TDB-DST Signs Agreement with NeoSeeker Metals under RDI Fund to Advance Indigenous Critical Minerals Recovery Technology

Advancing Indigenous Critical Minerals Recycling Technology from TRL-5 to TRL-9

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As India expands its footprint in electric mobility, clean energy, electronics and advanced manufacturing, the demand for critical minerals is set to grow significantly. This growing demand also brings into focus an important national challenge—securing access to these strategic resources sustainably while addressing the increasing volume of electronic and end-of-life battery waste.

Recognising this potential, the Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has signed an agreement with M/s Neo Seekermetals Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana, under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund. The agreement will support the development and commercialisation of an indigenous technology for the extraction of critical metals through the recycling of e-waste and lithium-ion battery waste.

The project, titled “Extraction of Critical Metals by Recycling of E-Waste and Lithium-Ion Battery Waste,” has a total project cost of ₹20 crore, with ₹10 crore approved under the RDI Fund. The financial assistance will be extended through Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD).

Neo Seekermetals is addressing this challenge through an integrated and patented recycling process designed to process both e-waste and lithium-ion battery waste. The technology seeks to recover valuable metals and battery materials from these complex waste streams, creating a pathway where materials that would otherwise be discarded can be brought back into the productive economy.

The project aims to advance the technology from Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-5 to TRL-9, taking it towards commercial-scale deployment. The proposed process is designed to support the recovery of a range of valuable materials, contributing to the development of a more resilient domestic ecosystem for critical minerals and metals.

Sh. Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, Technology Development Board, said, *"India's transition towards clean energy and advanced technologies will require secure and sustainable access to critical minerals. Developing indigenous capabilities to recover these resources from e-waste and end-of-life batteries is an important part of this larger effort. Through the RDI Fund, TDB is supporting technologies that can combine innovation with strategic relevance, helping transform waste streams into valuable resources and strengthening the foundations of a circular economy."*

An authorised representative of Neo Seekermetals said, *"The support from TDB under the RDI Fund will help us take our technology forward towards commercial deployment. Our focus is on building an efficient and sustainable process for recovering critical and valuable materials from e-waste and lithium-ion battery waste. This partnership will provide an important impetus to our efforts to build indigenous capabilities in resource recovery and contribute to India's growing circular economy."*



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