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**New Eti Bakır R&D Center to make Samsun a global hub**

**Eti Bakır moved its R&D Center, which has been in service since 2018, to its new location. The new R&D Center built in Samsun with 3,600 square meters indoor space will give Türkiye a central position in the mining industry, with extensive work in the fields of innovation and efficiency. The bleeding-edge technologies to be developed at the R&D Center will provide new ways to circulate the byproducts of copper production back into the economy.**

Putting advanced technology, R&D and sustainability at the center of all its activities, Cengiz Holding group company Eti Bakır has made an important investment to promote most efficient use of mineral resources and high value-added production. Eti Bakır set up Türkiye’s largest R&D Center in Samsun, adding yet another one to its pioneering efforts in mining technology and innovation. Combining cutting-edge technology with sustainability, circular economy and innovation, the center will add value to the national economy with improved product quality, increased efficiency and zero-waste production technologies.

**NEW ERA ON THE PATH TO ZERO WASTE**

Stating that they are thrilled to have established a world-class R&D Center at Eti Bakır’s Samsun plant which currently produces 80 thousand tons of cathode copper accounting for 20% of Türkiye’s total copper production, **Eti Bakır Deputy General Manager Asım Akbaş** said: “Our new R&D Center will not only make Samsun a global hub in terms of advanced mining technologies but it will also enable us to improve the production processes across all group companies and subsidiaries of the holding.”

Giving insight into the the studies that the R&D Center will engage in, Akbaş explained: “We continue to invest in mining technologies for efficient and high value-added production. To us, sustainability is no less important than innovation. With the studies carried out in our Samsun R&D center, we are exploring new ways to boost our product quality and efficiency while reducing costs and environmental impacts. Adopting a 'Zero Waste' approach in mining, we will engage in continued R&D activities to reduce, reuse and recycle waste in all our plants. To this end, we put in hard work to recover metals such as copper, cobalt and zinc from slags, both old and new.”

Emphasizing that private sector-university collaborations play a major role in the development of the Turkish industry, Akbaş continued as follows: “We have joint projects with world-renowned institutions in the field of mining technologies. We work with research companies in Europe, the USA and Canada. We collaborate with Türkiye's leading universities on different projects. Our R&D Center, which we have built with our own equity capital and equipped with the world's most advanced systems, will offer our researchers the opportunity to develop themselves and work with national and international experts. We hope that our center will greatly contribute to the sector also in terms of qualified workforce.”