Further milestones included, in 1936, the commissioning of the reverbatory furnace for processing copper concentrates and the construction of the world's first contact facility for the production of sulfuric acid.

Following the integration of NA into the machinery of the Third Reich, it was not until the end of July 1946 that the decision was made by the Allied Control Council to remove copper smelting from the reparations list – allowing the rebuilding of the heavily bombed factory to begin. In 1949, fully continuous casting for the manufacture of copper products started up.

The year 1972 saw the first continuous cast wire rod plant commence operations, while the primary smelter (RWO) also began production. In 1975, NA and the Chilean company Codelco founded the first joint venture, Deutsche Giessdraht in Emmerich. In 1979 NA developed the energy-saving Contimelt process for refining blister copper, copper scrap and anode residues into copper anodes. NA addressed concerns about its future existence with the launch of a major modernization and environmental protection initiative in 1985. The new copper tankhouse (ELWO) began operations in 1989.

In 1998 NA listed on the stock market. The company acquired a majority stake in Hüttenwerke Kayser AG in Lünen in 1999, where the Kayser Recycling System (KRS) was started in 2002. Aurubis has ranked as the world's biggest copper recycler ever since.

Following EU approval, NA took over the Belgian company Cumerio in August 2008, going international for the first time. In February 2009 the AGM decided to rename NA as Aurubis – comprised of the Latin words aurum, meaning gold, and rubrum, meaning red – the "red gold". In September 2011 the rolled products division of Luvata was acquired, providing Aurubis with its first production plant outside Europe, namely in the USA.

The history book on 150 Years of Aurubis can be purchased under Cu 150.0 (englisch) ISBN 978-3-944334-71-4 in bookstores and online starting at the end of April 2016.





Cu 150.0

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The History of the Copper Group



150 Years of Aurubis AG -150 Years of the Future 1866 - 2016

1866

Norddeutsche Affinerie is founded as a stock corporation 1876

Startup of the tankhouse developed by Dr. Emil Wohlwill as the first continuous copper electrolysis plant of its kind in the world

1913

Complete relocation from Elbstrasse to the Peute industrial area

1936

The reverbatory furnace for processing copper concentrates is commissioned: a sulfuric acid plant based on the contact process is constructed

1949

Fully continuous casting operations commence

1972

The first continuous cast wire rod plant starts up; production at the primary smelter (RWO) and a double contact plant for manufacturing sulfuric acid commences

1975

Joint venture between NA, Hüttenwerke Kayser AG (HK) and mining group Codelco: Deutsche Giessdraht is founded in Emmerich

1985

A major modernization and environmental protection initiative is launched at the Hamburg plant 1989

on April 28

The new copper electrolysis tankhouse (ELWO) is commissioned

1998

Norddeutsche Affinerie lists on the stock market

1999

A majority shareholding is acquired in HK in Lünen

2002

Acquisition of Prymetall and its 50 % subsidiary Schwermetall (both in Stolberg) 2007

On July 6, NA and Cumerio NV/SA announce the planned merger of the leading integrated copper producer and processor in Europe; NA issues a public takeover offer for all outstanding stock of Cumerio

2008

On August 1 NA receives EU approval for the merger with Cumerio and holds 100 % of the Cumerio stock by August 4; official opening of the new electrolysis tankhouse at the Pirdop site (Bulgaria)

2009

On April 1 Norddeutsche Affinerie AG is renamed Aurubis AG; on September 12 Salzgitter AG holds 25 % of the shares in Aurubis AG

2010

Official opening of the Conform line for manufacturing high-end special profiles at the Olen plant in Belgium

2011

Aurubis acquires the former Luvata Rolled Products Division on September 1

2013

A line for extracting precious metals from anode slimes starts up in Hamburg

2016

Aurubis celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding with the motto "150 Years of the Future"

Aurubis. Seven letters that today stand for the leading integrated copper group and the largest copper recycler in the world. Aurubis is the employer of some 6,300 staff; a copper and metal giant. It wasn't that long ago, however, that the workforce, the industry and, not least, the citizens of Hamburg knew "their" world market leader by the name Norddeutsche Affinerie AG (NA).

That was the name under which the company traded for 143 years until 2009. Even in its founding year of 1866, though, the company already looked back on an impressive tradition stretching back to 1770, when the Hamburg Senate granted the company Marcus Salomon Beit permission to operate a "silver refinery and smelting furnace", the prerequisite for the establishment of a refinery for precious metals - silver and gold. The NA that arose from this and

other companies was founded on April 28, 1866.

To this very day, the greatest leap forward in technical development at NA has been the innovation of Dr. Emil Wohlwill: the introduction of electrolytic copper extraction in 1876. NA was the first company in the world to use chemically pure electrolytic copper on a large scale. A refined electrolytic process from Dr. Heinrich Wohlwill, Emil Wohlwill's son, brought the final breakthrough, but it also necessitated the expansion of the facility. This led to the decision, made in 1907, to bring all the existing businesses together on the island of Peute on the Elbe River and also have room for future expansion. In 1913 all departments of the new plant were running at full steam.

