FACTSHEET

# CRH – **C**omplex **R**ecycling **H**amburg

## Innovative multimetal production enhances raw materials security for Europe

Aurubis has inaugurated a globally one-of-a-kind recycling plant at the Hamburg site: Complex Recycling Hamburg (CRH). The around €190 million investment is a key growth project in the "Aurubis Performance 2030: Forging resilience. Leading in multimetal." strategy.

CRH will enable Aurubis to process significantly greater volumes of increasingly complex recycling materials and valuable smelter intermediates within its internal network. The facility expands the company's metallurgical capabilities while enhancing production resilience. The capacity to handle a wider variety of input materials gives Aurubis greater flexibility in the processing of metal-bearing recycling materials and lowers dependency on individual raw material qualities and material streams.

The new plant recovers strategically critical metals like copper, lead and precious metals along with sulfuric acid, an important by-product. CRH plays a direct role in supplying European industry with the raw materials essential for electrification, digitalization, energy infrastructure, and other future technologies.

CRH also strengthens the circular economy by retaining more materials in the Aurubis smelter network, optimizing material streams and safeguarding added value creation in Europe.

## Mode of operation: Innovation in the Aurubis smelter network

CRH adds a strategically important processing step to the existing production workflows at the Hamburg site. The core focus is on the further processing of copper-lead matte, a complex smelter intermediate containing copper, lead and sulfur.

At the heart of the plant is a specially engineered top blown rotary converter (TBRC). It processes batches of around 45 t at temperatures of up to 1,400°C, separating the individual elements in an integrated process. For the first time, materials containing copper, lead and sulfur can be treated in a single plant.

Blister copper is produced first and subsequently processed in other site facilities and refined into marketable products such as high-purity copper cathodes. CRH also recovers additional valuable materials while optimizing asset utilization at the plant.

It integrates the capabilities of multiple smelting and recycling processes into a single unit — a globally unique combination. The facility increases flexibility in raw material processing, improves material yields, and sustainably enhances Aurubis' multimetal expertise.

CRH also sets new standards in technology, automation and environmental protection. The plant is highly automated, enabling very efficient operations. Around one-third of total investment was allocated to air pollution control measures, underscoring the facility's high environmental standards.

## Reinforcing Europe's raw materials security

The CRH project was co-funded by the European Union and directly contributes to the objectives of the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA). Financing included an investment loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

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| Key figures at a glance | **> 30,000 t** of additional recycling material per year | **45 t** batch weight in the converter per processing cycle |
| **~€190 million** investment volume | **1/3 of investment** for air pollution control and high environmental standards | **Up to 1,400°C** process temperature |

## Contact

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