



## Hydro upgrades its casthouse network in Europe

Düsseldorf, 07 October 2014 – With several recent investment decisions, Hydro is currently revamping many of its casthouses to deliver new products and a wider alloying range to its customers.

“Hydro is 100 percent about aluminium. Staying in the forefront when it comes to quality, on-time delivery and reliability are main priorities of ours,” says Executive Vice President and Head of Hydro’s Primary Metal Business Area, Hilde Merete Aasheim.

During recent months, Hydro has announced significant upgrades to four of its casthouses in Europe. One of the investments will enable Hydro to offer a wider alloying range, and to better serve its customers in the automotive industry.

### New technology for automotive

“We are investing in new, innovative technology for sheet ingot casting at our casthouses in Årdal and Høyanger, Norway. With the adjustable, flexible mould technology, we can offer products with flatter surface, thus reducing the amount of milling customers will have to do in order to get an even surface for rolling,” says Aasheim.

In order to test the technology and gain experience, a pilot project was established in the casthouse at the Høyanger primary smelter. The pilot has been run since February this year, with positive results, says Aasheim.

“We currently have the new technology under qualification with several customers, and so far the feedback has been very positive with regards to surface quality, geometry and microstructure,” she says.

Full implementation of the AFM casting technology in Årdal and Høyanger will start during first half of 2015, and the project is expected to be completed by first quarter 2016.

### Upgrades to extrusion ingot casthouses

In June, Hydro’s recycling and remelt plant in Deeside, Wales, opened its new sawing and homogenizing line. With the new investment in place, the plant now offers new product dimensions, and also enables the plant to serve customers in continental Europe.

Also in Clervaux, Luxembourg, Hydro is currently investing in its casting capabilities. With new melting and casting furnaces in place, customers can expect increased quality on the products produced at the plant. The investment is expected to be completed by first quarter 2017.

## Focused on aluminium

Aasheim emphasizes that Hydro is dedicated to aluminium for the long run, and says the recent casthouse investments are good examples of Hydro's dedication to its customers.

“These investments sum up to more than 22 million EUR. Hydro is today a top tier aluminium player and the leading producer in Europe. There should be no doubt that we are all in on aluminium,” says Hilde Merete Aasheim.

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## Photos to go with this news:



Hilde Merete Aasheim, Executive Vice President Norsk Hydro, head of the Primary Metal business area. (jpg, 1.3 MB)

FLATTER: Sheet ingot casting at Hydro's Norwegian casthouses will, thanks to innovative technology, produce ingots with flatter surface, reducing the need for subsequent finishing before rolling. (jpg, 1.2 MB)



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Hydro is a global aluminium company with production, sales and trading activities throughout the value chain, from bauxite, alumina and energy generation to the production of primary aluminium and rolled products as well as recycling. Based in Norway, the company has 13,000 employees involved in activities in more than 50 countries on all continents. Rooted in more than a century of experience in renewable energy production, technology development and progressive partnerships, Hydro is committed to strengthening the viability of the customers and communities we serve. <http://www.hydro.com>