

## Press release

# C.C. Umwelt and Blue Phoenix join forces to become new pan-European heavyweight

**Krefeld, 05 March 2021** Slag processor C.C. Umwelt has a new shareholder with a 100-percent stake in the company: the Blue Phoenix Group, a slag recycling company based in Rotterdam (Netherlands). Following a short bidding and evaluation phase, the previous shareholder, Novum Capital, and Blue Phoenix agreed on the transfer of C.C. Umwelt to the Blue Phoenix Group with retrospective effect from 30 November 2020. The purchase agreement was signed by both parties in February 2021.

### Successful consolidation due to clear focus

C.C. Umwelt is one of Germany's leading specialists for the disposal, reprocessing and recycling of waste incineration slags, the disposal of flue gas cleaning mass (filter dust) from waste incineration plants, and the processing and disposal of special mineral waste. The company's headquarters are located at the Krefeld port, with six more sites in Hagen, Würzburg, Schwandorf, Bleicherode/Sollstedt, Hamm and Menteroda.

### Twelve million euros invested in technologies

The economic success of C.C. Umwelt can be mainly attributed to the considerable investments C.C. Umwelt made between 2018 and 2020 with the support of the previous owner, Novum Capital: In total, the company invested twelve million euros in the technical equipment of the four slag sites in Krefeld, Hagen, Würzburg and Schwandorf. As a result, C.C. Umwelt now runs state-of-the-art facilities with maximum processing depth and throughput capacity for slag. These modernization measures have made C.C. Umwelt a technology leader in the German circular economy.

### **Quantum leap with “Stratego” metal finishing machinery**

The most important technical advancement was implemented by C.C. Umwelt in 2019. On 19 July 2019, C.C. Umwelt celebrated the unveiling of its self-constructed metal finishing machinery, “Stratego”, at its headquarters in Krefeld.

The technology of this machinery is ground-breaking. It can be used to extract non-ferrous metals by type from the incineration slag of all of C.C.’s sites. Stratego separates light non-ferrous metals (mainly aluminum) from heavy non-ferrous metals (in particular: copper, gold, silver, platinum, and palladium). Prior to this, C.C. Umwelt had only been able to sell the metals as a mixture. C.C. Umwelt also offers the metal-refining capabilities of Stratego as a service to other companies.

### **State-of-the-art technologies at even more locations**

The sale of C.C. Umwelt to the Blue Phoenix Group signifies one thing in particular: the merger of two leading technologies for non-ferrous metal refining – Blue Phoenix’s processing machinery and C.C. Umwelt’s Stratego machinery. Customers can now benefit from long-term, reliable services that meet the highest technical standards.

The Blue Phoenix Group and C.C. Umwelt are planning to open further locations in Germany and Europe over the next five years.

### **The next step towards a successful future**

Dieter Kersting, Managing Director of C.C. Umwelt, says: “We would like to express our sincere thanks to our previous shareholder, Novum Capital, for the excellent cooperation over the last few years. We wish Novum Capital all the best for the future. The management team at C.C. Umwelt sees our new partner, Blue Phoenix, as a guarantor for the continuous development of C.C.”. According to Dieter Kersting, this applies in particular to the continual improvement of end-of-waste technologies for slag processing – and the company’s expansion in Germany and Europe.

Paul Knight, CEO of the Blue Phoenix Group, is also pleased with the transaction: “We see C.C. Umwelt as an ideal geographical addition to our portfolio of services. Together, our companies will continue to grow rapidly.”

## **Pan-European heavyweight in slag processing**

The Blue Phoenix Group was formed in 2015, when private equity investment group Waterland simultaneously acquired and merged the English company Ballast Phoenix and the Dutch company Inashco. To date, Blue Phoenix employs a staff of more than 400. Following the merger with C.C. Umwelt, the company will have more than 500 employees and become one of the market leaders in Germany, England and the Netherlands.

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## **About the C.C. Group**

*The C.C. Group was founded in 1969 and is part of the circular economy. To date, the company operates sites in Krefeld, Würzburg, Hagen and Schwandorf, with approximately 130 employees. In addition, C.C. holds minority interests in partner companies in Bleicherode/Sollstedt, Hamm and Menteroda. Its business divisions are: the disposal and reprocessing of slag; the disposal of filter dust in safe underground storage sites; and the processing of mineral waste. The C.C. Group's customers include municipalities, towns, administration unions, waste incinerators, disposal companies, recycling specialists and construction companies. The latter, for example, use the qualities of slag processed by C.C. for large civil engineering projects, helping to conserve resources such as new sand and gravel. Moreover, by recovering approximately 70,000 tons of metal per year (including iron, aluminum, copper, gold, and silver) through the processing of slags and mineral wastes, C.C. Umwelt helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – unlike metal production from primary raw material sources.*