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## 2# Quarterly Newsletter

November 2020

### Welcome to our official Newsletter

This is the quarterly Newsletter with information on the recent project developments, policy news about the battery sector, events and more.

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## INTERVIEW



In this issue, **Mr Rene Schroeder**, the **Executive Director** of the **Association of European Automotive and Industrial Battery Manufacturers (EUROBAT)**, talks about the future of the European battery industry, including the new 2030 Roadmap and the revision of the battery directive. EUROBAT is a Steering Board Member of the ALBATTS project.

**1) Today, there is a strong focus on electric vehicles and the role traction batteries play to power EVs. The European automotive industry keeps on investing to sustain its competitive position, but further investment in battery production facilities and partnerships in Europe are imperative. Do you think European autonomy in this field will be a reality?**

EUROBAT is the Association of European manufacturers of automotive and industrial batteries. There is a huge focus today on electric vehicle batteries and their development in Europe, and batteries do indeed have an essential role to play in achieving the decarbonisation targets in the transport sector. However, it is important to realise that batteries also are critical to the decarbonisation of many other sectors.

European autonomy is paramount for the development of a strong and coherent value chain to provide sustainable products, services and business models and we see numerous projects starting across Europe. This is the only way we can implement a circular economy model that will strengthen the EU's industrial base and foster creation and entrepreneurship among the different players.

**2) What is EUROBAT's view regarding the recent inclusion of lithium in the 2020 list of essential raw materials, that is part of the Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials?**

The availability of raw materials is essential for manufacturing, including batteries. We therefore welcome the focus of policy-makers on this issue in recent years. The availability of raw materials is also an important parameter for the research and innovation activities of battery manufacturers. We welcome the introduction of lithium on this new list, but it is also very important to support the production of all battery technologies in Europe and guarantee access to the raw materials they require.

**3) What are the highlights to be taken from "Battery Innovation Roadmap 2030" White Paper, in the context of the European Green Deal?**

The EUROBAT Roadmap demonstrates the strong innovation potential of all battery technologies. Batteries are essential to decarbonisation across a number of sectors, including transport, energy, logistics, production and telecommunications, and will play a crucial role in supporting the European Green Deal and enabling the 'green recovery' from the COVID-19 pandemic. All battery technologies, with their specific features and significant development potential, are required to harness the full potential of the European battery industry to contribute to achieving Europe's 2050 climate-neutrality goals and power the specific requirements of different applications. If we enable all four battery chemistries to play their part, we will maximise the contribution of our industry to meeting the zero-pollution targets of Europe's Green Deal by 2050.

**4) The proposal on the revision of the Batteries Directive will soon be published. In your opinion, what are the key topics that should be addressed? What will change and what impact will it have on the sector?**

Batteries are key enablers for realising the green transition and achieving a climate-neutral society. For Europe, the establishment of a complete domestic battery value chain is imperative for the clean energy transition and a competitive industry. In order to do so, it is essential to ensure a coherent legislative framework for batteries that reflects technological developments and the environmental sustainability of batteries inserted in the circular economy. In this vein, we need full support for the production of all battery technologies in Europe. The upcoming regulation needs to further boost the production of sustainable and innovative batteries of all technologies.

This regulation will have a significant impact because it will establish new legislation for the next 15 years. From producers to users, everyone is going to be affected, as it will be the cornerstone of a sustainable and competitive European battery value chain that tackles climate neutrality.

**5) The European Investment Bank and the European Commission are committed to financially support battery-related projects and proceed with a 'Battery Alliance', including the objective of creating up to a million jobs in the near future. How do you see skills needed for electrification? Where do you see a link to battery industry and jobs?**

The battery industry and supply chain have significant potential for development, which also makes the industry interesting from an employment perspective. Research and innovation are important drivers. However, these programmes must be designed in an open way to reap the full potential of the European battery industry, and provide the framework for the development of the skilled workforce that the European battery industry requires.

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## ALBATTS NEWS

**What have we been working on?**

**Work Package 4 and 5** have published their first reports on the main findings concerning **Intelligence in Stationary and Industrial Battery Applications** and in **Mobile Battery Applications**. Read the full report [here](#).

