

PRESS RELEASE - 7 FEBRUARY 2017

Boortmalt Antwerp becomes the world's largest malting plant

Supporting brewing customers in emerging countries is a priority for Axéreal cooperative subsidiary Boortmalt. As part of this strategy, it is to invest in a new malting plant in Ethiopia and expand its Antwerp plant to become the world's largest malting facility, with a capacity of 470,000 tonnes.

Serving customers by growing exports from Antwerp

By adding a fourth malting plant to the Antwerp site, Boortmalt is strengthening its export capacity and capability. An R&D centre will also be established so that customers can benefit from the company's innovation agenda. Consequently, not only is the Antwerp site set to become the world's largest malt production facility, it will also be the home of the company's Research & Development centre and a multi-modal transport hub for malt exports with the logistical capability to package and store the company's full range of products in bags, bulk bags, bulk and containers.

"Boortmalt will use this dedicated malt complex to bring customers unique, innovative and high quality products and services," said Boortmalt CEO Yvan Schaeapman.

Supporting customers by developing local malt production

The market for beer is growing in emerging countries, and in Africa in particular. Axéreal Group will leverage its expertise by working alongside its brewing customers to develop local barley and malt production in these countries.

"Axéreal will initiate this by setting up a site in Ethiopia, where a malting plant with capacity of 60,000 tonnes will be operational before the end of 2018," according to Axéreal CEO Philippe de Raynal.

Boortmalt's ten European malting plants are currently running at full capacity, producing 1.1 million tonnes of malt. These two new projects will bring total capacity to 1.3 Mt. The plants will benefit from the very latest technology, together with the company's expertise in energy and water management, in line with Boortmalt's CSR policy and ISO 50001 certification.

Supporting customers downstream and cooperative members upstream

"By developing a two-pillar business model with agriculture, trade and logistics on the one side and cereal and food processing on the other, we can offer our cooperative members both security and excellent performance. By investing in the malt business unit, we are both developing access to the barley market for our members and creating value downstream which can be redistributed," said Axéreal Chairman Jean-François Loiseau.

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About Axéreal

Agriculture and agribusiness cooperative group Axéreal is principally present in the production area of the large Central region of France, stretching from the south of Paris to the north of Auvergne. It adds value to its cooperative members' produce by taking into account the needs of its customers, who are mostly in the processing industry. In this way, Axéreal helps to develop quality food products. On a daily basis, the cooperative supports its cooperative members in production and risk management. At the same time, Axéreal supports its industrial customers in their development by providing the value chain needed for their activities in France and internationally.

Chairman: Jean-François Loiseau – CEO: Philippe De Raynal

About Boortmalt

Boortmalt, an Axéreal subsidiary, produces high-quality malt for brewers and distillers. As the world's No. 5 maltster, Boortmalt operates 10 malting plants in Europe, and produces and sells 1.1 million tonnes of malt a year. Boortmalt uses its strategic site at Antwerp to export 50% of its total production to emerging markets. A market leader in the Benelux countries, the United Kingdom and Ireland, Boortmalt is a recognised producer of whisky and speciality malts.

CEO: Yvan Schaepman

