

Agarwal brothers unveil their second metals startup



Agarwal brothers unveil their second metals startup backed by principal Vedanta shareholders. The Agarwal brothers - Naivedya and Annanya - are building their second metals startup that would harness the cutting-edge technology of Bahrain's Taha International, which owns the patent for converting waste aluminium into value-added products.

Annanya, whose father Navin Agarwal is the chairman of Vedanta, would spearhead Runaya Refining, a senior executive in the group said, referring to the leadership plans for the startup.

Runaya Metalsource, the parent of Runaya Refining, is funded

by the "principal shareholders" of the Vedanta group.

Runaya Refining signed a technology licensing pact with Taha International, a company with patented technology for aluminium dross processing. Taha has developed a unique two-stage dross process to recover metal from dross, a by-product of the aluminium industry, a process that has removed the need for salt or extra energy.

The patented technology helps refine the residual oxides, converting them to value-added products, such as fertiliser or steel-slag conditioner, without producing any waste that otherwise contaminates the environment: The waste is normally used as a landfill.

The model used by RRL is the circular economy model. It involves industrial waste being treated and processed to increase the efficiency of the plant, and then the remaining residue offtaken to create value added downstream products.

Runaya Refining, a senior executive said, selected this technology after a rigorous evaluation process that involved judging the claims of competing solutions. With the conclusion of this agreement, the project is set to enter the execution phase.

The project will set up a facility in Jharsuguda, with an initial capacity of 30,000 MT. RRL expects to commission Phase 1 by end of 2017 and commence commercial production in 2018. The project will be in two phases, with an investment of USD 25 million.

Aluminium can recycling rate hits 70%



According to the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation, seven out of ten aluminium drink cans sold in the UK in 2016 were recycled. Beverage cans made up most of the 180,000 tonnes of aluminium packaging placed on the market last year in the country, with the UK being the largest beverage can market in Europe.

The 70% milestone for aluminium cans reinforces the European metal packaging sector's ambition for an 80% metal packaging recycling rate by 2025.

Alupro executive director Rick Hindley

said that "The continued growth is due to the support of our members and partners in the wider industry and their commitment to invest in and support our programmes to drive positive, lasting behaviour change among consumers."

Alupro is concerned about a lack of ambition from government in setting new targets for aluminium and had lobbied for targets towards 2020 to be 'front loaded' to the earlier years.

A reform to the Packaging Recovery Note system is also sought, including the mandatory registration of reprocessors and

exporters to ensure that all material collected for recycling is reported through PRNs. The company wanted an increase for the 2017 target but this was not implemented.

Rick Hindley said that "We remain convinced that future growth in aluminium recycling performance is achievable within the current system, subject to a few revisions which will ensure all recycling is accurately reported and that behaviour change programmes are properly funded on a fair and equitable basis.

Alupro believes that communication is the missing link between the collection infrastructure and recycling growth, as has been proved over and over again by industry-funded programmes like MetalMatters and Every Can Counts."

He added that "Our focus remains to make people aware of the aluminium in the packaging they use every day and how to recycle it so that the metal can be given a new life, over and over again."