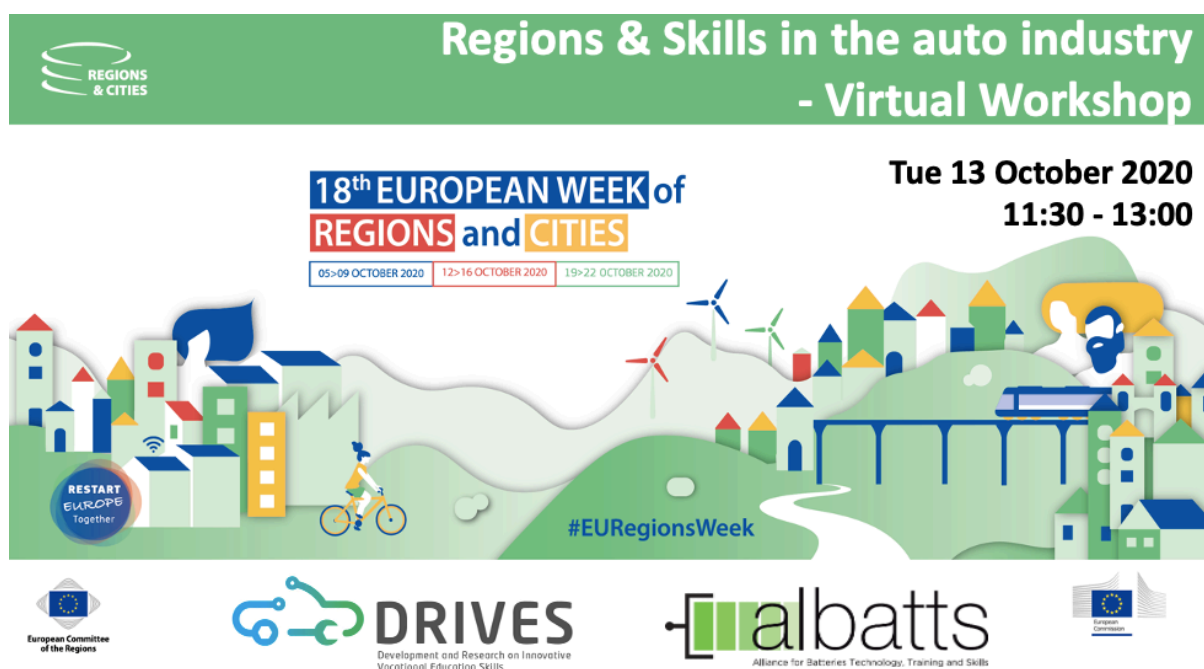
**Skills4Automotive Platform** is an interface to FREE ONLINE courses selected by DRIVES and ALBATTS partnerships, related to the automotive industry and e-mobility, made available by major world-renowned universities. It is meant to guide reskill and upskill home education of the workforce in the automotive sector.

Recently, ALBATTS was mentioned (pg.21) in the **Advanced technologies for industry Sectoral watch : technological trends in the automotive industry** - European Commission's report from July 2020 – where it says that the project “aims to identify and develop relevant skills arising from the new requirements of electric mobility”.

### Pact for Skills Joint Proposal

The joint call for the dedicated partnership for skills agenda in the automotive ecosystem contributes to the process of establishing Pact for Skills in Europe. It presents clear roadmap towards skills transformation as well as contributes to post-COVID recovery in the sector. ALBATTS joined DRIVES project in the movement started by automotive stakeholders to further broaden achieved outcomes, such as initial ecosystem intelligence, skills mapping, basic principles of the EU skills Framework in the automotive or dedicated database of industrial stakeholders, education providers and other relevant stakeholders. The proposal builds on inclusivity and openness for all other existing or future stakeholders, initiatives or projects to jointly cooperate under one European umbrella.





## Regions & Skills in the auto industry - Week of Regions and Cities Workshop

The DRIVES and ALBATTs, two ERASMUS+ blueprint projects, have organised, on the 13th of October, a workshop focused on the exploitation of their results, so far. The event aimed at stimulating a debate between the project team and regional representatives on future educational needs in the automotive and battery industries, safeguarding the future of local communities that depend on these industrial activities. The session included a discussion on initiatives currently being conducted by regional stakeholders (the Stuttgart region, DE and the municipality of Skellefteå, SE) and the perspective from the Tyre and Rubber Association. These identified trends in innovation and on skills for jobs aiming to support the introduction of low-carbon economies, the energy transition, intelligent transport systems, and automated and connected vehicles.

