



## Construction begins on first-of-its-kind electric vehicle battery technology centre and pilot line



### *European battery producer, InoBat to develop 'newest battery technology' on-site*

**[2 June 2021, London / Bratislava]:** Construction has today begun on a first-of-its-kind electric vehicle (EV) battery R&D centre and pilot line, integrating proprietary R&D activities together with battery cell-manufacturing capabilities under one roof.

Set to be operational in early 2022, the new battery centre is being built by leading European electric vehicle battery developer and producer, [InoBat Auto](#) ("InoBat"), who is developing premium batteries which can be quickly and efficiently tailored to meet the specifications of any electric vehicle.

Powered by green energy through grid electricity and solar panels, the 290,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (27,000m<sup>2</sup>) site will create up to 150 skilled jobs, and will include a technical training centre, modern office space, research labs and manufacturing line. InoBat, who purchased the existing brownfield site to reduce the need for carbon intensive construction methods, will use the new battery centre, to identify the optimum cell chemistries to meet the exact requirements of any vehicle maker or manufacturer faster and more efficiently than competitors.

Co-Founder and CEO of InoBat Auto, **Marian Bocsek**, celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony alongside **Boris Kollar**, Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, **Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission, **Vazil Hudak**, the EU SME Convoy, **Faysal Sohail**, InoBat's Chairman, and InoBat's Vice Chair, **Andy Palmer**, who was responsible for building the UK's first electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility in 2009 during his time as Chief Operating Officer of Nissan.

**European Commission Vice-President, Maroš Šefčovič**, in charge of the European Battery Alliance, said: *"I am delighted that the private sector is maintaining the momentum built up by the European Battery Alliance. This ambitious new InoBat Auto project represents another significant stepping stone towards building a competitive, innovative and sustainable battery value chain here in Europe. This will help bolster our strategic autonomy and protect millions of jobs in the face of increasing global competition – particularly important in Central Europe."*

*"The European Commission will therefore continue to mobilise all industrial actors, Member States and the European Investment Bank to shift things into a higher gear – leveraging investment, establishing a fit-for-future regulatory framework, building our raw materials resilience and upskilling people to meet the fast-growing needs of the battery ecosystem – so that our automotive industry can stay out in front."*



The site, located 40km outside of Bratislava in Voderady, is situated in the centre of Central Europe's automotive hub, with more than 4.25 million vehicles produced annually in a 500 km radius from the facility. InoBat is also preparing to build a 1GWh Gigafactory in Voderady, Slovakia before scaling up to a 32GWh Gigafactory to support and serve the international market at scale.

**Marian Bocek, Co-Founder and CEO of InoBat, commented:** *"On behalf of InoBat, our partners and our dedicated investors, we are thrilled construction is now underway and look forward to rapidly developing the newest battery technology to help accelerate the much-needed electrification of all forms of transport from our world-class hub here in Slovakia."*

*"Our new home, which sits in the heart of the European vehicle and automaker ecosystem, will become a centre of excellence for battery development, and we look forward to working with current and future partners to deliver the best batteries customised directly to meet exact specifications for electric vehicle in the automotive, aviation, commercial and industrial sectors."*

The landmark event comes just five weeks after InoBat signed a landmark agreement with [SOR](#), one of the largest producers of city and intercity-buses in Central Europe, with the intention to design, develop and supply batteries for a new urban, intercity and long-distance electric bus fleet.

InoBat has also announced a strategic partnership with leader in automation, industrial software and intelligent infrastructure, Siemens, to digitalize InoBat's entire value chain for electric vehicle battery production. InoBat will use Siemens' solutions to develop a holistic digital factory approach throughout its R&D battery centre and production line, which was designed by architectural firm, Takenaka.

InoBat is backed by a strong consortium of investors and technology companies, including lead investor [IPM Group](#) (IPM) – the fastest growing InfraTech asset managers who specialise in bringing ground-breaking technologies from Silicon Valley to Europe – strategic investors and partners include CEZ (strategic investment of EUR 10m) Matador, AEN, MSM Group, Across and Wildcat Discovery Technologies.

