

Sustainability boost for German centrifuge plants

GEA investing EUR 15 million in Niederahr plant modernization

Niederahr (Germany), June 22, 2023 – GEA is investing a total of around EUR 50 million by the end of 2024 in modernizing its two centrifuge plants in Germany. Approximately EUR 15 million will be invested in the Niederahr site and EUR 35 million in the parent plant in Oelde, Westphalia. In Niederahr, GEA has been manufacturing decanter centrifuges for 60 years. These are mainly used in the food technology, chemical engineering and environmental technology sectors. The company plans to drive further growth in its key markets – food, beverages and pharmaceuticals – by investing in more sustainable production processes, digitalization, automation and leading-edge manufacturing technologies.

What began 130 years ago at GEA's Oelde site with the manufacture of the first hand-operated centrifuge for separating milk and cream is now an indispensable feature of state-of-the-art industry. Today, GEA centrifuges are deployed in more than 3,500 different liquid handling processes. Decanter centrifuges from Niederahr are used, for instance, in water treatment, lithium processing, protein extraction as well as the beverage and dairy industries. From electric cars to drinking water supply, from vegan burgers to oat milk – decanter centrifuges are important in many different areas.

Success through commitment and the art of engineering

"I am delighted that, with this investment, we are now making GEA's Niederahr site fit for the decades ahead and broadening our technology leadership in this field," said Klaus Stojentin, CEO of the GEA Separation and Flow Technologies Division.

"This investment means we will be producing our decanter centrifuges at the Niederahr site in a way that is better for the climate, more efficient and up to the minute," added Oliver Buchner, Senior Director Supply Chain & Production at GEA in Niederahr. "It is largely thanks to the dedication of our employees that we are able to celebrate our 60th anniversary today and look to the future with confidence."

Climate-friendly production using renewable energy

The investment package for the Niederahr plant covers four areas: sustainability, digitalization, automation and cutting-edge production techniques. To ensure that its production operations are fit

for the future, GEA is modernizing the logistics, mechanical production and assembly/testing. New end-to-end machine centers will speed up complex processes at consistently top production quality. Digitalizing workflows will help accelerate logistics as well as enhance the level of automation in final acceptance testing.

All GEA plants are already powered by green electricity. Ultimately, the power supply at the plant locations will be converted as far as possible to renewable energy generated on site. At the Niederahr site, the feasibility of a large-scale photovoltaic system to cover the plant's energy needs is currently being explored. Any surplus energy could even be used to produce hydrogen.



Figure 1: GEA is modernizing its Niederahr plant in Germany with an investment package of more than EUR 15 million. (Photo: GEA/Julian Poll)



Figure 2: GEA has been producing decanter centrifuges at the Niederahr site for over 60 years. These are deployed, for example, in water treatment, lithium processing, protein extraction as well as the beverage and dairy industries. (Photo: GEA/Marcel Häbel)

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About GEA

GEA is one of the world's largest suppliers of systems and components to the food, beverage, and pharmaceutical industries. The international technology group, founded in 1881, focuses on machinery and plants, as well as advanced process technology, components, and comprehensive services. With more than 18,000 employees working across five divisions and 62 countries, the group generated revenues of more than EUR 5.1 billion in fiscal year 2022. GEA plants, processes, components, and services enhance the efficiency and sustainability of production processes across the globe. They contribute significantly to the reduction of CO₂ emissions, plastic usage, and food waste. In doing so, GEA makes a key contribution toward a sustainable future, in line with the company's purpose: "Engineering for a better world".

GEA is listed in the German MDAX and the STOXX® Europe 600 Index and is also among the companies comprising the DAX 50 ESG and MSCI Global Sustainability and the Dow Jones Sustainability Europe Indices.

More information can be found online at [gea.com](https://www.gea.com).

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