



## **Discovery of the most ancient NATECH in Europe?**

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5400 BC, the Neolithic people started to produce salt to meet their needs, at a place called now Provadia. A large salt body rediscovered recently in 1917 served as a source of this prehistoric factory that produced the most valuable item in prehistory – the salt, the most important and vital product of the early farmers. This unique site in Europe excavated by the team of Prof. Vassil Nikolov shows the history of this place. Huge industry for this prehistoric period was developed and functioned more than 1000 years. Thick walled pots and hearths for the brine evaporation have intensively been produced, and can be seen now. After the rediscovery of the salt body, new and more sophisticated techniques of salt production (the biggest raw material source for the nearby huge industry unit) have been applied in mid 1950s. Recent production of salt by leaching of the salt body through drillings cause the so called NATECH: natural hazards triggered technological, i.e. technological exploitation triggered a lot of seismic events called induced seismicity.

Is it possible to consider the prehistoric earthquake that occurred about 7,000 years ago and destroyed the Chalcolithic dry-stone fortifications as a natural hazard interrupting for some time the salt production? Possibly YES! A lot of facts, evidence and a hypothesis about such an event are presented to support this conjecture.