

# ProxinnoV deploys a pilot battery dismantling line at its Vendée site and expands into Normandy

*Caroline Scribe*

ProxinnoV will set up a demonstrator for dismantling small household appliances and batteries at its pilot plant in Vendée.

This project is part of its drive for greener industry. The French industrial robotics cluster is also expanding nationally, with a new site in Le Havre.



*At its pilot plant, ProxinnoV has created a new robotic line for dismantling small household appliances and batteries - Photo :*

ProxinnoV's mission is to support manufacturers, and in particular VSEs and SMEs, in their robotics projects. "Our aim is to bring together industrial companies, integrators and solution providers to unlock the technological challenges and help them make the leap into robotics," explains Jade Le Maître, Director of ProxinnoV.

general manager of ProxinnoV.

"This local technical center enables us to stay at the cutting edge of the latest innovations, to test and validate them. This contributes to our agility, competitiveness and attractiveness," adds Matthieu Crépin, General Manager of Demgy Atlantique and ProxinnoV member. The 200-strong cluster for the industrial robotics sector, which has been awarded the CRT (Centre de Ressources Technologiques) label, was born and developed in La Roche-sur-Yon, Vendée.

## **A Tech Lab in Le Havre**

It is now also present in Normandy. As part of the Le Havre Ville Portuaire Intelligente program, ProxinnoV set up in Le Havre in May 2024, with the support of the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC) and Le Havre Seine Métropole. "We bring our know-how in robotics expertise, experimentation, training and network animation. In the second half of 2024, we will open a 200 m<sup>2</sup> Tech Lab equipped with robotics technologies to test and upskill the Normandy ecosystem, which is quite similar to that of Pays de la Loire", announces Jade Le Maître.

## **A pilot plant**

As part of its "Ambition 2025" strategic plan launched in 2022, ProxinnoV has, by

committed to delivering greater added value to its members. This commitment is reflected in the development of the 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> pilot plant on the Vendée site. This plant comprises 13 cells, equipped with 24 robots from 14 different brands, for applications in cobotics, palletizing, welding, additive manufacturing, quality control and metrology... It enables industrial activities to be reproduced in real-life conditions for feasibility and prototyping tests, as well as training courses. 194 industrial transformation projects have been carried out over the last ten years using this tool.

## **A demonstrator for green industry**

It is within this space that ProxinnoV has begun to deploy a new robotic line for dismantling small household appliances and batteries. Entitled "Ligne Pilote 4.0" (Pilot Line 4.0), this project is a France 2030 winner, and has been granted 520,000 euros out of a total investment of 800,000 euros. Faubourg numérique, a technical center based in Hauts-de-France and specializing in open source software, is a partner in the project, as is the Anjou-based company Volt'R, which reconditions lithium battery cells. "This robotic line, equipped with French technologies and open source software, is unique in its field.



in France. This demonstrator aims to accelerate the development of the battery dismantling and recycling sector, and make it competitive. It's part of our commitment to a green and virtuous industry", says Jade Le Maître. The program will be up and running in September 2024 for a period of two years. ■

