

# FINLAND'S ANSWER TO THE BATTERY METAL HYPE AND CIRCULAR ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES

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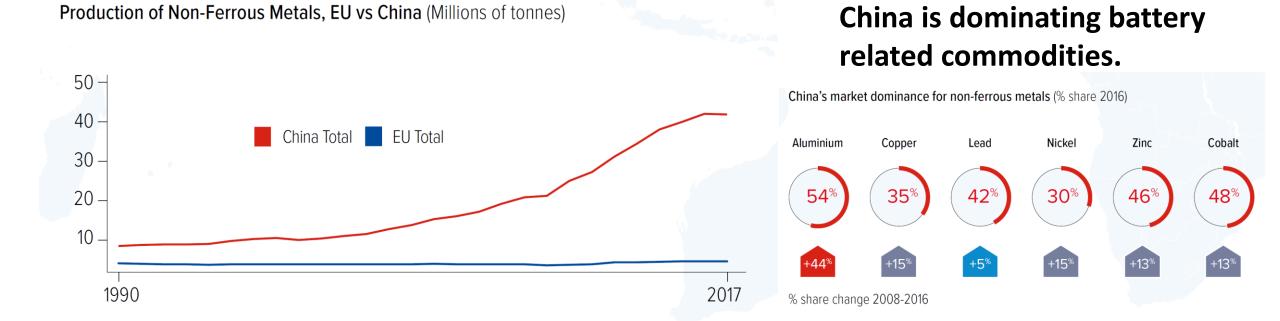
LinkedIn and Twitter, #circulareconomy #gtkmineralpotential #exploration #mining #batteryminerals #rawmaterials #gtkmintec #gtkmes #circularrawmaterialshub

# LIVING UP TO THE GREEN MOBILITY PROMISE

- Electric mobility builds on a promise of greenness
- Electrification requires unprecedented amounts of mineral raw materials -> research
- The raw material supply chain also has to deliver on the promise of environmental excellence
  - Primary minerals
  - Circular economy
  - Re-mining possibilities



### **CAN EUROPE CATCH UP CHINA?**

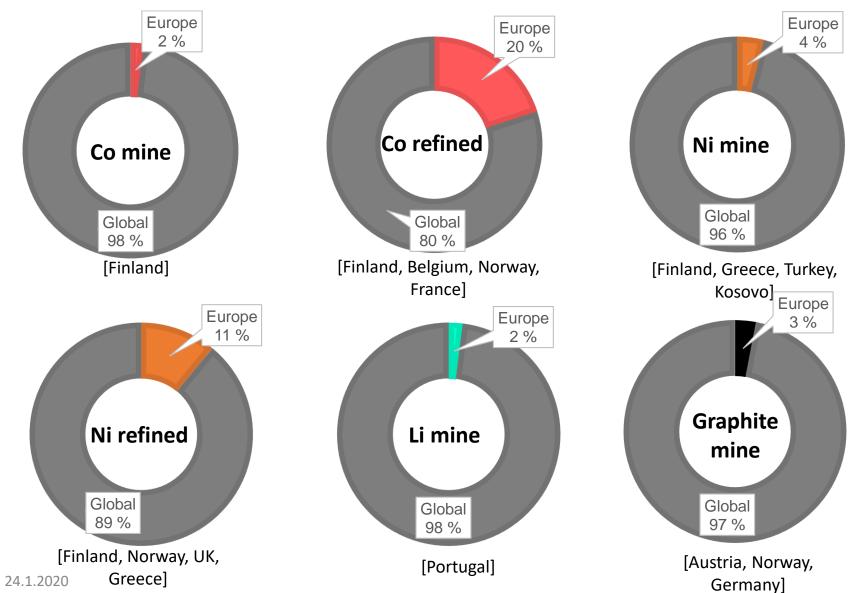


Sources: Institute for Climate Neutral Europe (IES); Vrije universitet Brussel (VUB) British Geological Survey



