European Commission

Strategic Projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act



STRATEGIC PROJECT

CRM4Defence - Byproducts and Recycling of CRM f Defence

Description of project

CRM4Defence is a recycling project led by Leonardo to recover production scrap and convert it into high-quality by-products that can be reintroduced into European production. The project is technically mature, targeting full capacity by mid-2030, with expected annual contribution to secondary raw material production amounting to approximately 1 400 tonnes of titanium, aluminium and magnesium. The pilot phase is in progress with briquetting plants operational at three of its 13 industrial sites (Italy, Poland, France, and the UK). The project uses cleaning, cutting, separation and briquetting technologies to transform production residues into certified by-products.

Benefit for the EU

The project will strengthen the EU's security of supply for strategic raw materials, addressing in particular the vulnerability associated with the absence of domestic titanium sponge production. It is designed to retain the recovered materials and reintroduce them into European production, particularly in the aerospace and defence sectors in line with the EU targets. Market integration is further supported by Memorandums of Understanding and Expressions of Interest with different European foundries.

Project Name:
CRM4Defence - Byproducts and Recycling of CRM for Defence

Project Type:
Recycling

Strategic Raw Material:
Titanium, bauxite/alumina/aluminium, magnesium

Project Promoter:
Leonardo S.p.A.

Project Country:
Italy

Estimated Starting Date of Production:
2026

UNFC Classification: E1.1 // F1.3 // G1

Website of the Strategic Project:
https://www.leonardo.com/en/sustainability/protecting-the-planet/crm4defence-project

© European Union, 2026
Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.
Header image © AdobeStock.com

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2026
PDF ISBN 000-00-00-00000-0 doi:00.0000/0000000 ET-00-00-000-00-0
PRINT ISBN 000-00-00-00000-0 doi:00.0000/0000000 ET-00-00-000-00-0