

Nuclear mineral resources consist of 55.2 megatons of indicated resources of 1.68 percent lithium oxide and 17.9 percent boron trioxide, with an additional 84.1 megatons of assumed resource with 1.84 percent lithium oxide and 12.6 percent boron trioxide, Rio Tinto stated.

The Rio Tinto Group has discovered pure ore reserves and updated data on the mineral resources of its lithium borate exploration and processing project in Jadra, Serbia.

The ore reserve amounts to 16.6 megatons with 1.81 percent of lithium oxide and 13.4 percent of boron trioxide, Rio Tinto stated in the report to the Australian Stock Exchange, reports the portal Indikator.ba.

The mineral resource on which the basic ore reserve is located has been updated to include additional drilling which has resulted in an updated geological model. Mineral resources are reported to have been excluded from ore reserves, the company noted.

At the end of July 2020, the project moved into a feasibility study, with an investment of nearly \$ 200 million in a scope that includes detailed engineering, land acquisition, manpower and preparation for construction, permits and early infrastructure development, expected to be completed by the end of 2021 and, if approved, construction could take up to four years, Rio Tinto said.

Previous feasibility studies have shown that Jadar can have the potential to produce both lithium carbonate and boric acid batteries, providing lithium products in the value chain of electric vehicles for decades, the statement said.

Jadar, discovered by Rio Tinto geologists in 2004 near the town of Loznica in western Serbia, could produce approximately 55,000 tonnes of battery-grade lithium carbonate, as well as 160,000 tonnes of boric acid and 255,000 tonnes of sodium sulphate as by-products a year, the portal said.

Source: b92.net