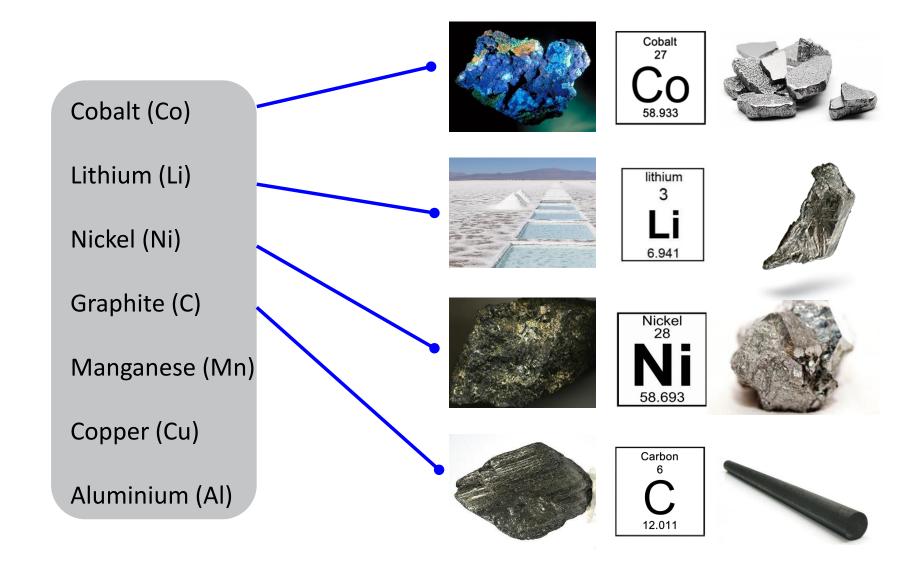
Source: Taube, 2017

#### **EUROPEAN BATTERY RAW MATERIALS**

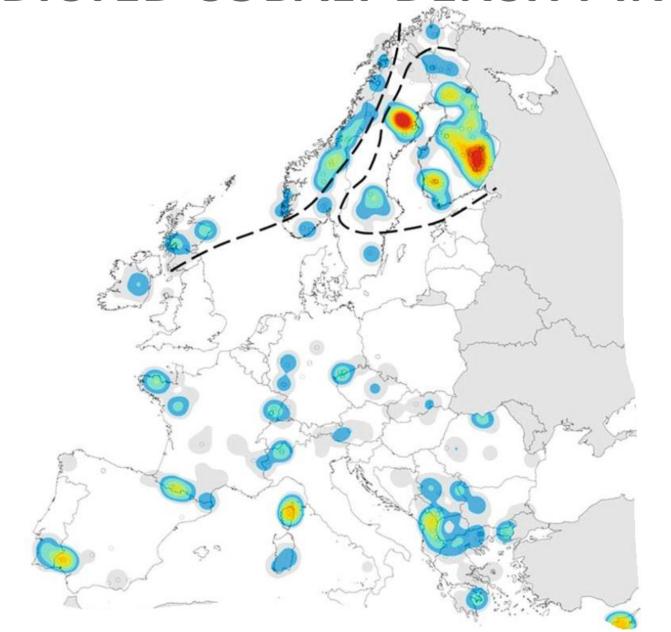


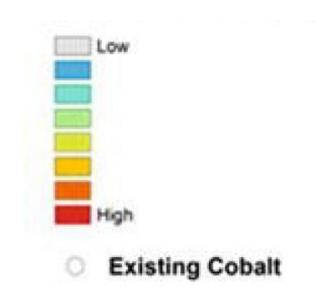
Source: Evi Petavratzi, BGS-2019

### THE MAIN BATTERY METALS



## PREDICTED COBALT DENSITY IN EUROPE



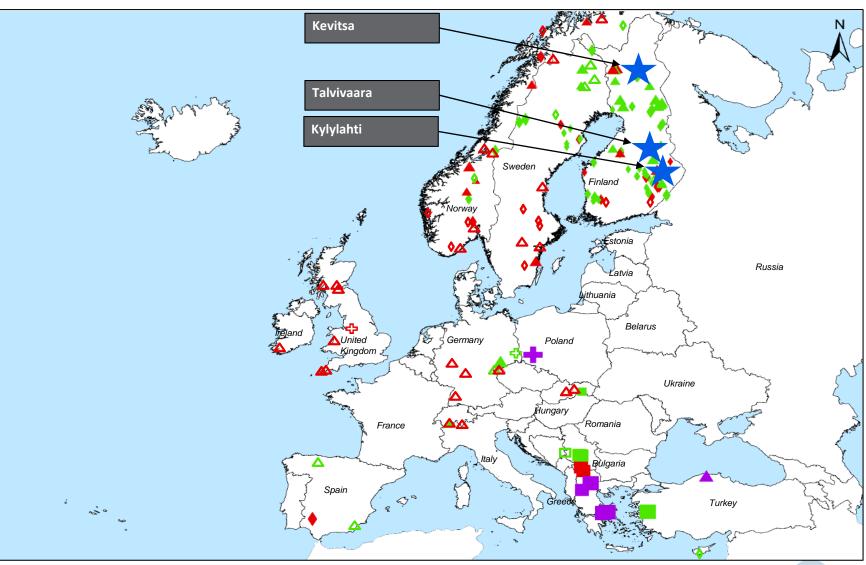


Source: JRC112285, after Promine2015



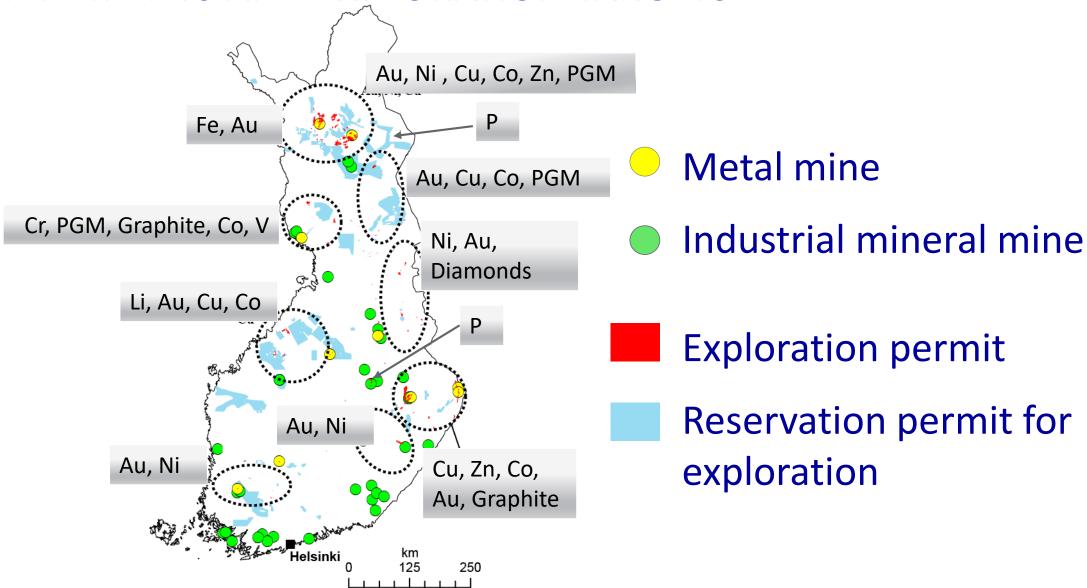
#### PRIMARY COBALT DEPOSITS AND RESOURCES IN EUROPE

#### Deposit type Magmatic Ni-Cu (-Co-PGE) sulphide deposits Stratiform sediment-hosted Cu-Co deposits Ni-Co Laterite deposits Other deposit types **Status** Operating Mine with