

PRESS RELEASE

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voestalpine greentec steel Donawitz: installation of the electric arc furnace completed

In the first half of 2027, voestalpine will partially convert production at its Donawitz site to electrified steelmaking. Once fully operational, it will be able to produce around 850,000 tons of CO₂-reduced steel annually. The installation of the new electric arc furnace (EAF) has been largely completed, as scheduled, and in some areas cold commissioning is now beginning. This involves testing conveyor systems, hydraulic systems, electrical installations, cooling circuits, and automation systems.

The electric arc furnace consists of several core components, such as a lower and an upper vessel and a rocker, as well as the associated infrastructure and utility systems (e.g., power lines). The nearly 900,000 individual components delivered weigh a total of around 8,500 tons and were transported to the Donawitz site by ship, train, and truck.

“With greentec steel, Austria’s largest climate protection program, in Linz and Donawitz we are right on schedule—both in terms of time and budget. The major construction and installation work will be completed in 2026, before the first melts take place in the new electric arc furnaces in Donawitz and Linz in the first half of 2027,” says Herbert Eibensteiner, CEO of voestalpine AG.

XXL assembly for the steel mill of the future

voestalpine is working together with more than 70 companies in Donawitz, some 90% of which are Austrian. Around 500 skilled workers are currently active on the construction site. Lead partner Danieli & C. Officine Meccaniche S.p.A. is coordinating the installation of the core components of the electric arc furnace and its first operation. A range of companies in the fields of steel construction, piping construction, electrical engineering, automation, scaffolding, logistics, and civil engineering are also collaborating on the project.

The EAF was assembled in several steps: after pre-assembly, surveying, and testing, the components were lifted into their final positions using heavy-haul transport vehicles and large cranes. This involved moving individual components weighing up to 94 tons. Cranes with lifting capacities of up to 650 tons were used for particularly demanding lifting operations.

“The installation and commissioning of the new electric arc furnace are technically extremely challenging and requires close collaboration between our specialists and partner companies. The fact that we are progressing according to schedule is the result of months of planning and successful cooperation with our project partner Danieli,” says Franz Kainersdorfer, Member of the Management Board of voestalpine AG and Head of the Metal Engineering Division.

Cold commissioning as the next milestone

The cold commissioning marks another important milestone. This requires putting central infrastructure systems into operation, such as the electrical power supply and utility services. During the cold commissioning, all system components are tested as an integrated system for the first time. This involves checking mechanical functions, utility and piping systems, as well as sensors, actuators, and control systems. Extensive testing of the automation and safety systems will also be conducted to ensure the plant is optimally prepared for the start of production.

Only when all systems are working together flawlessly will the next step toward the start of production be taken. This step is scheduled for the first half of 2027.

Further expansion planned for Donawitz

As reported, the EAF facility which is scheduled to begin operations next year will be expanded by 2030, subject to outstanding funding issues. Part of the expansion investment of approximately EUR 100 million will be used to further expand the power supply, to set up a third secondary metallurgy line, and to expand scrap logistics, among others. This step would allow the Donawitz site to fully transition to electrified steel production from 2030.

Metal Engineering Division

With its Railway Systems business unit, the Metal Engineering Division of the voestalpine Group is the global market leader for railway infrastructure systems, diagnostics and monitoring solutions for infrastructure and rolling material as well as software solutions for maintenance management. With its Industrial Systems business unit, the division is also the European market leader for quality wire and global provider of full welding solutions. And it supplies seamless tubes all over the world from the Kindberg location in Austria. Customers come from the railway infrastructure industry, the energy industry, the mechanical engineering, automotive and construction industries, as well as the renewable energy sector. As part of the greentec steel program, the Metal Engineering Division is already intensively working on and researching various innovative, climate-friendly technologies and production processes. In the business year 2025/26, the division generated about EUR 4.1 billion in revenue with its Railway Systems and Industrial Systems business units; 43% of this revenue was generated outside Europe. The division recorded an operating profit (EBITDA) of EUR 375 million and employed around 14,900 people worldwide.

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. The voestalpine Group 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 machinery industries, as well as to the aerospace and energy industries. The company is also the global market leader in railway systems and special sections. voestalpine is committed to the global climate goals and has a clear plan for transforming steel production with its greentec steel program. In the business year 2025/26, the Group generated revenue of EUR 15.1 billion, with an operating result (EBITDA) of EUR 1.5 billion; it has around 48,800 employees worldwide.

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