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AirvaultGOCO₂: Heidelberg Materials launches CCUS project in France

- **The planned AirvaultGOCO₂ project is part of the GOCO₂ initiative to decarbonise the West of France**
- **At the Airvault plant, the company will complement conventional CO₂ reduction measures with CCUS technology**
- **Heidelberg Materials has already made significant investments in the modernisation and decarbonisation of its French cement plants**

As the latest addition to its broad portfolio of Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) initiatives, Heidelberg Materials will realise another CCUS project at its Airvault cement plant in the French New Aquitaine region. The AirvaultGOCO₂ project, with a planned capture capacity of approx. 1 million tonnes annually, is part of the GOCO₂ initiative to decarbonise the West of France.

Dr Dominik von Achten, Chairman of the Managing Board of Heidelberg Materials: “We started an ambitious modernisation programme for our French sites several years ago, with a planned investment of more than €400 million. With the integration of AirvaultGOCO₂, we are now adding a cutting-edge project in the field of carbon capture to our previous efforts, which will enable a further, massive reduction of Heidelberg Materials’ carbon footprint in France.”

The Airvault modernisation project is currently under construction. This includes the replacement of the two current semi-dry firing lines with a new dry line, including a pre-calciner with a capacity of 4,000 tonnes per day. In future, almost 90% of the plant’s energy demand will be covered by alternative fuels. The project will also reduce the electricity consumption per tonne of cement by 10%. In addition, the proportion of clinker in the cement will be lowered. Together, these measures will reduce the carbon footprint of the cement produced at the Airvault plant by almost 30% compared to current production.

“Our approach in Airvault is a perfect example of Heidelberg Materials’ strategy to implement dedicated carbon reduction roadmaps,” said Dr Nicola Kimm, Chief Sustainability Officer and member of the Managing Board. “We are taking every possible step to reduce CO₂ emissions: Phasing out fossil fuels, reducing the clinker content of our cements, and improving energy efficiency. To mitigate the remaining residual emissions, we rely on CCUS – as part of an integrated scheme and with our strong partners in GOCO₂.”

AirvaultGOCO₂ is part of the GOCO₂ initiative launched in July 2023, an investment programme to capture CO₂ at industrial sites and transport it to geological storage sites for permanent storage. The

emissions, including the CO₂ captured in Airvault, are to be transported by pipeline to the coastal town of Saint-Nazaire and then by ship to storage wells under the North Sea. The biogenic part of the captured CO₂, i.e. the part corresponding to the emissions from the combustion of biomass, is to be used for the production of e-fuels, which are essential for sustainable transport by air and sea. Subject to the granting of public subsidies and the various regulatory approvals required for implementation, the aim is to capture the first tonnes of CO₂ in Airvault in 2030.

Caption

Rendering of the Heidelberg Materials Airvault cement plant after completion of the modernisation project.

About Heidelberg Materials

Heidelberg Materials is one of the world's largest integrated manufacturers of building materials and solutions with leading market positions in cement, aggregates, and ready-mixed concrete. We are represented in more than 50 countries with around 51,000 employees at almost 3,000 locations. At the centre of our actions lies the responsibility for the environment. As the front runner on the path to carbon neutrality and circular economy in the building materials industry, we are working on sustainable building materials and solutions for the future. We enable new opportunities for our customers through digitalisation.

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