

PreZero starts up Europe's newest sorting plant for lightweight packaging

Going forward, top-quality plastic for the recycling process will be sorted in the Bavarian town of Eitting

Eitting, January 19, 2022. As planned on January 12, the environmental service provider PreZero, a company of the Schwarz Group, launched Europe's newest sorting plant for lightweight packaging in Eitting, Bavaria. After almost a year of construction, up to 120,000 tons of lightweight packaging from the yellow sack will be processed for recycling outside the gates of Munich every year.

The plant, with a capital expenditure of about 40 million euros, provides 50 crisis-proof jobs and was built as part of a strategic partnership on the site of the local Wurzer Group. In the future, the plant can be in operation around the clock, 365 days a year.

The latest technology is being used in the sorting process: Black scans identify black plastics that are difficult to sort in conventional plants. Furthermore, the latest generation of sorting robots support employees in quality control and re-sorting. Based on artificial intelligence, the fully automatic sorting plant will surpass all of sorting quotas prescribed by law under the Packaging Act adopted in 2019.

The collected packaging material is sorted into a total of 18 different fractions. This includes the types of plastic, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene and polystyrene. Unlike in other plants, the respective fractions can also be sorted by color. Using the latest detection technology and innovative separating units, manual sorting can be largely dispensed with.

Carsten Dülfer, CEO PreZero Germany: "With the commissioning of the plant in Eitting, we're expanding our existing network of high-performance lightweight packaging sorting systems, not just in terms of space, but also in terms of quantity. With a total annual capacity of all our plants in Germany of around 600,000 tons, we're establishing ourselves as part of the absolute frontrunners in this market segment."

The commissioning of the new plant is another important building block in the sorting of recyclable materials in order to produce new products from them. Christian Kampmann, Head of Business Unit Sorting: "With regard to our international structures, we are closing a geographical gap with the location in Eitting. In particular, our recycling plants in Austria and Italy are very easily reached from a logistical point of view. In future, they will be able to access material that has been processed according to type and use it for subsequent production processes."

About PreZero

The PreZero Group is an international environmental service provider with around 30,000 employees at over 430 locations in Europe and North America. The company bundles all competencies along the value chain under one roof – from waste disposal and sorting, to treatment and recycling. In doing so, PreZero is positioning itself as a driver of innovation in the industry, with the goal of creating a world in which no more resources are wasted thanks to closed cycles. Zero waste, 100 percent recyclable.

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PreZero is part of the Schwarz Group, one of the leading food retail companies in Germany and Europe. PreZero has its head office in Neckarsulm, Baden-Württemberg.

The activities of the PreZero Group contribute to the goals of REset Plastic, the plastics strategy of the Schwarz Group. The holistic approach ranges from prevention, design, recycling, and disposal, to innovation and education. In doing so, the Schwarz Group handles all stages of the recycling loop itself: From production to retail to waste disposal and recycling.

More information about PreZero can be found at our [press portal](#).

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Image caption: Christian Kampmann, Head of Business Unit Sorting, Dietmar Böhm, COO PreZero, and Stephan Garvs, Managing Director PreZero Dual, open PreZero's new LVP sorting plant in Eitting.

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