



HYDROVOLT *EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW*

Arnaud Dubief
Head of Expansion
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HYDROVOLT at a glance

Hydrovolt, a battery recycling and raw materials company, was established to provide a solution for creating a sustainable and circular battery value chain. In 2024, the company made its final investment decision on establishing its **first battery recycling facility out of Norway in Hordain**, Hauts-de-France.





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Hydrovolt

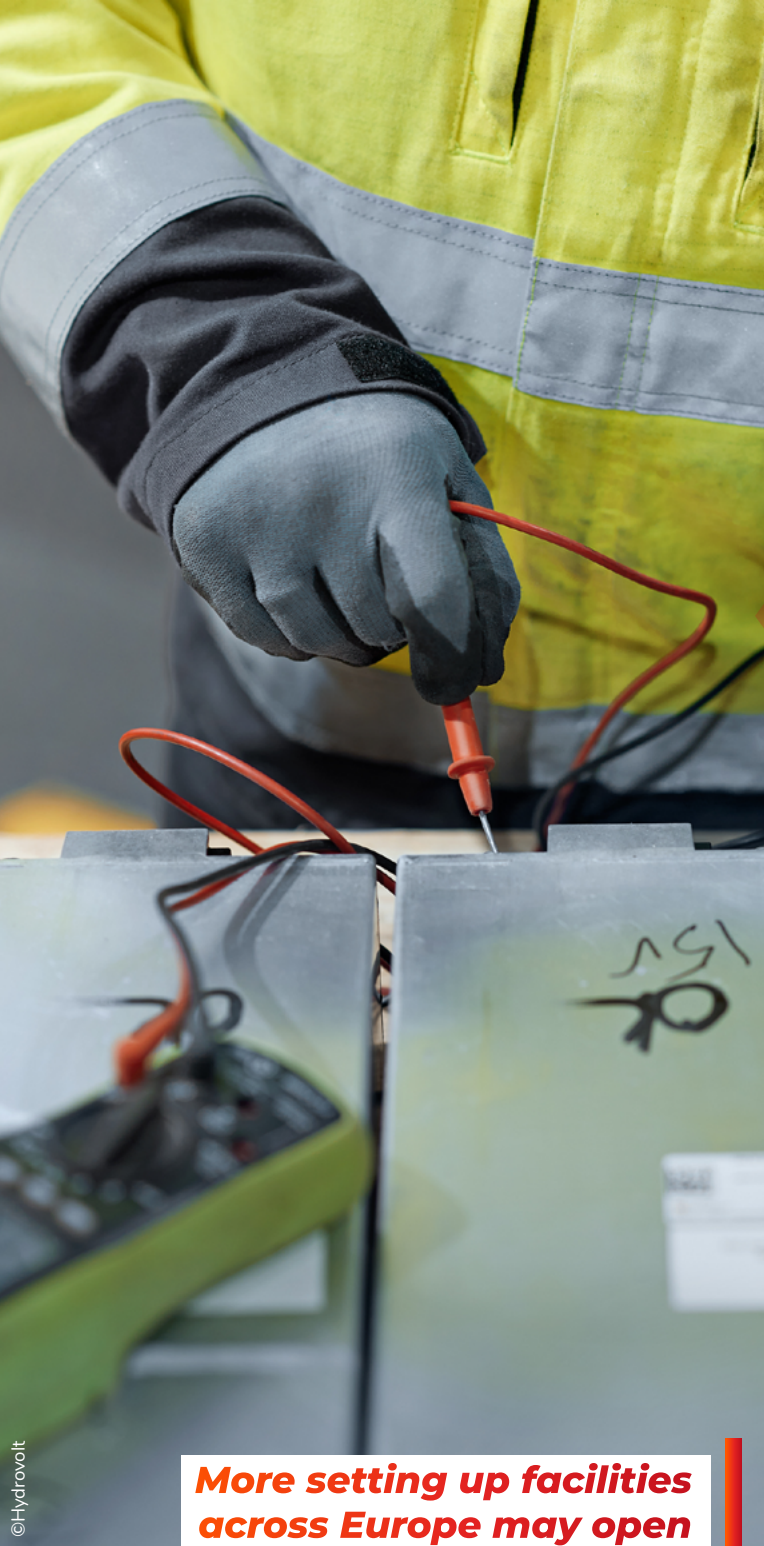
Hydrovolt is the result of the merger between Hydro and Northvolt. Could you retrace the genesis of this joint venture?

Hydrovolt was established as a joint venture between Hydro and Northvolt in 2020. Hydro is a world-leading aluminum producer and extensive industrial knowledge with many industrial plants around the world, while Northvolt is a leading Swedish battery manufacturer with extensive battery knowledge on technology and chemistries providing necessary know-how to the joint venture on batteries. They came together to provide a solution for creating a sustainable and circular battery value chain.

Hydrovolt choose the well-known Battery Valley in the Hauts-de-France as it is a growing hub for the battery value chain.

You've just announced an investment in Hauts-de-France. How does this fit in with the Group's global strategy, and what development needs does it address?

The region's location, skilled workforce and industrial and automotive tradition is attractive to our first location outside of Norway, our home market. Entering this region will allow the company to provide sustainable battery recycling locally and regionally across Europe.



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More setting up facilities across Europe may open within 2030 to help strengthen circular initiatives in the battery value chain.

Can you tell us more about your global and national competitive environment?

The battery recycling industry is a new and emerging industry in Europe where several have announced plans for building capacity. The Asian market is still far ahead of Europe, but we now see a growing interest for building capacity also in Europe, in which is important to secure access to critical raw materials.

Can you explain the nature of this investment and your core business? What are the project's key figures?

Hydrovolt plans to invest gradually and first establish collecting, dismantling, and discharging of EV –and industrial batteries at the site in France. The scalable concept is based on well-known technology and experience from our activities at one of Europe's largest battery recycling plants in Norway.

In the first phase of the project, we estimate a need for between 10-20 jobs at the French site.

What role will this site play in your global international strategy?

The establishment of the French site will be an important first step into the European mainland and will be a key sourcing area for securing access to critical raw materials. It will also work as an enabler for other strategic facilities in Europe with time.

What practical advice would you give to an international company looking to set up in Hauts-de-France?

Be sure to seek advice and support from local experts, authorities, and interests to make your project fit for investment. Local presence and knowledge are key to project success.

What support did you receive from the public authorities?

We received great guidance and support from Nord France Invest and Business France to receive necessary information needed to make the investment decision and get ahead in the project development. We look forward to continuing the collaboration with public authorities in Hauts-de-France.

***France
is a great
country
to do
business in!***

What do you think is the most unjustified misconception about doing business in France?

The most unjustified misconception is that France shouldn't be a country for international companies. It's completely wrong! France is a great country to do business in, and we look forward to exploring the opportunities and culture of French business culture and industrial tradition.

NEED HELP FOR YOUR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT?

CONTACT US



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