

Jadar, discovered by Rio Tinto geologists in 2004 near the city of Loznica in western Serbia, would be capable of delivering approximately 55,000 tonnes of battery-grade lithium carbonate, as well as 160,000 tonnes of boric acid and 255,000 tonnes of sodium sulfate as by-products per year.

Serbia plans to ban the export of lithium from the Jadar deposit in a bid to become a European hub for the production of batteries, electric cars and other products containing lithium, prime minister Ana Brnabic said. Serbia aims to attract 1.5 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) in private investments through the Jadar project, which is holding about 10% of the world's lithium reserves, Brnabic said as seen in a video file posted on the website of the Serbian parliament last week.

"It will be impossible to export from Serbia lithium as a raw material, we should make semi-finished or end products [containing lithium] so that the economy can grow," Brnabic also said.

Last month, the Serbian government said British-Australian mining group Rio Tinto plans to invest a total of \$450 million in the development of the Jadar lithium borate exploration and processing project in Serbia.

The mineral resource of Jadar comprises 55.2 megatonnes of indicated resource at 1.68% lithium oxide and 17.9% boron trioxide with an additional 84.1 megatonnes of inferred resource at 1.84% lithium oxide and 12.6% boron trioxide.

Source: seenews.com