

- **Finalization of the cooperative agreement with the *US Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations*, for the development of the *Lebec Net Zero* project, including a CO₂ capture, transport and storage system**
- **DOE funding to cover up to 50% of the phase 1 investment, up to a maximum project investment of \$500 million**
- **By combining the various decarbonization levers, *Lebec Net Zero* will enable an emissions reduction of around 950,000 metric tons of CO₂ per year.**

The Vicat Group announces that its North American subsidiary, *National Cement Company of California Inc*, has signed a cooperative agreement with the *US Department of Energy (DOE), – Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations*, for the development of the *Lebec Net Zero (LNZ)* project at the Lebec cement plant in California.

The cooperative agreement commits up to \$500 million, contributing to up to 50% of the phase 1 cost to finance the project.

The *LNZ* project includes the construction of a CO₂ sequestration facility, known as *Carbon Capture and Storage*, with an annual capacity of around 950,000 metric tons of CO₂, i.e., almost all the cement plant's emissions.

The *LNZ* project will also make it possible to increase the consumption of alternative fuels via locally sourced biomass agricultural byproducts and to reduce the clinker rate through the production of cement based on calcined clays.

This project aims to demonstrate that a combination of different decarbonization levers can reduce an existing cement plant's CO₂ emission to zero. As a result, the Lebec plant will produce carbon-neutral cement.

Initial activity in the first phase of the project involves carrying out a preliminary engineering study (*Pre-Front End Engineering and Design study*) and setting up a Community Advisory Body in charge of relations with local communities. This phase will run through Q1 2026.

Guy Sidos, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said:

"This decision by the US Department of Energy demonstrates the relevance and realism of the Vicat Group's decarbonization roadmap. I welcome this decision by the American authorities to support National Cement, because without public funding, this project would not be possible. I congratulate the National Cement teams on this first step."

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About the Vicat Group

For 170 years, Vicat has been a leading player in the mineral and biosourced building materials industry. Vicat is a group listed on the Euronext Paris market, part of the SBF 120 Index, and is under the majority control of the founding family. Committed to a trajectory that will make it carbon-neutral across its value chain by 2050, the Vicat Group now operates three core lines of business: Cement, Ready-Mixed Concrete and Aggregates, as well as related activities. The Vicat Group is present in 12 countries spanning both developed and emerging markets. It has close to 10,000 employees and generated consolidated sales of €3,937 million in 2023. With its strong regional positions, Vicat is developing a circular economy model beneficial for all and consistently innovating to reduce the construction industry's environmental impact.