Co-production Operating Mine with no Co-production Abandoned Mine / Potential for remining Under exploration Cobalt content [t] No data 100-1000 1000-10 000 10 000-100 000 > 100 000



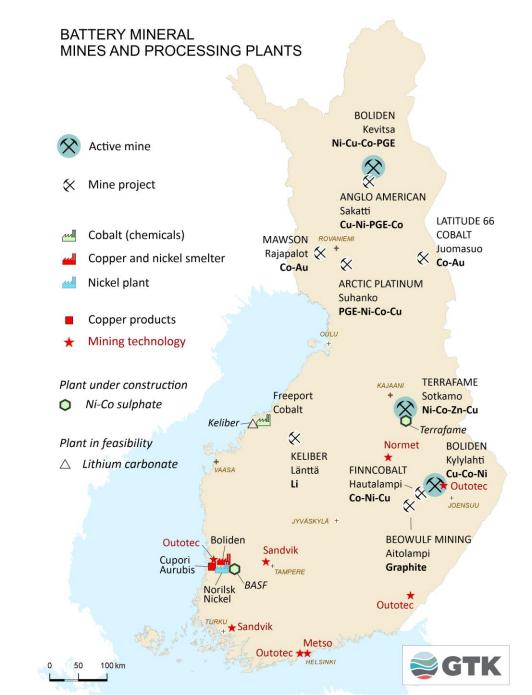


#### **TENEMENTS AND EXPLORATION TARGETS**



### **BATTERY CLUSTER**

- Leading expert
- Battery mineral research and solutions
- Innovations
- Exploration concepts
- Battery minerals
  - Exploration: Mineral systems, exploration focus point
  - Processing: Material characterization
  - Raw materials: Main and side product material know how
  - Sustainable growth: Usage forecast, environmental view, social license to operate

