TECNICAS REUNIDAS

HYDROMETALLURGICAL PROCESS FOR RARE EARTH PRODUCTION FROM MONAZITE MINERALS

(MONAZITE)

PROJECT FACT SHEET

MONAZITE

MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA, INDUSTRIA Y COMPETITIVIDAD

CDTI Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial

UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER)
Una manera de hacer Europa

Call	R&D Projects (PID)
Funding entity	CDTI
Duration	2016- 2018
Budget	1.535.803 €

DESCRIPTION

Técnicas Reunidas will develop a hydrometallurgical process for rare earth production from monazite minerals. The reference deposit used for research will be the so called Matamulas, located in Campo de Montiel (Ciudad Real, Spain).

The development of a process of this nature will allow underpin indigenous supply of rare earths to European industries linked to high-tech sectors, entirely dependent today on imports from China.

The lack of Western technologies for the production of rare earths from raw materials of primary origin, along with the strong current and future demand trends for this type of metals is a clear demonstration of the strategic interest that presents this development at present time.

Monazite Project consists of the following phases:

- The first phase of the project consists of the development on a laboratory scale of a hydrometallurgical process to treat the rare earth mineral-rich concentrate from Matamulas deposit. The aim of the process is to obtain pure individual rare earths with high efficiency.

- The second phase of the project will consist of demonstrating the techno-economic feasibility of the process. For this purpose, a hydrometallurgical pilot plant will be designed, built and operated in order to obtain a pure Nd and Pr product.