

New extraction tower at Nordzucker's Schladen factory increases efficiency in sugar production

With the inauguration of a new extraction tower, Nordzucker is improving the efficiency of sugar production at its Schladen factory and reducing energy consumption in the production process at the same time. A new grid connection substation provides state-of-the-art energy security for the site.

Braunschweig, 14 August 2026 – Nordzucker today officially inaugurated a new extraction tower at its Schladen site. The facility plays a central role in sugar production: it is here that the sugar is extracted from the beet pulp and prepared for further processing. With this new facility, Nordzucker is investing in modern plant technology whilst optimising the efficiency of sugar production.

The new extraction tower was built to replace the previous unit, which could only continue to operate on a limited basis following damage sustained in 2024. Following the laying of the foundations in 2025, assembly began in early 2026. "The new extraction tower ensures that sugar is extracted even more efficiently from the beet pulp whilst reducing the energy requirements of the production process. In this way, we are supporting our ongoing efforts to further reduce the CO₂ emissions from our production," says Ulrich Overwin, Head of Factory in Schladen.

Measuring 39 metres in height, with a diameter of twelve metres and a volume of 2,100 cubic metres, the new tower is designed to handle the factory's processing capacity of around 10,500 tonnes of beet per day. The plant allows the beet pulp to remain in the tower for a significantly longer period compared with the previous tower. This enables the sugar to be extracted more efficiently, significantly reducing the proportion of residual sugar in the pulp. At the same time, less water is required in the subsequent production process, which reduces energy consumption. As a result, the new tower saves up to 22 tonnes of CO₂ per day during the campaign compared with the old facility – equivalent to roughly the annual CO₂ emissions of three to four German citizens.

"The new extraction tower in Schladen is a prime example of our approach to combining technical innovation with sustainable production. Investments in energy-efficient processes are a key component of our decarbonisation strategy. With projects such as this, we are gradually reducing the energy requirements of our

production and consistently driving forward the modernisation of our sugar factories, says Torsten Bigalke, Managing Director for Germany at Nordzucker.

In addition, the Nordzucker site in Schladen commissioned a new grid connection substation in advance of the campaign – this connects the site to the public electricity grid. This ensures that the site's energy supply is maintained to the latest technical standards.

Nordzucker

Nordzucker is one of the world's leading producers of sugar from sugar beet and sugar cane. The Group extracts sugar products in various forms, such as white sugar, raw sugar, refined sugar, organic sugar, speciality sugars and liquid sugars. Nordzucker also produces animal feed, molasses, fertilisers and fuels, as well as electricity. In the 2025/2026 financial year, the company generated revenues of 2.3 billion Euro.

With its Fields for Growth strategy, Nordzucker is focusing on two areas: improving the profitability of its existing business and pursuing targeted diversification and growth. Through this strategy, Nordzucker is also focusing on the aim of fully decarbonising its production by 2050 at the latest. This is supplemented by aims to reduce carbon emissions in beet cultivation.

High-quality products and services, growth prospects and continuous improvements are the driving force behind a dedicated and international team of around 4,000 employees at 19 European and Australian production sites.

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