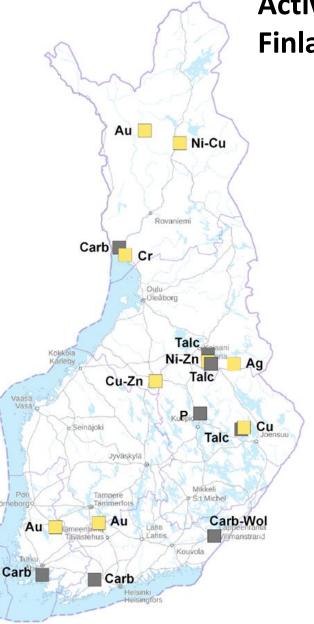


#### MINING IN FINLAND

Finland is currently the only EU country producing Cr, Co and P and is also the largest producer of PGM and Au

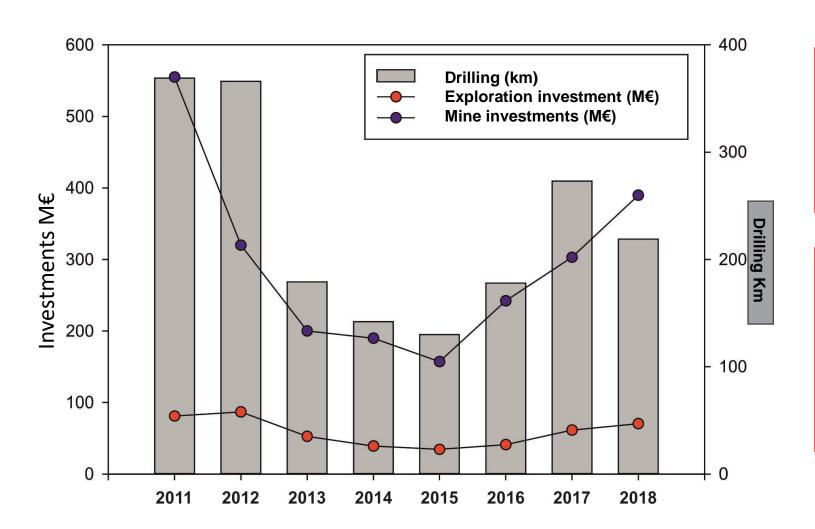








### **EXPLORATION AND MINING INVESTMENTS**



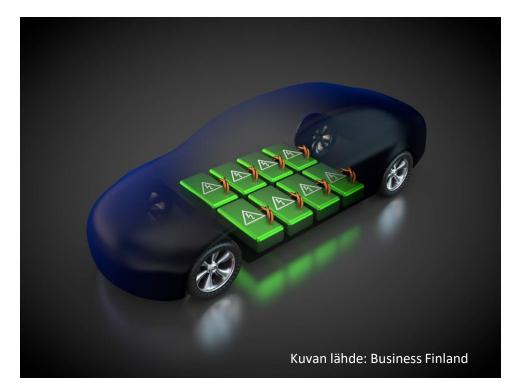
- Investments in exploration and mining have increased since 2015.
- GTK runs (2019–2022)
  project: Evaluation of
  the potential of battery
  metals (cobalt, litium
  and flake graphite)



Source: TEM julkaisuja 2019:57

# INVESTMENTS INTO MINE PRODUCTION AND BATTERY CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT IN FINLAND

- Terrafame: 240 M€ in nickel- and cobalt sulphate factory
- BASF: battery chemical factory
- Boliden: 80 M€ in capacity increase in the Kevitsa Co-Ni-Cu-PGE-Au mine
- Boliden: 150M€ to new diesel electric haulage trucks to Kevitsa mine.
- Outokumpu Chrome: 250 M€ in deepening the mine down to 1 Km in Kemi.





