



PRESS RELEASE

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Franke invests in a CO₂-neutral woodchip heating system

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Today, the Franke Group will be officially putting its new woodchip plant into operation at its Swiss headquarters in Aarburg. In addition, since the start of this year, Franke has been sourcing its electricity exclusively from Swiss hydropower. Thanks to the measures, the group now covers the entire heat and power requirements for the Aarburg site using renewable, CO₂-neutral energy sources and is thus investing in a secure supply of clean energy.

The state-of-the-art woodchip heating plant represents another milestone in the Franke Group's energy management strategy. After a nine-month construction period, the woodchip heating system, built according to the latest environmental standards, will replace the existing natural gas heating. Franke regards the total cost of CHF 6.5 million as a long-term investment in the secure supply of clean energy. In addition, since the start of 2015, Franke has been supplying all production facilities and buildings at the Aarburg site with electrical energy generated exclusively using Swiss hydropower, i.e. with renewable, CO₂-neutral energy.

The woodchip heating system consists of two wood boilers with a rated output of 810 and 1,440 kW and an energy storage system of 3 x 100 m³. The wood comes exclusively from the Aarburg municipal forest. Approximately 9,000 m³ of woodchips are needed annually.

From 2017, the woodchip heating system will also supply around 200 homes with heat. The large residential complex is being built next to the Franke premises as part of the "Stadtblick" construction project, managed by Franke Immobilien AG.

The Franke Group employs around 850 people at the company headquarters in Aarburg/Switzerland. In 2014, the three production plants for stainless steel sinks, coffee machines and hot gas path parts as well

as the numerous exhibition and office buildings consumed around 7,700 MWh of electricity and some 530,000 m³ of natural gas. Through targeted investments to improve energy efficiency, energy consumption has been reduced by 28% since 2009, which positively impacted on energy costs.

Franke is guided by the corporate value "be accountable" and is committed to sustainability and climate protection. With its voluntary declaration of accession to the program of the Federal Office for the Environment, Franke is making an active contribution to optimizing energy efficiency and reducing CO₂ emissions. By using renewable, CO₂-neutral energy sources, Franke will meet or exceed the agreed targets in the current period 2013-2020.

***Franke** is a world-leading provider of solutions and equipment for domestic kitchens, private bathrooms, semi-public washrooms, professional food service, coffee preparation and beverage delivery. The Group is globally active with 8,900 employees working in 37 countries, generating revenues of CHF 2.1 billion.*

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