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The Government opens for mining in Dalane – spends millions in pursuit of billions in value

Jan Christian Vestre (Labour Party) has had meetings with Norway Mining, which has giant plans in Dalane. The Minister of Trade and Industry is intensifying the hunt for minerals and allowing for state mining.



Norgey Mining has carried out a number of surveys in the area between Helleland in Eigersund and Ualand in Lund. **Photo: Jon Ingemundsen / Stavanger Aftenblad**



Geir Søndeland, Journalist, Published: Today 09:16

Minister of Trade and Industry Jan Christian Vestre (Labour) announces that the allocation to the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) will be increased by NOK 10 million in next year's national budget.

NGU investigates and maps Norway's bedrock, soil deposits and groundwater and makes data available to society.

"We are strengthening the allocation to NGU so that they can intensify the mapping of mineral deposits and especially minerals that are important for the green shift. This is a record grant to NGU, Vestre told Aftenbladet.



Minister of Trade and Industry Jan Christian Vestre (Ap) visits Eigersund municipality on Thursday. **Photo: Tor Erik Schrøder / NTB**

Last year, the Parliament allocated just over NOK 278 million in the budget for NGU. Vestre is now stepping up its allocation in anticipation of the mineral strategy that will be presented before Christmas.

"It is very good news that the government is now following up its mineral policy," [Eigersund Mayor Odd Stangeland](#) told Aftenbladet.

He will host a visit from Vestre on Thursday and will discuss the [potentially enormous industrial opportunities for the entire Dalane region](#).

"This is a good first step and sets expectations for the mineral strategy that is underway," says Stangeland.



Eigersund Mayor Odd Stangeland (Labour Party). Photo: Jan Inge Haga / Stavanger Aftenblad

Formidable interest in Europe

In the mineral strategy, Vestre will, among other things, answer how Norway can contribute with minerals that the EU has defined as critical raw materials.

Just last week, Vestre met with representatives from Norge Mining, which has major mining plans in Dalane.

In April, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries (NFD) received this request from the company:

"In recent weeks, Norge Mining has been in a number of meetings at ministerial level in the EU, and has also held extensive meetings in the EU Parliament. The interest at the European level is formidable. What arouses so much interest in the EU is simply the mine's potential. We are talking about a mine that could become the world's largest supplier of vanadium and one of the largest in phosphate. In other words, what the EU sees is that this is a mine that could have geostrategic significance in both steel (vanadium) and fertilizer production. All three minerals are on the EU list of critical raw materials. In addition, the mine will also have very large titanium reserves. The potential has already contributed to funding in excess of NOK 600 million.

Given the interest in the EU, we think it is natural to inform the Norwegian authorities about the project, and about how the dialogue with the EU proceeds," the inquiry said.

Will deliver to the EU

"The deposits in Egersund have largely already been mapped, but there may be more deposits in Rogaland and the rest of the Norway that we need to know more about. We need that knowledge before we can strategically decide where we can extract the minerals and how it can be done in the most gentle way possible without coming into conflict with Sami reindeer husbandry, vulnerable ecosystems and so on, the Minister of Trade and Industry told Aftenbladet.

Is the goal to become a supplier of what the EU demands?

"Yes, but that train has been moving for a few years already, and we are constantly working on this. We work with both the EU community and the US to ensure access to minerals and raw materials that the world needs.

"Do you think there will be a large mineral mine in Dalane?"

I hear that the locals are cheering for this and that the environmental movement is also positive. I am concerned that this must have local acceptance, but before something like this can be decided, there is a lot that needs to be in place. We will review the funding agencies and projects and ensure that this happens in a gentle manner," he says.



Minister of Trade and Industry Jan Christian Vestre and Hadia Tajik visit several places in Rogaland on Thursday. Here at a café in Stavanger. **Photo: Kristian Jacobsen / Stavanger Aftenblad**

Opening for "State Mines AS"

Her predecessor Iselin Nybø (Liberal Party) said [no to state-owned mining](#) when she was Minister of Trade and Industry.

Vestre is not there:

"Is it relevant to establish a state-owned mineral company?"

- Yes, I wouldn't rule that out. The need for such government risk relief in guarantees, loans and equity for green industrial projects is estimated at about NOK 60 billion by 2025. After all, equity is ownership. As we step up our focus on green industrial projects, I would not rule out greater government involvement in this industry. The prerequisite is that this can be done in a technologically and operationally sustainable manner. If we can land nature considerations and landfill issues, then I am prepared to use the state's muscles on this," he said.

What was the meeting with Norway Mining like last week?

"It was a good meeting where they talked a little bit about the mineral project. They have also participated in an input meeting on the mineral strategy with the environmental movement,

the trade union movement and Norwegian industry. I am concerned that we find a common path to realise these projects," says Vestre.