



ARCORE AG: Exploration for production of future-critical raw materials in the Lopare region will be completed shortly

- **Swiss ARCORE AG aims to mine raw materials for future applications in an environmentally and socially responsible manner**
- **Exploration phase of several years confirms extensive deposits of lithium carbonate, magnesium, potassium and boron**
- **Conditions for concession application for usage of mineral deposits fulfilled**

Zug, 09 October 2023

Swiss ARCORE AG, through its subsidiary ARCORE d.o.o. ulaganja, has successfully completed all the necessary exploration work to discover a mineral deposit in the region of Lopare, BiH. This was done in strict compliance with legal regulations and in accordance with the highest geological and ecological standards that apply to this type of exploration on local and international level. The company thus fulfils all the conditions for a concession application to use a European mineral deposit. In international comparison the mineral content of the deposit, which has been explored for the last four and a half years, contains significant amounts of lithium carbonate, magnesium, potassium, and boron – future raw materials that are crucial in the production of batteries for electric mobility or energy storage, in medicine, the pharmaceutical industry and many other areas, and whose supply situation is becoming increasingly critical.

ARCORE AG - Swiss Junior Mining Company with close ties to Bosnia and Herzegovina

ARCORE d.o.o. ulaganja is headquartered in Banja Luka and operates a business unit in Lopare. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of ARCORE AG, based in Zug, Switzerland, an internationally active junior mining company. The Swiss public company specialises in the development of confirmed mineral deposits in south-eastern Europe. The Lopare project is currently the focus of their operations.

Mathias Schmid, President of the Board of Directors of ARCORE AG in Zug, Switzerland: *"The Lopare project is in the final stages of testing its explorations. Some studies are still ongoing, but we expect all results to be finalised in the next few months, enabling the economic revitalisation of Lopare and the entire region. We want to point out that so far, the results have shown the possibility of an environmentally justified use of mineral resources with a focus on green mining, a reduced CO₂ footprint and a demographically favourable impact on the Lopare community. We need local people, whom we also want to give a permanent perspective in their home region. In addition, there will be a need for immigration for the operations in the modern mine and related activities."*

Aleksandar Petrovic, Vice-President of ARCORE AG in Zug, Switzerland, adds: *"The results of our exploration phase and our concepts for subsequent operations show that environmentally and socially responsible mining of future-critical metals and minerals is possible in Europe. This is not the only promise we have made for the Lopare region. Once the mining concession has been granted, the project should become a reliable factor for the prosperity of the region and help to secure the supply of critical future raw materials for European industry for many decades to come."*



Elaborate exploration process according to the highest international standards

ARCORE acquired the licence to explore the mineral deposit in the traditional mining region Lopare in 2018 – together with all relevant data already collected in the area by other players. Three phases of exploration followed between 2020 and 2022, and the mineral deposit was finally scientifically estimated and confirmed in 2022 according to Australian JORC standards. In charge of this process was CSA Global. As a mining specialist, they are part of the ERM Group, the world's largest consulting firm focusing exclusively on the technical and sustainable feasibility of projects of this kind. This year, the certificate of the Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Republic of Srpska (Resenje o potvrdi rezervi) followed, which also confirms the mineable deposits from the official side. The public will be informed about the amount and exact composition of the mineral deposit as soon as the analyses are finally completed in the coming months.

In addition, numerous other renowned companies and institutions from Europe, the USA, Australia, and the Lopare region participated in the exploration of the deposit and the development of the project. European institutions such as the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA), the EIT Raw Materials, and the European Lithium Institute (eLi) recognise the importance of this project for the entire continent and strongly support it. The German Mineral Resources Agency (DERA) also considers all European lithium projects relevant in order to reduce the currently prevailing dependence on imports and thus also to enable the expansion plans of the local industry.

A regionally rooted project with great potential for the Lopare region, the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia-Herzegovina

ARCORE not only has a local presence, but also strong roots in the region through its management staff. Throughout the project, the group closely worked together with the municipality of Lopare and the Republic of Srpska within the processes required by law. On both sides the entire process was conducted strictly according to the law. This enabled an independent, legally secured exploration process according to the highest geological and ecological standards. ARCORE AG hereby confirms the positive attitude of all relevant institutions in Republika Srpska and their full support for the development of Project Lopare.

All parties involved see the potential of the project for the region. Vladimir Rudic, Director of ARCORE d.o.o. ulaganja, says: *"I come from this region and it therefore makes me particularly proud that with the Lopare project we are bringing a real factor for prosperity to the region. The production and related activities will create up to 1,000 local jobs directly and between 3,000 and 5,000 jobs indirectly, revitalising the region economically. We would like to thank the community of Lopare and its people for their support throughout the process and we are pleased that we have not experienced any objections from their side."*

Commitment to Responsible Mining – realising environmentally and socially responsible mining.

ARCORE is expressly committed to the concept of "responsible mining" and to sustainable value creation for the Lopare region, the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Europe. Throughout the entire project to date, ARCORE has been in close contact with local and European institutions, environmental associations and other independent third-party partners. Various independent expert reports prove that environmentally and socially compatible mining is possible in compliance with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, European standards (ISO 9001, ISO 14000, OHSAS 18000), and the official requirements of the Republic of Srpska.



Jürgen Schlichting, member of the advisory board of ARCORE AG in Zug, Switzerland: *"The Lopare project is not only a significant step towards securing important European raw materials, but also a proof of ARCORE's commitment to environmentally and socially responsible mining. As we enter the production phase, we will continue to work with local and international partners to ensure sustainable production and position ARCORE as an important participant in the global commodities market."*

Statements by European institutions on the Lopare project

The European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA): *"ERMA is currently evaluating the project after an initial positive assessment of its potential to provide EU industries with lithium and boron. Projects such as this may have the potential to supply sustainably-sourced material from within Europe and at the same time help develop the local infrastructure and economy. We look forward to assisting our member ARCORE with the development of a socially and environmentally responsible project that is in line with the scope and vision of the Critical Raw Materials Act."*

Dr. Andreas Bittner, Executive Director European Lithium Institute eLi: *"We at eLi have accompanied our member ARCORE since 2021 and look forward to its further development of the Lopare mine with great interest."*

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