

HAI Group expands capacity with takeover of Hydro extrusion plant in Romania

An agreement was signed on 10 September 2019 for Hammerer Aluminium Industries (HAI) to take over Hydro's extrusion plant in Chisineu-Cris, Romania. The deal means HAI will expand its capacity and undergo further strategic development in its three areas of business: building and construction, industrial applications and transport. Following the signing, the deal is expected to close at the end of the year subject to approval by the competition authorities.

HAI's new site in Chisineu-Cris covers an area of 140,000 m² with a floor area of 10,000 m² and the two extrusion presses have a total production capacity of approximately 22,000 tonnes a year. It will open up urgently needed capacity for HAI to be able to support its customers' growth in 2021, with a high level of capacity utilisation already foreseeable in 2020. The new extrusion capacity will relieve the strain on the company's other plants in Soest and Ranshofen, thus enabling further growth with long-standing customers there as well.

Besides synergistic effects with HAI's existing subsidiary at Santana, which is only about 20 km away, HAI's takeover of the new site in Romania from Hydro Extrusion S.R.L. makes sense in other respects: "We are taking over an infrastructure that is already in place together with 200 employees and their expertise," emphasises HAI CEO Rob van Gils. "This makes this investment much easier to plan and less risky than a new development on a greenfield site."

Although HAI's plant in Santana already supplies the Hydro plant with extrusion billets, the takeover will increase the added value for the HAI Group in Romania even further. The HAI Group is taking over the new site with a solid basic level of capacity utilisation.

HAI, a European aluminium company with headquarters in Ranshofen, Upper Austria, is thus continuing on its path of growth. The acquisition means its workforce will increase to approx. 1400 employees at seven locations. The group will then have 10 extrusion presses with an extrusion capacity of 100,000 tonnes a year and an annual foundry capacity of 200,000 tonnes

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