

PRESS RELEASE

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More and more customers are opting for voestalpine's CO₂-reduced premium steel

With greentec steel, voestalpine has a clear plan for decarbonizing steel production. voestalpine is not alone in its mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: more and more customers also want to reduce their carbon footprint by using high-quality CO₂-reduced premium steel. The steel and technology Group is already providing 35 companies from various industries with superior steel products in the greentec steel Edition. Designer furniture, wind turbines, and cranes are just a few examples of products that can be manufactured more sustainably through an optimized production process. voestalpine itself recently used the green steel to build a new belt conveyor, which will also supply the planned electric arc furnace (EAF) in Linz with raw materials in the future.

Since the first CO₂-reduced steel was delivered about two years ago, the list of customers purchasing more environmentally friendly coils from the Steel Division in Linz has been growing steadily. In the beginning, the highest demand came from the consumer goods and manufacturing industries. But since the steel and technology Group can offer all flat steel products in the usual quality with a CO₂-reduced footprint, orders are now coming from all customer segments, including areas such as wind energy and building technology. "With our CO₂-reduced premium steel, we are clearly meeting our customers' growing need for innovative product solutions that directly and significantly improve their carbon footprint, while offering proven quality and outstanding material and processing properties," says Herbert Eibensteiner, CEO of voestalpine AG, about the continuously growing market for more environmentally friendly steel.

For customers, sustainability is also clearly a trend

The well-known Swiss designer furniture manufacturer USM U. Schärer Söhne AG, for example, relies on the greentec steel Edition from voestalpine. The company has committed itself to sustainable production methods and uses the CO₂-reduced premium steel for its internationally successful modular furniture. Flender, the global expert in drive technology, is also improving its own carbon footprint with green coils from Linz, for example by using them in the generators of its wind energy division. Griesser, a company known throughout Europe for its high-quality sun protection systems, uses voestalpine steel in the greentec steel Edition to produce their slat blinds. In addition, the renowned crane manufacturer Tadano Europe uses CO₂-reduced heavy plate in their latest generation of cranes.

On its path to green steel production, of course voestalpine itself also relies on the material of the greentec steel Edition that is produced inhouse. CO₂-reduced steel was also used in the current construction of a belt conveyor, which will supply the new EAF in Linz with raw materials from 2027, among other things.

Around 10% CO₂ reduction in production

Since the beginning of this year, greentec steel Edition products have also been scoring an even lower CO₂ footprint. “By consistently optimizing the manufacturing process, we can already save around 10% of direct emissions in the CO₂-reduced version of our steel,” says Hubert Zajicek, Member of the Management Board of voestalpine AG and Head of the Steel Division. On the one hand, this is achieved through an innovative mix of raw materials in which, for example, coke is partially replaced by reducing agents that contain hydrogen. On the other hand, the proportion of green electricity in the energy supply is increasing. Over 70% of the electricity required for steel production in Linz is generated by voestalpine itself by using production gases. The rest of the energy portfolio is gradually being developed towards renewable sources. The specific emission savings, which will be successively increased with further measures, are transparently verified and documented by the independent body LRQA.

With greentec steel to green steel production

With greentec steel, voestalpine has a clear plan for decarbonizing the production of steel. An important first step is the gradual switch from the blast furnace to an electric steel route that will begin in 2027. With the commissioning of one EAF in Linz and one in Donawitz at the beginning of 2027, CO₂ emissions can be significantly reduced by up to 30%. This will be almost 5% of Austria’s annual CO₂ emissions. In the long term, the steel and technology Group is focusing on carbon-neutral steel production based on green hydrogen and is already conducting intensive research on highly promising break-through technologies.

The voestalpine Group

voestalpine is a globally leading steel and technology group with a unique combination of materials and processing expertise. voestalpine, which operates globally, has around 500 Group companies and locations in more than 50 countries on all five continents. It has been listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange since 1995. With its premium products and system solutions, voestalpine is a leading partner to the automotive and consumer goods industries, as well as to the aerospace and oil & natural gas industries. The company is also the global market leader in railway systems, tool steel, and special sections. voestalpine is committed to the global climate goals and has a clear plan for decarbonizing steel production with its greentec steel program. In the business year 2022/23, the Group generated revenue of EUR 18.2 billion, with an operating result (EBITDA) of EUR 2.5 billion; it has around 51,200 employees worldwide.

Please direct your inquiries to

voestalpine AG
Mag. Peter Felsbach, MAS
Head of Group Communications | Spokesman
voestalpine-Strasse 1
4020 Linz, Austria
T. +43/50304/15-2090
peter.felsbach@voestalpine.com
www.voestalpine.com