

PRESS RELEASE

***CTRI: An Innovative Project of More Than \$1,534,000 to
Improve Energy Efficiency in the Mining Sector***

Rouyn-Noranda (September 15, 2020) — The Centre technologique des résidus industriels (CTRI or Industrial Waste Technological Centre) is announcing today some important financing for an innovative new project in the context of the Clean Growth Program (CGP) in the natural resources sector.

“We based the concept of this project on the use of high-power pulse (HPP) technology to grind and ease the release of noble elements contained in mineral rock. By the expression *high-power pulse*, we mean the storage of electrical energy and its release into very dense and very brief electric impulses that accordingly set free great power which can destroy the rock. Our role is thus to adapt the use of this technology to the mining sector and make it a cleaner and more economical alternative to conventional mechanical processes that consume much energy,” explained CTRI hydro-metallurgist Nassima Kemache, also a member of Elements08 Strategic Metals Excellence Centre.

Thanks to an investment of over \$1,534,000 dollars that comes from a number of partners, the main goal of this project is to create a Helvetian-Canadian partnership dedicated to develop the use of high-power pulse in the mining environment and to succeed in proposing this clean technology on a pilot-project scale. More specifically, it also targets study of the potential of use of this technology in the improvement of energy efficiency as well as that of the recovery rate of refractory gold and lithium.

“Sustained by numerous environmental issues, the mining industry is beginning a new era today in which paradigms of the past and the present will become unacceptable. Only the new growth source technologies likely to break with former models will survive this screening process. The current project led by the CTRI and its invaluable partners is a perfect example of what a new and clean technology might be for the mining sector,” affirmed Hassine Bouafif, Director General of the CTRI.

Paul Lefebvre, Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Natural Resources, attended the unveiling. “These investments include financing that we will pay to the Industrial Waste Technological Centre for a pilot project that will test out new comminution and grinding technology in the mining sector. This \$442,600 investment, which comes from the Clean Growth Program, will enable the development of a viable alternative to more energy-guzzling options of the traditional crushing and grinding circuit. If we find the experience conclusive, this process will significantly reduce emissions and allow a decrease of up to 20% of energy consumption,” announced Mr. Lefebvre.

Many other partners are partaking in this unique research project: the Quebec Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED), the University of Sherbrooke and the SELFRAG company, based in Switzerland.

“The SELFRAG company is proud to join CTRI to develop the use of pulse frequency in the Canadian mining sector. Developing our technology to the point of an industrial mining scale through collaboration with our Canadian mining partners certainly is an exciting idea for us. We hope that this collaboration will evolve into a strategic partnership with the CTRI and, why not, with the Canadian mining sector,” upheld Director General Frédéric von der Weid.

“We have made real commitments to demonstrate that a strong economy and a sound environment go hand in hand,” declared the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages in charge of CED. “The non-refundable contribution of \$707,895 granted by CED will allow the CTRI to reinforce its innovation and technology transfer abilities so it can support the improvement of environmental performance of small- and medium-size businesses and organizations that it serves.”

For 20 years now, more than 100 partners have resorted to the products and services offered by the CTRI multidisciplinary team concerning technological development, which has resulted in many environmental, social and economical spillovers both here and elsewhere.

To find out more about the range of CTRI services and projects, click [HERE](#).

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