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The cross-industry initiative "Cobalt for Development" has started trainings for ...

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Samsung SDI intends to lead the market as "a creative leader in energy and advanced materials". Founded in 1970, Samsung SDI currently produces advanced materials for use in the IT and automotive industries, secondary batteries for ESS (energy storage systems), and materials for semiconductors and displays. Samsung SDI has its head office, research center and production facilities located in Korea, and has overseas production facilities and sales bases in North America, Europe, China and Southeast Asia. For sustainable growth, Samsung SDI pursues harmonious growth by seeking measures to realize its vision of social and environmental values while creating economic value as well. Further information at

About "Cobalt for Development"

The project "Cobalt for Development" aims at sustainably improving artisanal mining working conditions as well as living conditions for surrounding communities in Congo. In cooperation with the local mining cooperatives, government authorities and civil society organizations, the project intends to strengthen legal compliance, improve health and safety conditions, environmental management as well as economic and social well-being. In January 2019, the companies BASF, BMW, Samsung Electronics and Samsung SDI commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to implement this fully privately financed cross-industry initiative. In 2020, Volkswagen joined the project. None of the commissioning parties operate project mines.

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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

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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."

During the upcoming months, the pilot project will focus on analyzing occupational and environmental risks to develop and implement responsible mining practices. Local partners such as the artisanal mining cooperative will participate from the beginning in developing and implementing these measures to strengthen local ownership and sustainability of the approach. In the nearby community, the focus will be to improve access to education, as well as financial literacy and alternative incomes for its residents.

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