

Smurfit Kappa Nettingsdorf: 134 million Euro investment for "Future Energy Plant"



The Smurfit Kappa Nettingsdorf paper mill is one of Smurfit Kappa Group's largest locations in Europe with around 360 employees. Its core business is producing paper for the manufacturing of corrugated cardboard packaging (average production capacity: 450,000 tonnes/year). The mill has an export share of around 90% within a radius of 600 km.

In 2020, the company successfully completed the largest venture of its history: the "Future Energy Plant" project with a total investment of 134 million Euro. The project enables saving over 200,000 MWh/year of natural gas (equal to the average gas consumption of 12,000 homes!) and reduces CO₂ emissions by 40,000 tonnes/year (around two thirds of former CO₂ emissions at the site). Smurfit Kappa Nettingsdorf was awarded the annual Upper Austrian prize "Energie-Star" for sustainable energy projects in 2020.



Photo: Smurfit Kappa Nettingsdorf

Facts & figures

"Future Energy Plant"

- start of construction: September 2018
- commissioning: summer 2020
- total investment: 134 million Euro
- 10% higher efficiency in electricity generation
- 200,000 MWh/year less natural gas
- 40,000 tonnes/year less CO₂

Smurfit Kappa Nettingsdorf

- paper production since 1851
- average production capacity: 450,000 tonnes/year
- around 360 employees
- export share: 90% (radius 600 km)

Smurfit Kappa worldwide

- around 350 locations in 35 countries
- 46,000 employees
- 9 billion Euro in annual turnover (2019)

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Energy recovery and increased efficiency

The heart of the new plant is a special boiler from Andritz that allows for an even more efficient extraction of energy from the biomass contained in the black liquor. The company also installed an innovative 28 MW steam turbine from Siemens, an automated boiler-water treatment system and 5 new medium-pressure drying cylinders for the paper machine (instead of the previous low-pressure units). In order to make short-term excess steam usable (e.g. due to a tear in the paper web on the paper machine), a steam accumulator was added to the steam network.

Long-term commitment to sustainable management pays off

Sustainable management is a guiding principle at Smurfit Kappa. In the last decades, despite steady increases in production, energy savings were continuously achieved, thereby reducing environmental impacts. Since 1990, CO₂ emissions per tonne of paper produced decreased by approximately 90% and the use of fossil fuels by about 81%. The installation of the new energy systems is part of an ongoing investment programme by the Smurfit Kappa Group to implement a range of sustainable innovations. The project enables saving 200,000 MWh of natural gas per year and increased the efficiency of electricity generation by 10%. And the company's energy transition doesn't stop here: In the near future, 25 MW of waste heat from the paper mill in Nettingsdorf will supply 20,000 households with district heating.

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