

Ercros will invest 22 million in Sabiñánigo within the framework of the 3D Plan



Ercros plans to invest near 22 million euros in its factory in Sabiñánigo, within the framework of the 3D Plan.

The 3D Plan is the strategic plan started up by Ercros, which pursues its transformation into a sustainable company and is based on three dimensions: Diversification, Digitalisation and Decarbonisation.

The plan contains 20 major projects, eight of which will be carried out in Sabiñánigo. The timeframe of the plan is the period 2021-2025, although the execution of several digitalisation and decarbonisation projects will go beyond this period and will extend until 2029. For the period 2021-2029, Ercros foresees a total investment of 92 million euros and the generation of an additional ebitda of 194 million euros.

The 22 million euros that Ercros plans to invest in Sabiñánigo, will be distributed as follows:

- 55% to a large diversification project: the expansion of the chlorite plant;
- 37% to three decarbonisation projects, which in total will reduce the factory's direct CO₂ emissions by 20% (vs 2020); and
- The remaining 8% to four digitalisation projects.

Carrying out the eight strategic actions (which promote the diversification in the activity, the increase in processes automation and the improve in the facilities environmental performance) consolidates the future of the Sabiñánigo factory.

In the last 14 years (2007-2020), Ercros has invested around 86 million euros in this factory in actions aimed at improving technology, energy efficiency in production processes and expanding production capacity.

The 3D Plan succeeds the Act Plan (2016-2020), for adaptation to technological change, which involved the modernisation of Ercros's production structure and the incorporation of important energy efficiency improvements.

Additional information

List of the actions planned for the Sabiñánigo factory

Diversification project:

1 Expansion of the sodium chlorite plant capacity with the construction of a new production line that will almost double the current capacity. Sodium chlorite is the best alternative to make water drinkable in desalination plants. The larger available sodium chlorite capacity will be used to boost exports. The project will increase the weight of the water treatment business in Ercros' portfolio.

Digitalisation projects:

2 IoT (Internet of Things), with the installation of sensors to monitor, among others, key parameters of the electrolyzing equipment operation of the chlorine-caustic soda/potash manufacturing plants. This action will improve the energy efficiency and the service life of the equipment, while reducing maintenance costs.

3-5 Big Data, process automation, mobile devices and other common projects.

Decarbonisation projects:

6 Construction of a new residual brine concentration plant, to increase the use of this product obtained in the process of manufacturing tablets for the treatment of swimming pool water. The greater use of residual brine will avoid the consumption of natural gas, reduce direct CO₂ emissions, and promote the circular economy.

7 Use of 100% of the hydrogen obtained in the sodium chlorate and chlorine-caustic soda/potash electrolysis plants, with the installation of mixed burners in the steam boilers. This action will contribute to improving the factory's environmental performance, by promoting the circularity of the activity and reducing CO₂ emissions.

8 Replacement of the header electrical transformer with a new, more efficient one. The new transformer will reduce indirect CO₂ emissions while ensuring the availability of a strategic element for the facilities.

Project under study:

- **Construction of a pilot plant, on a semi-industrial scale, for the generation of green hydrogen**, from water electrolysis, which would allow to have additional hydrogen to that currently available and would be generated from renewable energy without CO₂ emissions.

The Ercros factory in Sabiñánigo employs 218 workers and in 2020 had a turnover of 93 million euros. It is focused on the production of chlorine, caustic soda and the chlorinated derivatives sodium hypochlorite and hydrochloric acid; tablets for the treatment of swimming pool water; sodium chlorite and chlorate; and hydrogen peroxide and ammonia. 58% of its production is destined for export.

In Huesca, Ercros has another factory in Monzón, which employs 30 workers and in 2020 had a turnover of 15 million euros. This factory is dedicated to the manufacture of PVC compounds and bioplastics under the ErcrosBio brand, and the development of a new family of PVC products from recycled material. In the last five years, Ercros has invested 2.5 million euros in this centre, more than half of which has been allocated to the acquisition of strategic equipment for current research lines.

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