
HOW EUROPE IS VYING FOR RARE EARTH INDEPENDENCE FROM CHINA

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Jonathan Josephs

For almost 80 years rare earth metals have been pumped out of this industrial plant in La Rochelle on France's west coast.

But as the materials become more and more crucial to the global economy, chemicals firm Solvay is expanding its processing plant next to the glistening Atlantic Ocean to meet surging demand across Europe.

This group of 17 metals are essential to huge amounts of modern technology such as smartphones, electric vehicles and wind turbines and MRI scanners.

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