



PRESS RELEASE

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Alco Bio Fuel, Messer Benelux and IJsfabriek Strombeek once again investing millions of euros in recycling CO₂ in North Sea Port

Biorefinery Alco Bio Fuel (ABF), industrial gas supplier Messer Benelux and IJsfabriek Strombeek will continue their efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions in Belgium. Together they are investing 10 million euros in a second carbon dioxide recovery unit, located at Alco Bio Fuel in North Sea Port (Ghent). In the spring of 2022, this second line will be operational, bringing the annual capture of green CO₂ to 160,000 tons. That is an increase of no less than 60% compared to current capacity.

The CO₂ will be released when ABF processes biomass into bio-ethanol. This biomass is organic material that extracts CO₂ from the air during the growth process. In addition to bio-ethanol and CO₂, the biomass also produces proteins for animal feed and corn oil. After capture and treatment, the CO₂ can be reused in the food and beverage industry, greenhouse horticulture, water purification, refrigerated transport or as a chemical raw material. The solid form of CO₂ is dry ice, a well-known cooling and cleaning agent.

160,000 tons less CO₂ emissions yearly

Including the investment made 5 years ago, a total of EUR 25 million will eventually have been invested to capture, process and use 160 thousand tons of CO₂ to replace CO₂ of fossil origin. This installation captures and purifies the CO₂ gas and converts it into liquid. The result: a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 160,000 tons per year. This is equivalent to taking 117,000 cars off the road in Belgium.¹ Not only does ABF reduce the CO₂ footprint of bioethanol in this way, the company can also increase its product range.

Working towards a climate-neutral world

For Alco Bio Fuel, this investment is another important step towards climate-neutral production. "We are taking up the European challenge of being climate neutral by 2050" said Charles-Albert Peers, CEO of Alco, "However, as a company we already want to achieve this aim by 2030". For Alco, this project is a fantastic example of effectively taking CO₂ out of the air, and according to Peers: "absolutely necessary to achieve climate neutrality".

CO₂, better known as carbon dioxide or (in liquids) carbonic acid, creates the refreshing bubbles in soft drinks, is used in the purification of drinking water and is an alternative to the aggressive acids needed to neutralise wastewater.

North Sea Port welcomes this investment. Daan Schalck, CEO North Sea Port: "North Sea Port puts its shoulders to the wheel in the pursuit of a climate-neutral world. The fact that the new investment by Alco Bio Fuel is not limited to the production process, but also produces consumer products, is quite special".

¹ This calculation was made on the basis of the emission standard of 90gCO₂/km for a car travelling 15,000 km yearly.



Alco Bio Fuel (ABF) in brief

- processes biomass (in this case wheat and maize) into sustainable products such as bioethanol, high-protein animal feed and maize oil, as well as sustainable electricity,
- is a joint venture between Alcogroup, Vanden Avenne Commodities & Vandema and Arvesta.

Messer Benelux in brief

- Via Messer Industries part of the German family-owned Messer Group GmbH with worldwide subsidiaries,
- produces and distributes a wide range of industrial gases such as nitrogen, oxygen, argon, hydrogen, helium and thus carbon dioxide,
- supplies gases in a variety of markets and applications, with the recovered green CO₂ finding its way mainly to the food industry.

IJsfabriek Strombeek in brief

- is a Belgian family business, based in Meise,
- produces and supplies a wide range of industrial, food and medical gases and dry ice for various applications and markets.

For additional information

[www;alcogroup.com](http://www.alcogroup.com)

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Not for publication

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