

PRESS RELEASE

Caremag, a subsidiary of Carester, has secured €216 million in financing to build its rare earth recycling and refining facility in France

The French company Caremag SAS, a subsidiary of Carester SAS, has secured €216 million to build its cutting-edge rare earth recycling and refining industrial facility in Lacq, in the south of France. Expected to begin operations by late 2026, this project is backed by €110 million from Japanese investors and €106 million from the French government.

A key investment to strengthen Europe's rare earth value chain

The Caremag facility will **recycle 2,000 tonnes of magnets and refine 5,000 tonnes of mining concentrates annually**, positioning itself as Europe's first large-scale rare earth recycling facility and the largest western producer of purified heavy rare earth. With an output of 600 tonnes of Dysprosium and Terbium oxides - **representing around 15% of the global production** - and 800 tonnes of Neodymium and Praseodymium oxides, Caremag will play a vital role in supplying key materials for electric vehicles, wind turbines, and advanced electronics.



credit : Vindry Architecture

Strategic international support drives the project forward

This ambitious industrial project is made possible through the joint support of **France and key Japanese partners**. The Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security ("JOGMEC") and the private firm **Iwatani Corporation**, through their joint venture, "**Japan France Rare Earth Company**", have announced today their decision to invest up to **€110 million in equity and shareholder loans** in the Caremag plant. This investment includes a long-term supply agreement to provide Japan with heavy rare earth oxides.

The **French government** is playing a major role in this investment, with financial support provided **from the outset** in the form of subsidies and repayable advances granted under the **France Relance and France 2030** project calls, as well as a **Green Industry tax credit** granted in July 2024, totaling **€106 million**.

Finally, the support from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and TotalEnergies through its Induslaccq platform, along with equity contributions from Carester and its employees (21 of whom are shareholders in Caremag), complete this financing.

An industrial unit integrating the best environmental practices

Looking towards the future, the Caremag plant will create 92 direct jobs, meet the highest environmental standards and leverage Artificial Intelligence to optimize production.

"Caremag will incorporate patented cutting-edge technologies designed to reduce CO₂ emissions while minimising water consumption and ensuring the absence of liquid effluents. Moreover, over 80% of direct CO₂ emissions will be recycled within the process." says **Frédéric Carencotte, President of Carester**. *"This project aligns with the European Critical Raw Materials Act and represents a major step towards Europe's independence in rare earths for permanent magnets."*



About Carester

Founded in 2019 by Frédéric Carencotte and a team of international experts, Carester is a French company specialising in the refining of rare earth elements, critical materials for the energy transition and cutting-edge technologies. With unique expertise and more than 250 years of combined industrial experience, Carester supports mining companies in optimizing their processes and developing innovative solutions to secure Europe's rare earth supply.

To learn more, visit:
<https://www.carester.fr/>

About Caremag

Founded in November 2020 by Carester and its employees, Caremag is spearheading Carester's industrial project, driven by the belief that recycling will play a key role in the rare earth ecosystem. A pioneer in long-loop recycling, the plant will process end-of-life magnets and mining concentrates while adhering to the best environmental and digital standards.

To learn more, visit:
<https://www.carester.fr/fr/caremag>

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