

FIFTH PRODUCTION LINE: NEW UNIT BROUGHT INTO SERVICE

*Coil announces the successful launch of its fifth production line.
This unit, on which work was completed in December 2004, is located
in Bernburg (Germany) and has a production capacity of 15,000 tons per year.*

FIFTH LINE ENTERING INTO PRODUCTION

COIL is now able to draw on a major production facility to support the development of its activities. Located in Bernburg in Saxe-Anhalt region between Hanover and Berlin, this 3-hectare site houses a building that is 250 meters long and 50 wide.

This building represents a tribute to the company's know-how, with the largest industrial facade in Europe made entirely out of anodized aluminum. Using the best technological standards while ensuring compliance with the Group's environmental guidelines, 50% of this investment was financed by non-repayable subsidies from Saxe-Anhalt region. On the whole, the project was completed on budget.



The new unit, which was designed based on the model for the third production line in Belgium – the Group's most efficient – was built in a record time of nine months, enabling it to enter into service, as planned, at the beginning of January. The first orders are currently being processed for one of the Group's biggest clients, confirming the quality of production at the new site.

This launch illustrates the Group's commitment to developing its industrial tool in order to better capitalize on the potential offered by its markets and strengthen its position as the world leader for anodized aluminum.

A KEY STRATEGIC ELEMENT FOR THE COMPANY

The location is notably close to some of the new EU member states, which offer strong potential for the development of new regional outlets.

The launch of this new line will increase COIL's production capacity by 15,000 tons per year, in addition to the 36,000 tons already processed each year by the four existing production lines in Belgium.



As Tim Hutton explains, “to keep pace with the favorable development of our business over the last few years, it was becoming essential to increase our capacity in order to support the growth in our activities. Thanks to this new capacity, we will be able to consolidate the strong growth in our business by notably stepping up moves to gain footholds on markets in Eastern Europe”.

“Our production over the next few years is now guaranteed. Thanks to this magnificent building, COIL is also sending out a positive message both within and outside of the region”.

OPENING UP NEW REGIONAL MARKETS: MAJOR ORDER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Lastly, COIL, in line with its regional development strategy, has just signed a key contract in the Middle East for the external facades on a major construction project in the region.

The aluminum coils will be treated between now and March 2005 on the fourth production line in Landen (Belgium) and will make use of a new aspect offering significant potential for development. This contract for nearly €500,000 is one of the biggest orders ever taken by the Group.

While highlighting the Group's unique position on the aluminum market, it also illustrates COIL's strategy to consolidate its positions on new markets and attests to the Group's desire to capitalize on the know-how built up in Belgium with a view to developing new ever more effective products.

As Tim Hutton concludes, “the Group's current developments confirm our strategic interest in developing new regional markets and diversifying our product ranges. These have strong potential for growth, and today, our industrial tool is fully equipped with all the assets needed to meet this challenge”.

To find out more, visit: www.coil.be

About COIL

COIL, a Belgian company listed on the Paris Nouveau Marché since June 26th, 1996, has built up specialized know-how and engineering capabilities for the continuous treatment of aluminum flat-rolled coil products. This treatment, which uses an electrochemical process (electrolysis), protects the metal from corrosion and preserves its natural appearance. The aluminum is treated in line with the specific requests of rolling mill clients. As a service provider, COIL does not buy or sell aluminum or manage any stock.

Leader in the pre-anodized aluminum market, COIL is present on a wide range of sectors with strong levels of demand, such as construction and industry, giving it good visibility on its future growth prospects.

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