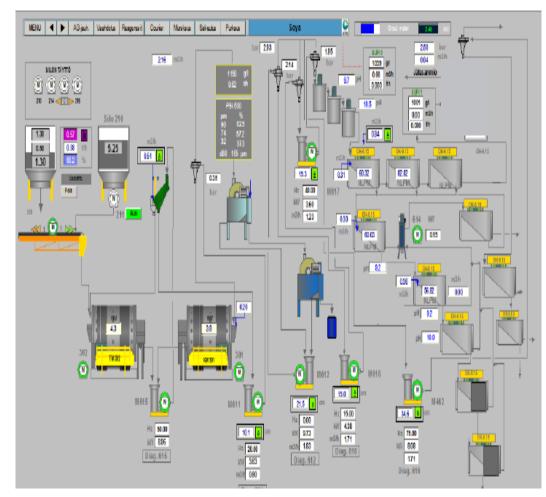
# HOW CAN THE MINING OPERATIONS PARTICIPATE IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

- Prevent minerals ending up as waste
  - Improved or alternative/additional processing
  - Lower cutoff
- Extend reserves
  - Mine lifespan, brown fields and deep mine exploration
- Usage of waste
  - Utilize waste rock
  - Reprocess tailings and waste rock for raw materials
- Deep extensions adding mine life e.g. Pyhäsalmi (Zn) and Kemi (Cr)
- Designing processing flow sheet (GTK Mintec), mine management according to BAT



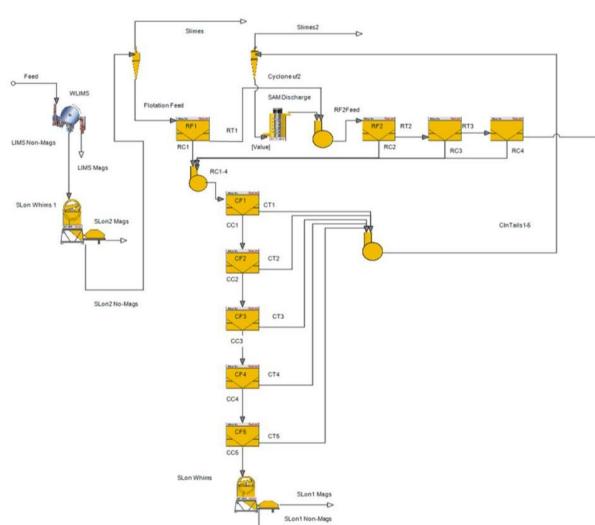
# GTK MINTEC: COMPLETE MATERIAL MANAGEMENT FROM THE START

- Mineral processing flow sheet development for ores, geomaterials and old tailings materials (remining) and more
- Designing complete utilization of the crushed and ground ore:
  - Primary commodities: Ni, Co, Cu, Fe, Au, Zn, PGE...
  - Future and marginal commodities
  - Earth construction materials: bricks, blocks...
  - Final tailored waste fractions: Ceramics, 3D etc
  - Recent example: Otanmäki Ilmenite tailings





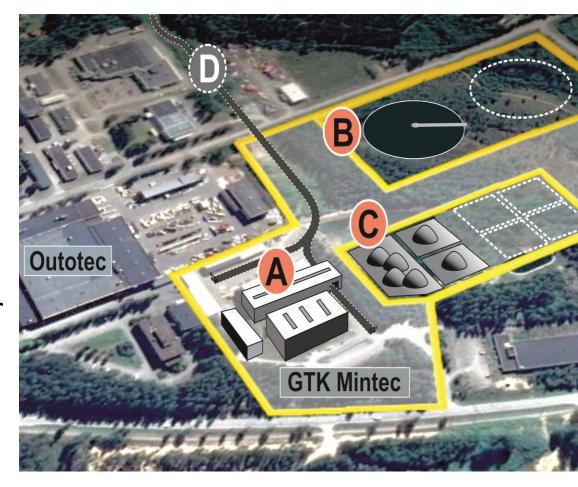
## YARA SOKLI PHOSPHATE ORE: MAGNETIC SEPARATION THAT REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF FLOTATED ORE



