



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement nº 820971

# **OROBOMINERS**

# DEVELOPING RESILIENT BIO-INSPIRED MODULAR ROBOTIC MINERS



# ABOUT ROBOMINERS

ROBOMINERS is a 48-months Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission that started on 1 June 2019. ROBOMINERS will develop a **bioinspired, modular and reconfigurable robot-miner for small and difficult to access deposits**. The aim is to create a prototype robot that is capable of **mining underground, underwater in a flooded environment**, and can be delivered in modules to the deposit via a large diameter borehole drilled from the surface to the mineral deposit.

ROBOMINERS aims at delivering a proof of concept for the feasibility of this technology line at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4. The technology could **enable the EU to access mineral raw materials from domestic sources that are otherwise inaccessible or uneconomic**.



- Robot parts (modules) are sent underground via a borehole
- Drey self-assemble to form a fully functional robot
- 🔘 Using specialised sensing devices, they detect ore
- Using ad-hoc production devices, they produce slurry that is pumped out
- They can re-configure on-the-job





## VISION

2030 VISION

### 2050 VISION

First industrial pilot, tethered, semi-autonomous operation

Full autonomy, self-reconfiguarbility, self-awareness collective robots

First industrial pilot application

Autonomous mining

First industrial application in a "small deposit scenario" or "abandoned mine scenario" with onsite minerals processing and paste refilling Industrial applications in "ultra-depth" scenarios Small mines deliver a considerable share of the EU's critical minerals production

Simplified permitting procedures for small-scale mining Supporting policy and legal framework for small-scale mining

New innovation ecosystem: SMEs and entrepreneurs are working towards further miniturisation and versatility