Regions are a major stakeholder in this equation. They often have discretionary power over policy strategies and funding impacting these industries as well on VET skills policy. The two ERASMUS blueprint projects – DRIVES and ALBATTs, are crucial pieces for guiding skills full readiness of the automotive and green mobility ecosystem, involving regional entities.

Regions described their role in promoting excellence and a skilled workforce in

these sectors.

You can watch the [full recording of the session here](#).

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## WHAT IS NEW IN EUROPEAN POLICY

Recently the European Commission announced new initiatives and also the revision of old ones, concerning the battery value chain:

- **Action Plan for Essential Raw Materials**
- **Launch of the European Raw Materials Alliance**
- **European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking**
- **Revision of the Batteries Directive**
- **Review of the Industrial Strategy**
- **European Commission's Sustainability Requirements for Batterie**

See the [full report here](#).

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## BATTERY SECTOR NEWS

### **BATTERY2030+ projects kick-off looking for better cells**

The European BATTERY 2030+ project is gaining momentum as the research initiative launches seven projects with a total budget of 40.5 million euros from the EU's Horizon

### **Europe's shift to electric vehicles**

Overall car sales dropped by 24% year on year. Passenger plug-in vehicles, on the other hand, increased by 95%!

### **Long-term supply contract with**

2020 program this September.

### Europe's actions on raw materials

The European Commission presented its **Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials** outlining concrete steps undertaken to enhance Europe's industrial and strategic autonomy by securing the supply of critical raw materials.

### KIT & Skeleton developing graphene batteries

The ultracapacitor manufacturer Skeleton Technologies and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) are working together on the development of a graphene battery with a charging time of only 15 seconds.

### German government funds Northvolt battery plant in Sweden

The German government will support the financing of Northvolt's battery cell factory in Sweden with a state guarantee of 443 million euros as part of the federal foreign trade promotion programme.

### Northvolt for battery cells from Europe concluded

The battery cells will be produced in Europe at the Northvolt gigafactory currently under construction in Skellefteå in northern Sweden (series plant Northvolt Ett) from 2024.

### Verkor, Europe's new battery cell producer

Verkor, a French industrial company, is set to amplify battery cell production in Europe, with the support of EIT InnoEnergy, Schneider Electric and the GROUPE IDEC.

### Europe ramps up policy support for storage

Policy support for battery energy storage is gaining momentum across Europe as national governments remove regulatory barriers and the EU pledges financial support for this emerging technology.

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## EVENTS CORNER



- **International Conference on Electrochemical Power Sources**, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 5-6 November 2020
- **Hands-on Lithium-Ion Battery Seminar - from state of the art to future technologies**, Itzehoe, Germany, 2-3 December 2020
- Launch of the Pact for Skills, European Vocational Skills Week 10 November 2020
- **Battery Cells & Systems Expo 2020**, United Kingdom, 2-3 December 2020
- **International EV Batteries 2020**, United Kingdom, 10-12 November 2020
- **The Advanced Materials Show**, United Kingdom, 2-3 December 2020
- **Automotive Summit**, Online, 11-13 November 2020
- **European Electric Vehicle Batteries Summit 2020**, Rotterdam, Netherlands, 9-10 December 2020
- **IBA 2020**, webinar, 17-18 November 2020
- **Advanced Automotive Battery Conference Europe**, RheinMain Congress Center, Germany, 17-21 January 2021
- **Agile Automotive Engineering Summit 2020**, 25-27 November 2020
- **Tire Cologne 2021**, Koelnmesse, Germany, 18-20 May 2021
- **EV BATTERY RECYCLING & REUSE 2020**, 30/11 to 1/12 2020
- **5th Automotive Plastics &**

- **AUTO:CODE 2020**, 30  
November to 1 December 2020

**Advanced Composites  
Summit 2021**, Sheraton Milan  
Malpensa Airport Hotel, Italy,  
20-21 May 2020



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