**-Ends-**

**Please find a link to watch a recording of the groundbreaking ceremony here:** <https://www.event-online.sk/inobat-auto-groundbreaking-ceremony?lang=en&token=inobat>

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

#### **About InoBat**

InoBat discovers and produces intelligent battery solutions customised to the individual specification of the end-user for an increasingly diverse market of electric vehicles in automotive, aviation, commercial and industrial sectors.



Based in Slovakia, in the heart of Europe, InoBat is building the first-of-its-kind fully integrated R&D centre and pilot line by 2022 and a Gigafactory in the following phase by 2023. In collaboration with technological partner Wildcat Discovery Technologies, InoBat uses a unique R&D High Throughput Processing (“HTP”) platform to design cell chemistries, validate research and continuously improve to safety, quality and performance of the latest battery innovations.

InoBat’s ‘discovery to delivery’ approach fast tracks cell innovation from the laboratory to the shop floor, to produce high performance, technology-driven customised batteries at scale for the benefit of customers.

[www.inobatauto.eu](http://www.inobatauto.eu)

### **About Central Eastern Europe’s Automotive Industry**

Central Eastern Europe is an automotive-rich region, host to the largest concentration of major automotive OEMs per Km<sup>2</sup> in the world. Slovakia is the global no.1 auto producer per capita, while neighbouring Czech Republic is number two and Hungary and Poland are number six and eleven respectively. The automotive industry comprises 13% of Slovakia’s GDP, 47% of its total industrial production output, and currently provides over 13% (330,000) of all jobs domestically. A total of over 20 OEMs are located locally, including Audi, Seat, Peugeot, Volkswagen, Porsche, Jaguar Land Rover, Citroën, Skoda and Kia, in just Slovakia. Neighbouring countries are host to Opel, Lancia, Ford, Renault, Toyota, Mercedes Benz, Suzuki and Dacia.

### **About High Throughput Processing Technology (“HTP”)**

InoBat’s key technological advantage is the proprietary mixture of HTP and artificial intelligence (AI) research developed by Wildcat Discovery Technologies, which allows InoBat to carry out R&D to efficiently optimise battery requirements at a small scale which can be quickly and efficiently replicated on a larger scale – in this case scaling up its findings from a level of grams to kilograms. This allows InoBat to efficiently create customisable solutions which fit a manufacturers specification – rather than the current ‘catalogue’ approach currently offered by its competition and do so at great speed, allowing InoBat to provide its customers with their ‘best’ answer, at up to 10x a reduction in cost or time.

### **About IPM**

IPM Group (“IPM”) is an asset and wealth management company with assets in excess of one billion US dollars under management.

The company focuses on investments in the InfraTech sector – the intersection between real assets infrastructure and ground-breaking technologies. IPM Group’s portfolio companies aim to solve some of the world’s most pressing issues across sectors including energy, mobility and AI-driven critical infrastructure.

The dynamic and disruptive approach of the company has seen it become responsible for many ‘first of their kind’ transactions across the globe, in the process, seeding Silicon Valley expertise in the heart of the Danube Valley. The company supports Europe’s bid for technological and supply chain sovereignty in its areas of activity. IPM was established in London in 2014 and has global presence with offices in London, Bratislava, Seoul, San Francisco and Hong Kong.

[www.ipmlp.com](http://www.ipmlp.com)

### **About Marian Bocek**



Marian is a Co-Founder and Managing Partner at IPM and Co-Founder and CEO at InoBat, an R&D and battery production company with the long-term objective of serving the European market with new energy solutions.

Marian has over fifteen years of global banking and investing experience, having executed in excess of US\$10bn in private equity and investment banking transactions in the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Prior to co-founding IPM, Marian was a director of InfraMed Infrastructure, one of the largest emerging market private equity infrastructure funds. He began his career at Lehman Brothers' Global M&A/Investment Banking team in New York, which was taken over by Barclays Capital in 2008.