- New process for the low grade ore type
- HI magnetic separation as a preconcentration phase for LIMS nonmagnetic fraction before the flotation phase
- Between 20-40 % of the feed mass was reduced in early stage with acceptable P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> recovery loss
- P₂O₅ feed grade for flotation raised by 30%
- Less beneficiation chemicals and water needed in flotation -> reduction of the environmental impact

### **SOLUTIONS FOR THE TAILORED WASTES**

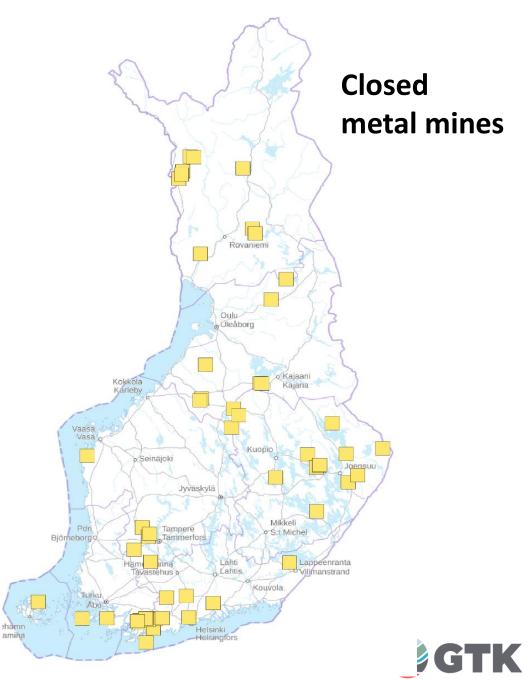
- "SMART" tailing facility
- Tailored, optimized final waste types
- Cost effective when included in the processing scheme from the start
- Detailed environmental and geotechnical characterization of the optimized wastes
- Selection of best management methods for low cost and small footprint
- Water recovery for recycling
- Technology supplier collaboration





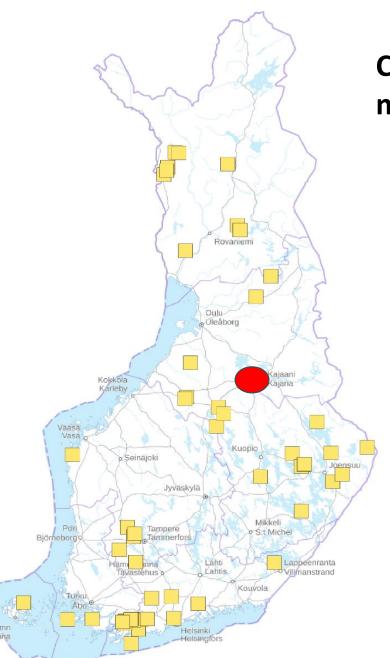
## MINE TAILINGS (REMINING)

- 30 + closed mines
- Commodities:Au, Cu, Co, Fe, Ti, Mo, Ni, S, Pb, REE, V, W, Zn
- Most of these mines where in operation at some stage during 1950-1980
- Projects ongoing investigating the possibility to reprocess the tailings



## **OTANMÄKI MINE**

- Produced Fe-V-Ti-S 1953- 1985
- Magnetite and ilmenite ore
- Otanmäki Mine Oy is planning to reprocess the tailings
- Significant amounts of ilmenite still in the tailings

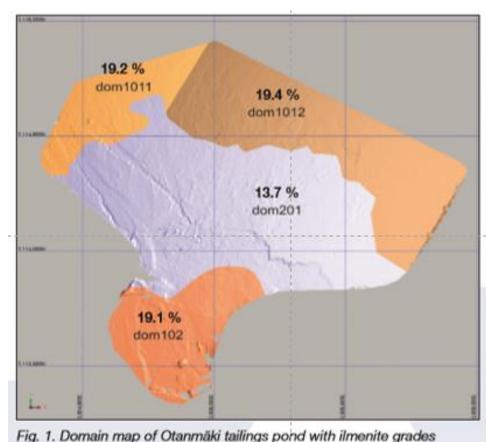


## Closed metal mines



### **REMINING FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

- Old TMFs hold an untapped potential for battery and other innovation metals
- Remining can greatly enhance sustainability if done right
- Must be based on detailed mineralogical characterization: geometallurgy
- Tailored processing flow sheets
- Full material utilization similar to primary ores





