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**STEP-G's future is carbon-neutral thanks to 100 percent green electricity**

**The aluminium company ST Extruded Products Group, STEP-G for short, focuses on the production of sustainable aluminium products along the entire value chain. As of this year, all German STEP-G locations obtain 100 percent of their electricity from sustainable sources. This marks an important step towards the company's carbon-neutral future.**

In this context, STEP-G is not only scrutinising its own production processes and searching for ways to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – it is also looking closely at its suppliers of input and operating materials, as well as its partners that provide ancillary services for its manufacturing processes. The first step towards implementing the company's comprehensive sustainability strategy was the conversion of all German STEP-G locations to green electricity by 1 January 2022. The aluminium specialist was thus able to massively reduce its carbon footprint and eliminate almost 8,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from its own manufacturing processes.

Edgar Gebhart, Managing Director at STEP-G, says: "By converting our locations to 100 percent green electricity, we are committed to sustainable and carbon-neutral operations as responsible members of society. The use of energy from renewable sources is just one of the points in our sustainability strategy, which will allow us to make a visible contribution as a supplier of aluminium solutions." Markus Ogawa, Managing Director at STEP-G, is also positive about the conversion: "Green electricity is both climate-friendly and eco-friendly and ends our dependence on energy from fossil fuels. In this way, we are working towards a carbon-neutral future for STEP-G. Switching to 100 percent green electricity is not only necessary, but also a step in the right direction." Furthermore, the company is even paying attention to the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint upstream of its own manufacturing processes. In this context, it now selects suppliers of input and operating materials on the basis of their sustainability, environmental performance and ecological balance sheet. Besides ensuring that they use a high percentage of green electricity, the proportion of recycled aluminium that these suppliers use – in the form of secondary aluminium – is another key factor. At the same time, their use and avoidance of primary aluminium is also checked.

The company's switch to renewable energy sources is being complemented by the long-term use of one of Saxony-Anhalt's largest photovoltaic arrays at the STEP-G site in Hettstedt. The system generates eco-friendly electricity across a total area of almost 17,000 square metres, supplying at least 300 three-person households in cities and municipalities throughout Saxony-Anhalt with green energy. This self-generated electricity covers 25 percent of the energy requirements at the Hettstedt plant and enabled STEP-G to save 284 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> last year alone.

## **The company at a glance**

*ST Extruded Products Group, or STEP-G, is one of the world's leading producers of extruded aluminium profiles. With production sites in Germany, Belgium and China, STEP-G is a multinational company. The three German press plants in Bitterfeld, Bonn and Vogt are highly specialised and offer a comprehensive range of extruded profiles and bars. The automotive industry and its direct suppliers rely on the company's innovative quality. Other customers are in the aerospace, rail, and mechanical and electrical engineering industries as well as the construction sector. Completing the portfolio are various forms of processing through to component manufacturing. The foundry in Hettstedt with a comprehensive range of standard and special alloys provides reliable technology and consistent availability from one source.*

### *From foundation to the present day*

*In 1915, the first German factory was opened in Bitterfeld. It was followed in 1921 by the German plant in Bonn, in 1946 by the plant in Duffel, Belgium, and in 1952 by another German plant in Vogt. In 2000, the Chinese plant in Tianjin was commissioned. In 2006, Aleris International Inc. acquired the plants of Corus Aluminium. On 1 March 2015, the Aleris aluminium extrusion operations transferred to the Japanese company Sankyo Tateyama, Inc., a manufacturer of extruded and cast products. In 2019, the foundry in Hettstedt was incorporated into the STEP-G group.*

*More information is available at [www.step-g.com](http://www.step-g.com).*