



PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, 12 June 2013

AGRANA opens wheat starch plant at site in Pischelsdorf | Lower Austria

AGRANA today opened a new wheat starch processing plant at its site in Pischelsdorf, Lower Austria. The capital investment involved amounted to around EUR 70 million. This new facility represents an expansion of the current range of starch-based products at the site to include wheat starch in addition to the existing corn and potato starch ranges. The construction of this facility alongside the existing bioethanol plant is a key step in the direction of resource efficiency, i.e. 100% utilisation of raw materials.

The wheat starch facility will annually process around 250,000 tonnes of wheat to produce 105,000 tonnes of wheat starch and 23,500 tonnes of wheat gluten in addition to 55,000 tonnes of wheat bran. Wheat starch is used, on the one hand, in a variety of mainly technical applications (such as in the paper industry) and, on the other, in the food industry, e.g. in the production of noodles, bread and other bakery products. Wheat gluten is used in the baking industry to refine flour and in the manufacture of pet food products as well as in fish food. Wheat bran is used as animal feed.

Four out of one

The close integration of the wheat starch plant and the existing bioethanol factory will enable the cereals processed to be utilised to an extent of 100%. The raw material components left over from the manufacture of wheat starch and gluten will be used in the production of bioethanol as well as for the production of the premium-grade, GM-free, protein-rich animal feed marketed as ActiProt. Taking into account the high-purity CO₂, which is extracted from the fermentation tanks of the bioethanol plant by the industrial gas company Air Liquide, this makes a total of four top-quality products which are manufactured from a single commodity. "AGRANA's aim is to maximise the efficient use of commodities by means of the optimal tapping of synergies at its production sites. This closed-cycle form of commercial operations means that we are a major step closer to achieving this objective as a result of the wheat starch production in Pischelsdorf," highlights Johann Marihart, CEO of AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG.

About AGRANA

AGRANA is the foremost sugar company in Central and Eastern Europe. It is a leading supplier of specialised starch-based products in Europe as well as a major producer of bioethanol in Austria and Hungary. In the Fruit division, AGRANA is the top global producer of fruit preparations for the dairy industry and one of the leading producers of fruit juice concentrates in Europe. With around 8,500 personnel based at 56 production sites in 26 countries, AGRANA generates global revenues of over EUR 3 billion.

This press release is available in German and English at www.agrana.com.