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## Novelis' hydrogen trials are success on production line at UK recycling plant

Aluminium canstock manufacturer Novelis has successfully trialled the use of hydrogen as an energy source at its Latchford recycling plant in the UK.

The trial required the installation of new burners and regenerators – both capable of operating with hydrogen or a blended hydrogen/natural gas input – and replacing the furnace lining with one suitable for hydrogen.

Using hydrogen instead of the same amount of natural gas when operating a melting furnace can reduce CO2e emissions by up to 90%, Novelis said.

"Exploring renewable energy sources, such as hydrogen, making first mover investments, and reducing energy intensity



are part of our 3×30 vision to advance aluminium as the material of choice with circular solutions," said Emilio Braghi, executive vice president, Novelis, and president, Novelis Europe. "With the significant expansion of our local recycling capacity, we are transforming the Latchford site into a prototype for high-recycled content and decarbonised aluminium production."

The series of tests were conducted by

blending different percentages of hydrogen with natural gas (30%-100%) to evaluate the impact on existing infrastructure, and equipment compatibility. During the trial campaign, several hundred tonnes of 3000 series scrap aluminium alloy were re-melted and cast into sheet ingots. In addition, all relevant parameters were measured to assess any impact on the product, process, operating environment, and environmental emissions.

Novelis will complete further downstream pressing, including rolling and finishing, at other Novelis plants in Europe to establish what it says are the "real 'endto-end' parameters of a hydrogen-based, recycled alloy production process".

## ALFED calls for industry voices to shape aluminium sector

The Aluminium Federation (ALFED) is urging businesses within the aluminium sector to help take part in shaping the future of the industry.

An industry survey launched by ALFED aims to identify key growth opportunities for the sector and drive policy engagement with the UK Government.

The State of the Aluminium Industry Survey provides



"crucial insights into market challenges, investment needs, sustainability drivers, and trade concerns", according to ALFED.

## Dürr installs RTO system at SAPIN's Saudi Arabia metal print facility

Plant engineering specialist Dürr has installed a regenerative thermal oxidiser (RTO) at Saudi Arabia-based metal and plastic packaging supplier SAPIN.

The installation was undertaken to control volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released during the metal printing process at Saudi Arabian Packaging Industry WLL (SAPIN). Adrian Pulido, senior sales manager Surface Treatment at Dürr, said: "All components of the system (drives, sensors, etc.) had to be designed with respect to the very high ambient temperatures."

He said the OxiX.RA unit by Dürr began operations in the first quarter of 2024.

SAPIN also operates in the United Arab Emirates.

