

Media Information

24 February 2022

BMW Group joins responsible lithium mining project in Chile

- “Responsible Lithium Partnership” advocates for responsible management of natural resources in the Salar de Atacama salt flat
- Another element of BMW Group’s activities to make lithium extraction more responsible
- Cross-sector project with BASF, Mercedes-Benz Group AG, Daimler Truck AG, Fairphone and the Volkswagen Group
- BMW Group brings scientific study on impact of lithium mining on water resources and surrounding ecosystems to project

Munich. Responsible management of natural resources is one of the core elements of the BMW Group’s commitment to sustainability. Within the framework of these activities, the company has joined the cross-sector “Responsible Lithium Partnership” project. The aim of the project is to reach a shared understanding of responsible management of natural resources with local interest groups and develop a vision for the future of the Salar de Atacama salt flat in Chile.

The “Responsible Lithium Partnership” was initiated in spring 2021 by BASF, the Mercedes-Benz Group AG, Daimler Truck AG, Fairphone and the Volkswagen Group for a planned duration of three years. The project does not promote lithium sourcing or the purchase or sale of mineral raw materials.

BMW Group becomes new member, shares scientific study

The BMW Group is the sixth member to join the initiative. One of the ways in which it is supporting the project is by sharing scientific findings on the impact of lithium mining on water resources in Chile’s Salar de Atacama. Together with BASF, the BMW Group had already commissioned a study by the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Massachusetts Amherst into the effects of lithium mining on local water balances in Latin America in late 2020.

The aim of the study is to gain a better scientific understanding of the interdependencies between freshwater and lithium brine layers, evaluate various technologies and acquire the expertise to assess responsible lithium mining. The study provides a scientific basis for future decisions about lithium sourcing.

"Responsible Lithium Partnership" brings relevant players to the table

The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) is coordinating the project, aimed at developing a joint vision for the future of the water catchment areas of the Salar de Atacama. Representatives from lithium and copper mining, agriculture, tourism, indigenous communities and government are invited to a local multi-stakeholder platform where they will develop measures together. A further aim is to develop a joint action plan to improve long-term management of natural resources and implement initial steps.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 31 production and assembly facilities in 15 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

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In 2021, the BMW Group sold over 2.5 million passenger vehicles and more than 194,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2020 was € 5.222 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.990 billion. As of 31 December 2020, the BMW Group had a workforce of 120,726 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company set its course for the future early on and is making sustainability and resource efficiency the focus of the company's strategic direction – from the supply chain, through production, to the end of the use phase, for all its products.

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