

Presse Release

AustroCel Hallein: Re-commissioning of the plant takes place in January 2022

- **Internal optimisation ensures more safety**
- **Official approval pending**
- **End of short-time work for the entire workforce at the end of November**

Hallein, 30 November 2021

AustroCel today announces that the re-commissioning of the plant will commence in January 2022. Production has been at a standstill since the sulphur dioxide leak from a digester on 2 June 2021 in which an employee suffered a fatal accident. With the involvement of TÜV Austria and other external experts, AustroCel has had a comprehensive safety analysis of the entire plant carried out. The investigation by the public prosecutor's office into the cause of the tragic accident has not yet been completed.

AustroCel immediately started to implement organisational and technical precautions to improve safety based on the recommendations of the experts. In the course of the extensive work, the pipelines with a total length of three kilometres were technically checked and maintained. Furthermore, the company had repairs carried out, replaced plant components and installed an additional electronic safety control system. In order to be prepared for regular operations, the short-time work for the entire staff ends as planned at the end of November.

Official approval process for cellulose production

In January 2022, final tests for all plant components and the control system of the cellulose digester will be carried out, in addition the first pressure tests will be executed. Testing and commissioning are accompanied by suppliers, external experts and TÜV. After the extensive test runs and preparations, the responsible authorities decide on the approval of the cellulose production facility.

AustroCel assumes that regular production operations can be started quickly and that the first saleable batches can be delivered by the end of February 2022.

About AustroCel Hallein GmbH

AustroCel Hallein GmbH currently has more than 290 employees and is one of the market leaders in China for textile pulp which is made from softwood, with total sales revenue of approximately 130 million euros. Its bio-refinery in Hallein produces up to 160,000 tons of viscose pulp as well as 100 GWh for district heating and 100 GWh of green electricity. Therefore, the Hallein-based high-tech company not only

supplies its own production facilities with clean energy, it also provides 28,000 households with green electricity and 13,000 households with district heating. With the biggest wood-based bio-ethanol plant in the world, AustroCel produces up to 30 million liters of second-generation bio-ethanol each year.

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Image caption: After comprehensive preparations, AustroCel will re-commissioning the plant in January 2022.

Picture credit: AustroCel