

Press release - Wednesday 9 October 2024

## ARMOR BATTERY FILMS starts up its new factory

Twenty months after work began on its new factory, ARMOR BATTERY FILMS, an ARMOR GROUP company, is starting to move its teams in. This is accompanied by the start-up of its equipment dedicated to the production of En' Safe® coated current collectors, key battery components. The new facilities will enable ARMOR BATTERY FILMS to increase its production capacity fivefold, while preparing for the future in the rapidly expanding global battery market.

### A new factory comes on stream

With the recent move at the beginning of September of the staff dedicated to R&D, the ARMOR BATTERY FILMS teams are gradually moving into the brand-new industrial site located at La Chevrolière (44), a few kilometers from Nantes. Dedicated to the production of coated current collectors, the 8,000 sqm building is designed to operate 24/7 and includes an ink formulation workshop, three coating and cutting workshops and a large storage warehouse. More specifically, the entire 1<sup>st</sup> floor is dedicated to R&D activities, with three laboratories, including an anhydrous room. These areas are used for developing formulations, assembling and testing batteries (buttons and pouches). Initially, the new site will house two production lines, but the building has been designed to accommodate a third, a project already planned for 2026/2028. **The first of the three production lines has been fully operational since the autumn, following a successful qualification phase with customers.**

Pierre Guichard, RDI & Industrial Manager at ARMOR BATTERY FILMS, comments: *'We have reached a crucial stage with the qualification by our customers of our products from the new line. This phase enables us to guarantee our ability to achieve the quality standards they demand. What's more, the machines installed on the new site will not only enable us to increase our production capacity, but also to offer new product specifications - wider widths and continuous and intermittent patterns - that meet the expectations of our battery manufacturer customers.'*

### Optimising resources for maximum performance

The En'Safe® current collectors developed by ARMOR BATTERY FILMS respond to today's challenges of optimising resources and represent a major technological advance for the battery industry. These solutions offer essential benefits to manufacturers, such as improved electrode adhesion, corrosion protection, increased energy density and better battery capacity retention. **All of these benefits are designed to improve battery safety and extend battery life by up to 20%.** En'Safe® current collectors therefore promote more rational use of resources, responding to today's economic and ecological challenges.

Thierry Dagron, Marketing and Business Development Director adds: *'We are proud to offer solutions that not only optimise battery performance, but also improve the efficiency of the resources used. With En'Safe®, we're doing more with less, an approach that is essential in today's environment.'*

### A booming global market

**The size of the lithium-ion battery market reached \$4 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 11% from 2024 to 2032.** What's more, this type of battery has become a key pillar of the energy industry, accounting for 57% of the global rechargeable battery market today, compared with just 13% in 2014. By positioning itself in growth sectors such as energy storage systems (ESS), electric buses and data centres, and thanks to a network of North American, European and Asian customers, the Nantes-based manufacturer is establishing itself as the essential Western alternative to Asian manufacturers of coated current collectors.

Thierry Dagron concludes: *'The battery market is seeing the emergence of new technologies, based on both electro-chemistry (LFP, sodium-ion) and manufacturing processes such as dry-coating, for which our products are perfectly suited. We are extremely confident about the future. The lithium-ion battery market continues to grow at a sustained rate, with considerable development prospects. As the only Western alternative, we are more than ready to play a major role in this rapidly expanding market!'*

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Photo credit: ARMOR BATTERY FILMS

#### About ARMOR BATTERY FILMS

At a time when energy storage is a priority issue, ARMOR BATTERY FILMS designs, manufactures and markets current collectors under the En'Safe® brand, with a coating that protects against corrosion, improves adhesion and reduces internal electrical resistance. The aim: to increase the safety, performance, life and cycle number of lithium-ion and super-capacity batteries. ARMOR BATTERY FILMS puts its industrial expertise at the service of its international customers by relying on a multidisciplinary team of around fifty employees. ARMOR BATTERY FILMS is a company in the ARMOR GROUP, an ETI - enterprise of ideal size - specialising in ink formulation, thin film coating and the circular economy. The group is world leader in the design and manufacture of thermal transfer ribbons dedicated to the printing of variable traceability data on labels and flexible packaging. With an international presence, ARMOR GROUP employs nearly 2,500 people in some twenty countries on four continents. The group generated sales of €436m in 2023 (proforma including the acquisition of THS).

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