



Precious aluminium in infinite production loop:

Hydro sets benchmark for recycling sorted scrap

Düsseldorf, 07 October 2014 – 'Not one gram of used aluminium should be lost' - that is the philosophy of Hydro, the leading manufacturer of rolled products made from this unique material of the future. Aluminium is a particularly valuable light metal, which can be recovered and remelted time and time again without any loss of quality in a sustainable production loop. At ALUMINIUM 2014 in Düsseldorf, Hydro announced that the plans for a new integrated recycling line for used beverage cans (Used Beverage Can Line) at its Rheinwerk Plant in Neuss are now complete. Preparations for the construction of this new UBC line, the most modern of its type in the world, will begin in November 2014.

The key highlight of the EUR 45 million investment is the sensor technology developed by Hydro's Research and Development Centre for the identification and separation of scrap according to type. Unrivalled to date, this invention ensures that exactly specified liquid aluminium from the remelting process can be conducted back into the production loop.

"We are thereby taking full account of the growing need for recycled aluminium in the world market, particularly in the packaging sector. We are also extending our know-how leadership as well as strengthening our international competitive position in the beverage can segment," says Executive Vice President and Head of Hydro's Rolled Products business area, Oliver Bell.

Meanwhile, all plans for operating the new recycling plant at Neuss have been finalised. The contracts for the two main sections have already been awarded. Küttner Non Ferrous in Essen, technology experts in the supply of integrated system solutions for melting equipment in the non-ferrous industry, will take care of the hot section, i.e. the remelting furnaces. The cold-section work including the supply of equipment for the shredding, sorting and processing of used aluminium prior to the remelting process have gone to Albert Hoffmann GmbH in Eschweiler. Preparations for construction will begin in November.

Plant commissioning is scheduled for the end of 2015. Around 40 new employees will be required for the new plant, which covers an area of 20,000 m² and is designed to increase recycling capacity at Rheinwerk to 100,000 metric tons a year.

With regard to environmental impact, Hydro will use state-of-the-art recycling processes to ensure that further 50,000 metric tons of reprocessed aluminium from the new recycling plant in Neuss can be produced using only five per cent of the energy required, for example, for the equivalent production of primary aluminium. As a result of successful projects like these, Hydro has repeatedly been at the top of its industry in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.

"Expensive research and development continually bears fruit when we think long term and plan carefully in the medium term. And, when we supply our markets with top-quality, high-tech products, this not only ensures the future viability of our company but also strengthens its role as a strategic industry partner," adds Oliver Bell.

"The recycling of aluminium packaging in Germany now avoids the emission of 390,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents," emphasises Hans-Jürgen Schmidt, Head of Product Ecology for rolled products in Hydro. As one of the 14 international members of the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative, the company helped to draw up the key criteria for the sustainable and responsible use of aluminium worldwide.

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Photos to go with this news:



Oliver Bell, Executive Vice President Norsk Hydro, head of the Rolled Products business area. (jpg, 1.1 MB)

At the Rheinwerk plant in Neuss, Hydro is boosting the recycling of used aluminium beverage cans through an investment of EUR 45 million, implementing novel technology. (jpg, 1.8 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>