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ADDING VALUE TO MINERAL WASTE: NEW ECO-PRODUCTS BASED ON RECOVERY MINERAL WASTE IN THE REFRACTORY INDUSTRY.

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The golden age of economies has been based on a linear consumption model, that consists of extracting raw materials, manufacturing the products and discarding them once their function has been fulfilled. A new business paradigm is the development of a sustainable model, extending the useful life and minimizing the consumption and waste generation. Refractory industry, whose raw materials are strategic and involve a large exploitation of high geopolitically concentrated natural resources, must focus on the circular economy model.

Alfran, with ICV-CSIC, is developing advanced research that allows generating new knowledge for recovery of industrial waste as secondary raw materials. The application of this knowledge leads to high-value ecological products, entailing significant environmental improvements: reduction of CO₂ emissions, energy consumption and virgin raw materials.

The creation of circular economy loops that impact the sustainability of all the links in the value chain is a collaborative model for consumers and producers.