## **Project information**

Grant agreement ID: 821159

- Ongoing
- ()

1 June 2019 – 31 May 2023 (48 M)

6.9 MEUR

**Coordinator**: TECNALIA (Spain) (tecnalia)

#### **Consortium**:

16 partners covering the whole value chain



# Frant agreement ID: 021

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Recovery of Tungsten, Niobium and Tantalum occurring as by-products in mining and processing waste streams







#### Why W, Nb and Ta?

Tungsten (W), niobium (Nb) and tantalum (Ta) are refractory metals displaying extraordinary chemical, heat and wear resistance but are listed as Critical Raw Materials by the European Commission.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VS34Epbx8zg

## Low volume, high importance

Although the usage of W, Nb and Ta is small, they are essential in applications including capacitors for mobile phones and hearing aids, high-strength steel for pipelines, superconducting magnets for MRI machines and carbides for cutting tools and drilling bits.

## The TARANTULA project

The TARANTULA project aims to reduce the dependence of the EU on refractory metal imports by valorising unconventional European resources. Novel metallurgical technologies are developed to increase the recovery rates and selectivity to finally unlock the metals from resources that are currently considered as waste.

### How will TARANTULA achieve this?

- Build a broad overview of W, Nb and Ta-bearing EU resources;
- Develop a toolkit of novel, efficient and flexible metallurgical technologies for sustainable W, Nb, and Ta recovery;
- Select of the optimal flowsheet and validate the prototype;
- Strengthen citizen trust in mineral processing.

