



## XTC New Energy and Orano announce the construction of their first battery cathode active material manufacturing plant in northern France

Dunkirk, March 5, 2026

The board of directors of Neomat CAM, a joint venture owned 51% by XTC New Energy and 49% by Orano, met on March 4, 2026, and made the final investment decision to build a plant to manufacture cathode active materials (CAM) for electric vehicle batteries. The announcement was made at a press conference held today in Dunkirk, attended by Michael Liu, CEO of Neomat CAM, and Philippe Hatron, Director of Orano's Batteries Program.

This is the first facility to be built as part of the Sino-French partnership announced at the Choose France summit in May 2023. Dedicated to supplying cathode active materials, which are essential components for European *gigafactories* manufacturing electric vehicle batteries, the Neomat CAM facility is scheduled to begin operations in 2028.

This announcement follows public consultations conducted under the auspices of the CNDP (France's National Commission for Public Debate), followed by a public inquiry in the summer of 2025 and the granting of a building permit for the Neomat CAM plant in October 2025.

The production facility, to be located within the Port of Dunkirk, will be established across the municipalities of Gravelines and Loon-Plage. Its nominal manufacturing capacity of 40,000 metric tons of CAM per year will enable it to supply components for nearly 500,000 electric vehicles annually. Once the Neomat CAM plant is up and running, the partners intend to mobilize resources devoted to research and development, setting up a dedicated team and deploying specific resources to ensure that expertise is embedded locally.

Neomat CAM is the first phase of an industrial platform whose production capacity could rise to 80,000 metric tons per year, depending on market developments. In the future, this industrial platform could be developed to accommodate a plant for cathode active material precursors (P-CAM) as well as a hydrometallurgical plant for recycling manufacturing waste from *gigafactories* and end-of-life battery materials.

According to JIANG Long, CEO of XTC New Energy: *"As international experts in cathode active materials, we are delighted with this major investment in the Dunkirk region of France, at the heart of an area undergoing strong industrial growth. Together with Orano, we are combining our technologies and know-how to build a state-of-the-art plant in Europe and serve the European battery market. I greatly appreciate the quality of our collaboration which has been developing continuously, leading to this exciting industrial project."*

Michael Liu, CEO of Neomat CAM, said: *"Neomat CAM aims to play a key role in the electric vehicle value chain, by providing reliable and sustainable materials for the batteries of today and tomorrow. With more than 20 years of expertise in China, our high-quality technology, combined with continuous research and innovation, forms the foundation of this ambition. Beyond the commitment of all our employees, we would like to thank all the local, national, and European stakeholders who have believed in the vision of the Neomat project."*

Orano's Senior Executive Vice-President of Engineering, R&D, Innovation and New Activities, Guillaume Dureau, commented: *"We firmly believe in the development of a European electric vehicle battery industry. Our participation in Neomat CAM and this investment decision demonstrate our commitment to contributing to the creation of a battery materials value chain in Europe. This project is fully consistent with the Orano group's purpose, centered on transforming materials for a low-carbon, resource-efficient world."*

According to Philippe Hatron, Director of Orano's Batteries program and member of the Board of Directors of Neomat CAM: *"In less than three years, together with our Chinese partner, XTC New Energy, we have helped lay the industrial foundations for a key ecosystem at the heart of France's Battery Valley. I would like to congratulate all of our teams who have worked to make this project an industrial reality. To continue our development, we are calling for a regulatory framework that reinforces European preference and fully supports the entire value chain, including the recycling of batteries and their strategic materials."*

The project has gained significant recognition in Europe: Neomat CAM was designated a "strategic project" under the *Net Zero Industry Act* program in 2025 and received GITC (green industry tax credit) approval. The *REC2pCAM* project (Orano Batteries & Neomat PCAM) was a winner of the *Innovation Fund 2024*, and Orano's hydrometallurgy project was also recognized as a "strategic project" under the *Critical Raw Material Act* in 2025, the only French project selected in the "battery recycling" category".

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#### **About XTC New Energy**

XTC New Energy is a Chinese group and a major player in its market for the supply of materials for electric vehicles. With 30 years of experience in R&D, production and engineering in the field of cathode materials for lithium-ion batteries, the group has 2 R&D centers, 7 production sites, and 13 branches and subsidiaries with nearly 5,000 employees worldwide. XTC New Energy has a clear customer structure, occupying a leading position with a solid reputation on the global digital appliance and electric vehicle markets.

The group's ambition is to grow its international competitiveness in the new energy materials industry by providing advanced solutions contributing to the objective of carbon neutrality.

#### **About Orano**

As a recognized international operator in the field of nuclear materials, Orano delivers solutions to address present and future global energy and health challenges. Its expertise and mastery of cutting-edge technologies enable Orano to offer its customers high value-added products and services throughout the entire fuel cycle. Every day, the Orano group's 18,000 employees draw on their skills, unwavering dedication to safety and constant quest for innovation, with the commitment to develop know-how in the transformation and control of nuclear materials, for the climate and for a healthy and resource-efficient world, now and tomorrow.

#### **About Neomat**

Neomat is an industrial project developed by Orano and XTC New Energy to create an integrated supply chain for electric vehicle battery materials in France. Based in Dunkirk, it aims to combine Neomat CAM for cathode active materials, Neomat PCAM for their cathode active material precursors, and a strategic metal recycling plant project, thereby laying the foundations for a new low-carbon circular economy in support of the ecological transition.

Representing an estimated overall investment of €1.5 billion and expected to create 1,300 direct jobs, the Neomat project aims to strengthen European sovereignty in the production and recycling of materials essential to lithium-ion batteries.

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