## OTANMÄKI MINE

#### Otanmäki tailings pond ilmenite project

JORC2012-compliant mineral resource of ca. 10 Mt of tailings sand containg on average 16% of ilmenite

Mineral resource estimate for the Otanmäki Tailings Project December, 2018				
Category	Cut-Off TiO <sub>2</sub> %	Mt	Grade	Grade
			(% TiO <sub>2</sub> )	(% FeTiO <sub>3</sub> )
INDICATED	4	9.8	7.9	15.96
TOTAL	4	9.8	7.9	15.96

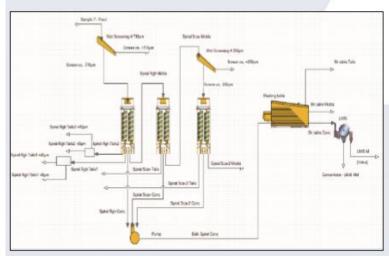


Fig. 2. Processing flow sheet (GTK, Mintec 2018)

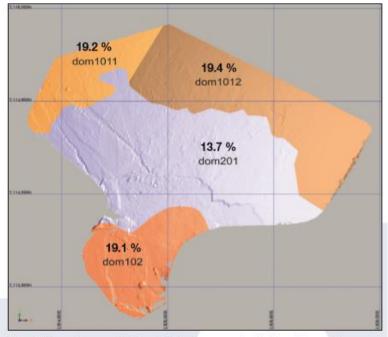


Fig. 1. Domain map of Otanmäki tailings pond with ilmenite grades

- Recovery of ilmenite with simple gravity based processing
- Planned processing of 1.1 Mt of tailings sand per year producing 100 000 tons of ilmenite per year.
- Total production time estimated ca. 7 years.
- Ilmenite production from Otanmäki mine starts before the end of tailings sand processing.

the end of tailings sand processing.

### REMINING

Similar process development tests have been done for e.g.:

- Ni, Cu, Co, PGE
- Spodume
- Wollastonite

#### Remining outcome:

- Vanadium: Vanadium-Redox-batteries (V2O5)
- Titanium: Lithium **Titanate Batteries** ased processing (Li2TiO3)
  - Fe, Pigments

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### MANAGE YOUR VALUABLE WATERS

- Increase process water recirculation but maintain processing results
- Less water to TMF
- Tailored water quality for different parts of the process
- Water treatment design, on-site piloting, new treatment methods
- Water management for the whole site
- Discharge management







## GUIDES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY

#### Under preparation:

- Guide for the Best Available Techniques Reference Document for the Management of Waste from Extractive Industries (MWEI-BREF)
- Guidebook for the Planning and construction of environmental protection structures for mining
- Guidebook for the Assessment of the remediation need for the closed and abandoned mining waste areas

#### Previously published e.g:

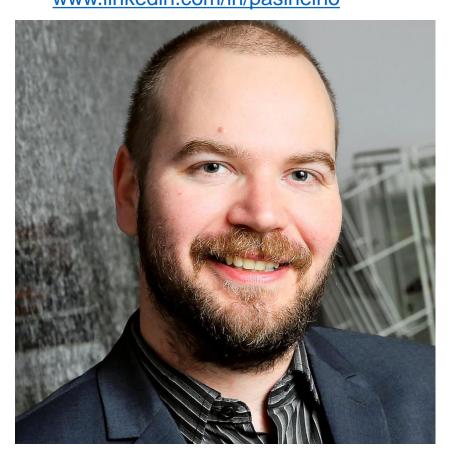
- Best Environmental Practices for Metal Mining
- Mine Closure Handbook
- Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Mining Projects in Finland
- Defining Mining Waste as 'Inert'
- Environmental Risk Assessment for Metal Mines
- Good Practices in Assessment of the Environmental Impacts of Mining Projects

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

- The European commission have commenced actions to secure the battery industry in the EU but Asia is far ahead and Europe has to work hard to catch up.
- The electrification will change and increase the need for primary raw materials
- Battery hype and circular economy requires lots of collaboration between research community and the technology developers
- Finland has got the opportunity to enhance the battery cluster growth by building on existing strengths.
- GTK focuses on battery- and critical minerals as well as on circular economy solutions in its new strategy.
- GTK has expertise and solutions from the exploration to mine closure



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## KIITOS

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