

Congo samsung sdi

September 18 saw the official launch of the "Cobalt for Development" pilot project - a cross-industrial initiative that seeks to promote responsible mining practices and improve conditions at an artisanal cobalt mine site in a southern province of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Samsung Electronics, Samsung SDI, BMW Group and BASF SE are collaborating on the project and have commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to test within three years how living and working conditions in the artisanal cobalt mine site and the surrounding communities can be improved.

Cobalt is a key component in the production of batteries for electronic devices and electrified vehicles, with the world's largest known reserves of raw cobalt being found in the DR Congo. Together with the relevant authorities in the province of Lualaba, the project has selected a legal artisanal mine site near the town of Kolwezi to pilot the approach. The site was selected based on six criteria: legality, environmental impact, social impact, health and safety, transparency and viability.

At the pilot site, the initiative aims to promote practices that comply with human rights, respect the environment and contribute to the development of the wider community. In the surrounding community, "Cobalt for Development" seeks to improve access to education, as well as financial literacy and alternative sources of income for its residents.

"Samsung prioritizes preventing the use of conflict minerals in manufacturing," said Soo Jin Kim, Vice President of Global Public Affairs at Samsung Electronics. "This year, we have taken this a step further with our participation in the "Cobalt for Development" project, which seeks to address the challenges around artisanal cobalt mining in DR Congo. Going forward, Samsung will continue to promote responsible practices around the sourcing and supply of minerals."

The progress of the "Cobalt for Development" project will be evaluated by a committee of local representatives on a regular basis to ensure the approach is continuously being improved. Following assessment, the lessons learned could then form the basis for the project measures to be extended to other mine sites.

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Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo - With the pilot project "Cobalt for Development", the BMW Group,

BASF SE, Samsung SDI and Samsung Electronics yesterday kicked off their cross-industrial initiative aimed at improving working conditions of the people working at an artisanal cobalt mine site in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo). Cobalt is a key component in the production of batteries for electronic devices and electrified vehicles. Most of the global cobalt reserves and production are located in the south of the DR Congo.

The companies from the electronics, automotive and chemical industries have therefore commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to test within three years how living and working conditions in artisanal cobalt mining and in the surrounding communities can be improved. The commissioning companies will not operate the mine. Together with authorities in the province of Lualaba, the project has selected a legal artisanal mine site nearby Kolwezi to pilot the approach.

"Sustainability is an important aspect of our corporate strategy and plays a key role in expanding electro-mobility. We are fully aware of our responsibility: Cobalt and other commodities must be extracted and processed under ethically responsible conditions," emphasizes Dr. Andreas Wendt, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Purchasing and Supplier Network. The company's commitment to projects such as "Cobalt for Development" is fundamental to ensuring that suppliers also consistently comply with the BMW Group's high social and environmental standards. "If the project is a success, these approaches can be transferred to other small, non-industrial mines over the long term," said Dr. Wendt.

Dr. Hans-Ulrich Engel, Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE said: "BASF is committed to a responsible and sustainable global supply chain for cobalt. Although BASF does not procure cobalt from artisanal mines, we actively support "Cobalt for Development" as it aims to look for new ways to improve the sustainability of the supply chain. This project also contributes to the goals of the Global Battery Alliance of which BASF is a founding member. Cooperation with partners along the value chain drives change and increases the impact at all stages in the production."

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