

Aurubis investing € 40 million in more independent and efficient production in Lünen

- » **Around € 40 million investment in constructing an air separation unit**
- » **Powerful system for producing high-quality oxygen of almost 100 percent purity**
- » **CO₂ savings of up to 8,500 tons per year**

Lünen, November 14, 2024 — Aurubis is kicking off construction on an air separation unit (ASU) at its recycling site in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. With this additional investment of around € 40 million in the site, Aurubis is making in-house production more efficient and independent of external supplies. The ASU represents a tried-and-true technology at Aurubis, where air separation units are already in operation at other large sites, such as in Hamburg (Germany) and Pirdop (Bulgaria).

The planned unit on the Lünen plant premises will make a key contribution to local production processes. It will separate air into its main components, primarily oxygen (O₂) and nitrogen (N₂), two elements that play a central part in copper production. The new separation unit will enable Aurubis to independently generate both directly on site in the future. This has several advantages: For one, the oxygen from the unit will be of higher quality than the gases that are currently being delivered. Aurubis will generate nearly 100 % pure oxygen in the ASU, so less oxygen will be required to produce the same copper volume in the future.

Furthermore, captive oxygen production means the site can completely dispense with externally delivered liquid oxygen in large tanks, eliminating up to 3,000 truck deliveries per year and energy-intensive reversion into gas. Above all, this means less traffic and fewer emissions in the region. With the new ASU, Aurubis will be able to reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 8,500 tons (Scope 3) a year. This is roughly equivalent to the yearly CO₂ emissions of 1,800 German households.

Aurubis expanding Germany as a recycling hub

“As one of the largest multimetal recycling sites in Europe, Aurubis Lünen is a cornerstone of the circular economy. Building our own air separation unit further secures our long-established site in North Rhine-Westphalia and strengthens our core business. We will continue producing recycled metals in Lünen in the future, metals that are of crucial importance for the energy transition and for industry in Germany and Europe,” COO Multimetal Recycling Inge Hofkens said.

“I’m pleased that we’ll soon have our own air separation unit here on the Lünen plant premises. We’ve had good experience with it in the production process at other sites,” Aurubis Lünen Plant Manager Verena von Weiss said. “By producing oxygen and nitrogen directly on site, we can avoid future price fluctuations and possible delivery bottlenecks of these gases from external partners starting in 2026, making our production more reliable and efficient.”

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Messer Industriegase GmbH, a company specialized in these types of air separation units, will begin planning and construction in the fourth quarter and completion is scheduled for the end of 2025.

Aurubis - Metals for Progress

Aurubis AG is a leading global provider of non-ferrous metals and one of the largest copper recyclers worldwide. The company processes complex metal concentrates, scrap metals, organic and inorganic metal-bearing recycling materials, and industrial residues into metals of the highest quality. Aurubis produces more than 1 million tons of copper cathodes annually, and from them a variety of products such as wire rod, continuous cast shapes, profiles, and flat rolled products made of copper and copper alloys. Aurubis produces a number of other metals as well, including precious metals, selenium, lead, nickel, tin and zinc. The portfolio also includes additional products such as sulfuric acid and iron silicate.

Sustainability is a fundamental part of the Aurubis strategy. “Aurubis responsibly transforms raw materials into value” — following this maxim, the company integrates sustainable conduct and business activities into the corporate culture. This involves a careful approach to natural resources, responsible social and ecological conduct in everyday business, and sensible, healthy growth.

Aurubis has around 7,000 employees, production sites in Europe and the US, and an extensive distribution network around the world.

Aurubis shares are part of the Prime Standard Segment of the German Stock Exchange and are listed in the MDAX, the Global Challenges Index (GCX), and the STOXX Europe 600.

More information at www.aurubis.com