial projects with his visit to Madrid. Two agreements (MOUs) have also been signed that will contribute to boost the sector in Spain.

Vice-President Šefčovič wanted to show his support for the sector in Spain in the framework of the European Battery Alliance and said: "I am proud of Spain's active role in the European Battery Alliance. The industry is at the forefront and focused on creating innovative market-oriented projects and developing skills through partnerships. I would like to thank EIT InnoEnergy for its support in facilitating this".

During the event, **the Secretary General for Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises and President of the School of Industrial Organisation (EOI), Raül Blanco Díaz, and Diego Pavía, CEO of EIT InnoEnergy**, signed an agreement that will make Spain the first European country to deploy the **EBA250 Battery Academy**, a training platform for all the jobs needed in the battery value chain. This platform already has more than 30 training courses, developed since 2018 in collaboration with leading European companies and organisations in the sector, and offers its services through local centres specialised in training workers.

It is estimated that by 2025, around 800,000 workers at European level will need to be trained to be able to operate all the industrial projects (more than 70 already today) that are being deployed in Europe. The EBA250 Battery Academy Platform is the solution to this challenge of such volume and in such a short space of time.

"In 2018, EIT InnoEnergy received from the European Commission the mandate to coordinate the industrial dimension of the European Battery Alliance and to develop specific initiatives to accelerate the development of the entire European value chain and make it more competitive. One of these initiatives is this EBA250 Battery Academy, which will now take its first steps in Spain in a pioneering way thanks to this agreement with the Ministry of Industry through its School of Industrial Organisation (EOI)", said Pavía.

In this sense, thanks to the first steps that the EBA250 will take in Spain, around **150,000 workers will be trained over the next 5 years in the field of batteries**. This is a big challenge and an enormous opportunity for the country, where the automotive sector represents 8.5% of Spanish GDP and 9% of employment, manufacturing some 2.8 million vehicles per year.

The second collaboration agreement that has been closed during this day has been the one between Juan Manuel Serrano, president of **Correos** and José María Gómez, CEO of **Scoobic**. The state-owned company and the electric mobility start-up from Seville have signed an agreement for the research and development of **sustainable and efficient last-mile logistics vehicles and solutions** specifically designed for the business needs of companies such as Correos.

The agreement is part of the National Energy and Climate Plan, in which one of the main pillars is the **reduction of emissions associated with mobility and freight transport**, which represent approximately a quarter of total CO2 emissions in Spain. The plan foresees that from 2023 onwards, all cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants will have **low-emission zones with limited access** for the most polluting and emitting vehicles. All this is happening at the same time as online commerce is experiencing exponential growth, with estimates of annual growth rates of more than 20% between 2016 and 2024 globally, and which over the last year have been further accelerated by the effects of the pandemic on consumer behaviour.

Juan Manuel Serrano said: "This agreement is another step in the Correos group's firm commitment to sustainability, innovation and support for new Spanish industrial companies. Through our collaboration with Scoobic we will increase the efficiency of our operations, caring for the planet and reducing the environmental impact of last mile logistics.

Scoobic CEO José María Gómez said: "The agreement with Correos is a great boost to our ambitions to become a European leader in last-mile logistics, providing innovative, flexible solutions tailored to our customers' needs and developing local industry and jobs.

The Battchain initiative

In the second part of the event, Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič had the opportunity to learn about the progress and talk to the five industrial projects that make up the Battchain initiative, one of the Spanish consortia that covers the entire battery value chain and is eligible for European funding.

As Diego Pavía, CEO of EIT InnoEnergy, explained, "this is one of the tangible industrial projects, with companies from the entire value chain and from five autonomous communities".

Coordinated by EIT InnoEnergy, the projects that are part of this initiative foresee an investment of 1,200 million euros, the creation of more than 1,700 direct jobs and 12,000 indirect jobs, with a

turnover reaching 2,400 million euros in 2030. Furthermore, thanks to the development of its initiatives, 1.5 million tonnes of CO2 per year will be eliminated.

The Battchain projects that have shown their latest progress to the Vice-President of the European Commission were:

- **Scoobic** (Sevilla): manufacturer and trader of electric last-mile delivery vehicles
- **Nabatt** (Navarra): supplier of battery packs for the automotive sector
- **Basquevolt** (Álava): design and manufacture of solid-state battery cells
- **BeePlanet Factory** (Navarra): second life and recycling of batteries
- **Extremadura Mining** (Cáceres): lithium mining and refining