



CBI chief executive talks critical minerals in Cornwall



Rain Newton-Smith, chief executive of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), last week toured the South West along with CBI regional director Ben Rhodes. Rain spent Tuesday (4 February) with Imerys at a critical minerals round table event and tour of its lithium pilot plant near Roche.

The round table was attended by a wide range of influencers from across Cornwall - representing other critical mineral mining businesses, Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter, the Great Southwest, Cornwall Chamber of Commerce, the Critical Minerals Association and many others.

Rain explains:

"We have had a really useful discussion today, focusing on the importance of critical minerals in delivering the UK's new industrial strategy.

"Thanks to its rich geology, mining expertise and infrastructure, Cornwall has the potential to benefit massively from the UK's growing need for a domestic supply of critical minerals.

"At the CBI, we are very keen to support Cornwall along its path of industrial growth, and I personally look forward to being part of that journey."

Mark Hewson, Imerys UK adds:

"We were delighted to host this event with the CBI. These discussions are vital for Cornish industry. We need to work collaboratively to ensure Cornwall gets the national focus it deserves - in key areas such as infrastructure and investment.

"As we move forwards with our plans to produce over 20,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate every year - here in Cornwall - we welcome support and interest from influential bodies such as the CBI."

Imerys is currently completing a pre-feasibility study for its plans to build the world's first co-located lithium mine and processing facility. The project will provide at least 300 direct jobs for an area with a rich mining heritage stretching back centuries.

For more information, visit www.imerysbritishlithium.com or email bl.info@imerys.com

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Notes to editors

Imerys

Imerys is the world's leading supplier of mineral-based specialty solutions for the industry with €3.8 billion in revenue and 13,700 employees in 54 countries in 2023. The Group offers high value-added and functional solutions to a wide range of industries and fast-growing markets such as solutions for the energy transition and sustainable construction, as well as natural solutions for consumer goods. Imerys draws on its understanding of applications, technological knowledge, and expertise in material science to deliver solutions which contribute essential properties to customers' products and their performance. As part of its commitment to responsible development, Imerys promotes environmentally friendly products and processes in addition to supporting its customers in their decarbonization efforts.

Imerys is listed on Euronext Paris (France) with the ticker symbol NK.PA.