

## Spain: EIB provides Arteche Group with EUR 27 million to finance its innovation and digitalisation strategy



- RDI investments will enable Spanish multinational to expand production and improve its competitiveness.
- Climate action: project will contribute to energy transition by fostering development of safer and more efficient electrical systems.
- Employment impact: investments will be carried out in Spain and help to create quality jobs.
- Agreement is supported by the Investment Plan for Europe.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing the Arteche Group with EUR 27 million to finance its innovation strategy focusing on the development of new technologies, solutions and products for the electric power industry, and other investments to expand its productive assets. The agreement is supported by the [Investment Plan for Europe](#) and was signed in Madrid by EIB Vice-President Emma Navarro and Arteche Group CEO Alexander Artetxe.

The RDI investments financed by the EIB will be carried out over four years, up to 2023, at the company's centres in Bilbao, Vitoria-Gazteiz and Madrid,

and will help Arteché to grow its business by implementing an ambitious innovation programme aimed at developing innovative solutions that meet the challenges of transforming the electric power industry. Specifically, the company will develop new electronic solutions geared to digitalising the power grid and integrating renewable energy generation into the network.

The agreement will also support the company's innovation strategy focusing on the design and manufacture of its range of products and solutions (instrument transformers, relays, reclosers, ACP), boosting efficiency, reliability and sustainability. These investments will enable the Arteché Group to modernise its digital infrastructure and innovate in the 800kV electric power sector, a segment in which very few companies operate at a global level.

The project will have twofold climate action benefits. Firstly, it will enable the Arteché Group to improve the efficiency and quality of its production processes. And secondly, the new solutions and products developed by the company for the electric power sector will help to adapt electricity infrastructure to facilitate renewable energy generation, a key step in the transition to a low carbon energy model. To implement its RDI strategy, the Arteché Group works permanently together with more than 15 universities, laboratories and technology centres in Europe.

The Arteché Group will benefit from the favourable conditions of EIB financing in terms of both maturity periods and interest rates thanks to the Investment Plan for Europe, dubbed the Juncker Plan, which enables the EU bank to offer increased support for investments fostering innovation, economic growth and jobs. Specifically, this project will help to create quality jobs in the group's plants in Spain.

During the signing ceremony in Madrid, **EIB Vice-President Emma Navarro, who is responsible for the Bank's operations in Spain**, said: *"Supporting innovation and digitalisation is key to the transition to a new low-carbon economic model. As Europe's climate bank, we are working to ensure that our companies have the necessary resources to invest in RDI strategies that foster this transformation while enhancing the productivity of our economies and boosting wealth and job creation. We are therefore delighted to lend our support to a Spanish company that will be able use this backing to strengthen its competitiveness and contribute to Europe's leadership in the electric power sector"*.

**Paolo Gentiloni, European Commissioner for the Economy**, said: *"The electric power industry has a crucial role to play in the green transition, and that demands innovative solutions. That's why the European Union is supporting Arteché in its efforts to develop safer, more efficient electrical systems. This investment will also help to create high-quality jobs in Spain"*.

*"The electric power sector is in a period of transition, and in the Arteché Group we are putting our money on innovation as one of the keys to meeting the challenges facing us"*, said **Arteché Group CEO Alexander Artetxe**. *"The growth in electricity demand, the electrification of the economy, the drive for renewable energy and digitalisation are transforming power grids throughout the world. This is a time of great opportunities, and to take*

*advantage of them we are dedicating major efforts to a range of R&D projects that we are not tackling alone”.*

The EIB-Arteche Group agreement was signed under the Loans for Mid-caps in Spain and Portugal programme, a dedicated EIB financing facility for mid-caps (firms with up to 3 000 employees). Thanks to the backing of the Investment Plan for Europe, this credit line enables the EIB to support investment in projects that have a higher risk profile, owing to their structure or nature, but contribute to boosting growth and employment.

### **About the Arteche Group**

With nearly 75 years of experience in the electric power industry, the Arteche Group offers high-tech solutions and equipment, including the full range of instrument transformers, auxiliary relays, protection, measuring and control equipment, substation automation systems, energy quality and smart grid solutions. The company has a turnover of EUR 300m and 1 800 employees.

Arteche, which is headquartered in Bilbao and has a presence in 13 countries, is an international benchmark in the sector, with teams operating in more than 150 countries focusing on generation, transmission and distribution grids, and companies in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Oceania.