

PRESS RELEASE

August 2018

Zanders invests millions in converting power plant to gas

More sustainable energy production as part of a long-term investment program

Bergisch Gladbach, 20 August 2018. Zanders is sending out a clear message of commitment to its Bergisch Gladbach location: The manufacturer of high-quality specialty papers and cartonboard is converting its on-site power plant from hard coal to natural gas and is investing several million euros in modernization. The conversion is part of Zanders' future-oriented investment program for sustainable increases in efficiency.

The power plant conversion alone promises a significant increase in efficiency in the production processes of the paper mill. In common with a gas grill, which heats and cools down much faster than a coal grill, a gas-fired power plant enables rapid changes of load. This will transform starting and stopping the paper machines into considerably more flexible and efficient processes as well as contributing to a longer service life of the systems. In addition, the previous coal-fired operation produced costs for the disposal of the ash. This expenditure will be eliminated completely and efficiency will be further enhanced by a simultaneous reduction in the overall cleaning effort. Regarding the CO₂ balance, Zanders expects a reduction in emissions of over 40 percent.

"The conversion of two boilers in our power plant has mostly been completed. The gas has been flowing since the end of July and the commissioning of the first boiler is expected to be completed by the end of August, so that we will probably no longer need coal for the steam supply of our plant during normal operation by the end of September," explains Ralf Wenz, the power plant manager at Zanders. "We are now preparing the conversion of the third boiler, which will take about a year. By that time, both main boilers and the reserve boiler, and thus the entire power plant, will be converted to gas." According to Wenz, the total investment will amount to around seven million euros.

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Registration Court: Amtsgericht Köln Commercial Register: HRB 51420

The conversion to gas represents the high point of a whole series of steps and measures with which Zanders intends to increase energy and cost efficiency in production in the medium and long terms: These include the gradual installation of new LED lighting throughout the plant; the insulation of the steam pipes as well as the optimization of the compressed air system.



The gas has been flowing since the end of July: The new gas connections at one of the boilers at the Zanders power plant.

About Zanders

Zanders is a German manufacturer of high-quality special papers and cartons for labels, packaging and graphic applications. Founded in 1829 by Johann Wilhelm Zanders in Bergisch Gladbach, the company still operates the Gohrsmühle paper mill thanks to around 500 loyal employees. The portfolio includes high-gloss label papers and premium board qualities of the traditional brand Chromolux, one of the world's leading paper brands, as well as high quality variants with extra smooth or naturally napped surfaces. These include Zanlabel label papers and Zanpack packaging board qualities. Especially designed for digital printing, Zanders offers the premium range of Chromolux digital and Silver digital brands as well as Zanjet, a double-sided coated paper for commercial high-speed inkjet printing. The portfolio is rounded off by Zanbarrier, the barrier paper for flexible food packaging, which is available in the variants Zanbarrier OGR (Oil and Grease Resistant) and Zanbarrier NGR (Natural Grease Resistant – a barrier function completely without fluorocarbon or other chemicals). The company's customers are manufacturers of beverages such as spirits; sparkling wine, wine, beer or water, food and luxury foods, tobacco products, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products. On June 22, 2018, Zanders filed for insolvency proceedings. Lawyer Dr. Marc d'Avoine and his team, appointed provisional insolvency administrators by the District Court of Cologne, are cooperating with Managing Director Igor Ferlan and external consultants on the restructuring concept. The insolvency is expected to open in September 2018.

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