Press Release

thyssenkrupp

Steel Europe

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thyssenkrupp Steel launches hydrogen tender to supply its direct reduction plant in Duisburg

- thyssenkrupp Steel helps drive the development of the German and European hydrogen economy
- Revised grant approval establishes the framework for the phased introduction of hydrogen
- First procurement tranche with deliveries beginning in 2031
- Potential suppliers can register through December 17, 2026

Duisburg, November 23, 2026. thyssenkrupp Steel has launched a new tender for hydrogen supply to its direct reduction plant. With this tender, the Duisburg-based steelmaker is taking another step toward hydrogen-based steel production. The first procurement tranche is expected to cover approximately 20,000 to 40,000 metric tons of hydrogen per year, with deliveries starting in 2031. The final volume awarded will be determined based on the bids received and will depend largely on their commercial terms. Interested suppliers can register through December 17, 2026, after which the bidding phase will begin.

By using hydrogen in its direct reduction plant, thyssenkrupp Steel will become one of Europe's largest hydrogen consumers and help drive the development of a European hydrogen ecosystem. Once completed, the plant will initially operate on natural gas during the ramp-up phase. Even when operating on natural gas, it will reduce CO_2 emissions by more than 50 percent. Hydrogen will be introduced from 2031, initially replacing part of the natural gas, with full hydrogen operation planned at a later stage.

The planned phased introduction of hydrogen is in line with the European Commission's state aid requirements and the current grant approval issued by the two funding authorities, the German federal government and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

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Direct reduction in Duisburg

The direct reduction plant is designed to produce 2.5 million metric tons of direct reduced iron (DRI) per year. The two downstream smelters have a combined capacity of 2.3 million metric tons of hot metal per year. This technologically innovative plant configuration will be integrated into Europe's largest steelworks. This will allow existing downstream processes, from steelmaking onward, to remain unchanged while retaining the full range of high-quality steel grades. The plant design enables a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the conventional blast furnace route.

When operating entirely on hydrogen, the facility has the potential to avoid approximately 3.5 million metric tons of CO_2 emissions per year compared to blast furnace production.

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