

PRESS RELEASE

Gouda, Tuesday 12 November 2013

Opening 3rd tunnel kiln and new production facility: Gouda Refractories is ready for the future!

On Friday the 15th of November Gouda Refractories will officially bring their new 3rd tunnel kiln and production facility into service, realising the organisation's ambition for growth. With the accomplishment of this step, the production capacity will be increased by 60%. The new kiln is extremely energy-efficient thanks to state-of-the-art-technology, enabling Gouda Refractories BV, as one of the few manufacturers in the world, to fire refractory bricks in a continuous process up to temperatures of 1700°C. As such Gouda Refractories is responding to changing market needs. The official opening of the modern tunnel kiln will mark the end of a significant three-year investment project at the manufacturing plant in Gouda.

Large-scale investment project

This expansion, with a 125-metre long tunnel kiln, is actually equivalent to building a new factory. The third tunnel kiln has an enormous impact on the production process, necessitating the expansion and upscaling of the entire manufacturing process. Far-reaching automation has been carried out in various production departments, including the investment in new process controls. Various robots have been installed and the internal transport system has been extensively automated in order to accommodate the transport of 65.000 tons of refractory bricks: all aimed at facilitating the growth throughout the whole production process.

The project was kicked off early 2011, supported by the parent company Andus Group BV, with the purchase and development of an adjacent 2.3 hectare lot on the Kromme Gouwe industrial estate in Gouda. Bringing the 3rd tunnel kiln into service marks the end of a three-year countercyclical and intensive investment project.

Official opening

The festivities and official opening of the new production facility housing the state-of-the-art 3rd tunnel kiln will be on Friday the 15th of November 2013. Customers, suppliers and other relations from around the world will be welcomed at the manufacturing plant in Gouda. During a plant tour they will be shown the 6.5 hectares of production and storage facilities. The 112,5 years of experience that Gouda Refractories has built up in the global refractory industry will form the central theme of the day.

New markets and customers

The increased capacity and temperature range will enable Gouda Refractories to expand in existing markets, to enter new markets and to develop new applications. A strong focus on Research & Product Development enables Gouda Refractories to develop entirely new products and markets. Gouda Refractories has its own in-house refractory engineering capabilities, R&D facilities and an

independent ISO-9001 certified laboratory at its disposal. All production departments and other related facilities are equipped to meet the strict requirements for the production of refractory products in high-demanding applications found in for instance, the petrochemical industry.

Gouda Refractories BV

Established 112,5 years ago in Gouda and strategically located at the riverside close to the port of Rotterdam, Gouda Refractories is a former stock-exchange listed company with two premises in Gouda and Geldermalsen. Gouda Refractories became part of Andus Group in 2008 and focuses on the design, engineering, manufacturing and supply of high-grade refractory linings (bricks, castables and prefabricated elements) which are used in various critical industrial installations worldwide. Within this specialist market, Gouda Refractories has a leading position with worldwide clients in a.o. the Non-Ferrous Metals, Petrochemical, Energy, Steel, Raw Material Calcination and Waste Treatment Industries.

Andus Group BV

Andus Group is an enterprise with 14 independent subsidiaries in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Slovakia. These companies mainly operate in the field of process equipment, offshore platforms, industrial castings, ship propellers, rail infrastructure, traveller-related facilities, refractory bricks and linings and complex steel structures. The markets Andus Group mainly operates in are the (petrochemical) industry, infrastructure and the maritime sector. The group has an annual turnover of more than 220 million euro's with approx. 1.000 employees.



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