

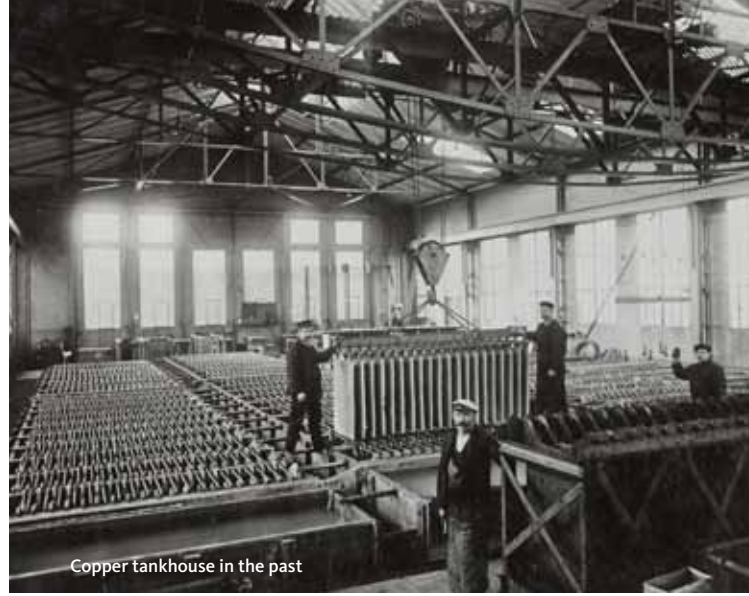
Further milestones included, in 1936, the commissioning of the reverberatory furnace for processing copper concentrates and the construction of the world's first contact facility for the production of sulfuric acid.

Following the integration of NA into the machinery of the Third Reich, it was not until the end of July 1946 that the decision was made by the Allied Control Council to remove copper smelting from the reparations list – allowing the rebuilding of the heavily bombed factory to begin. In 1949, fully continuous casting for the manufacture of copper products started up.

The year 1972 saw the first continuous cast wire rod plant commence operations, while the primary smelter (RWO) also began production. In 1975, NA and the Chilean company Codelco founded the first joint venture, Deutsche Giessdraht in Emmerich. In 1979 NA developed the energy-saving Contimelt process for refining blister copper, copper scrap and anode residues into copper anodes. NA addressed concerns about its future existence with the launch of a major modernization and environmental protection initiative in 1985. The new copper tankhouse (ELWO) began operations in 1989.

In 1998 NA listed on the stock market. The company acquired a majority stake in Hüttenwerke Kayser AG in Lünen in 1999, where the Kayser Recycling System (KRS) was started in 2002. Aurubis has ranked as the world's biggest copper recycler ever since.

Following EU approval, NA took over the Belgian company Cumerio in August 2008, going international for the first time. In February 2009 the AGM decided to rename NA as Aurubis – comprised of the Latin words aurum, meaning gold, and rubrum, meaning red – the "red gold". In September 2011 the rolled products division of Luvata was acquired, providing Aurubis with its first production plant outside Europe, namely in the USA.



Copper tankhouse in the past



Copper tankhouse today

# Cu 150.0

Tradition · Expertise · Innovation

Aurubis AG  
Hovestrass 50  
D-20539 Hamburg  
Phone +49 (0)40 7883-0  
Fax +49 (0)40 7883-2255  
info@aurubis.com  
www.aurubis.com  
www.150-years-of-the-future.com

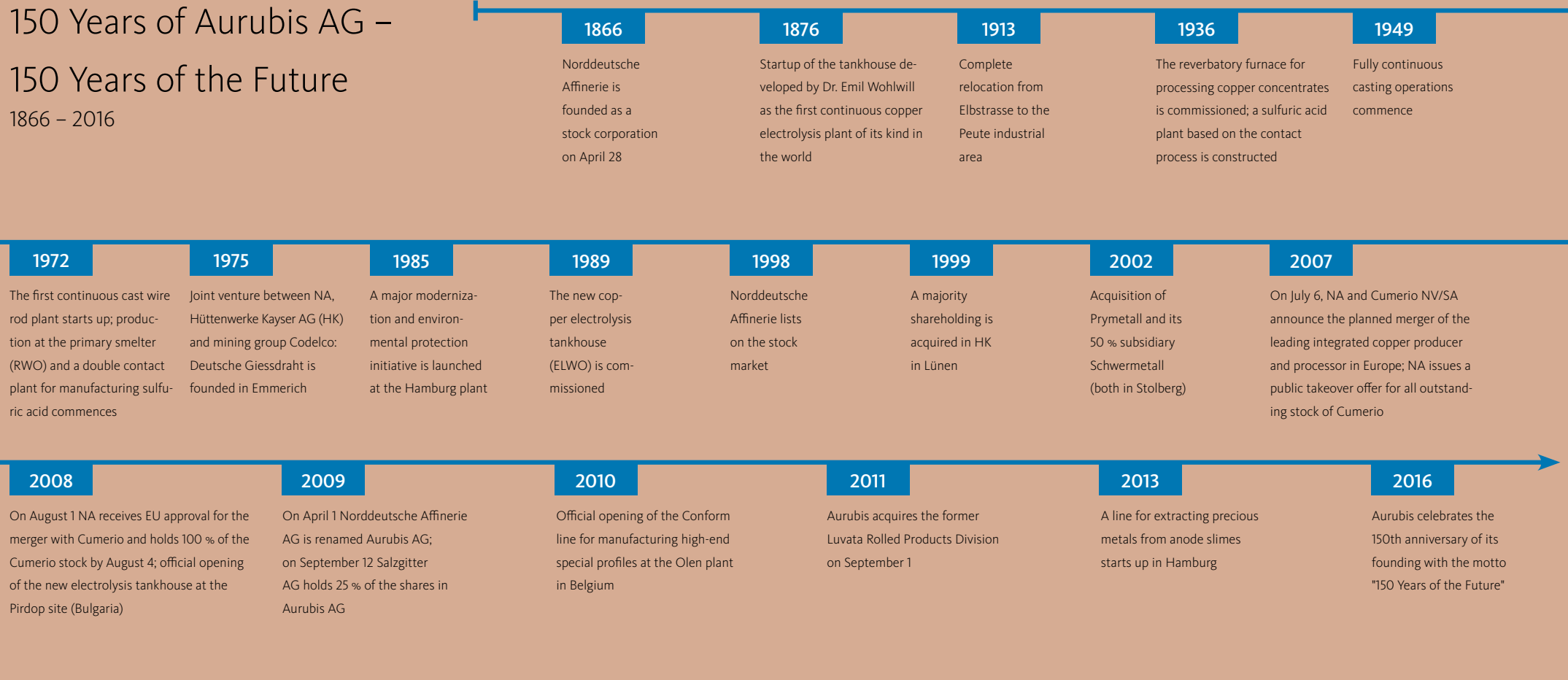
## The History of the Copper Group

The history book on 150 Years of Aurubis can be purchased under Cu 150.0 (englisch) ISBN 978-3-944334-71-4 in bookstores and online starting at the end of April 2016.

150 **Aurubis**  
Years of the Future.

# 150 Years of Aurubis AG – 150 Years of the Future

1866 – 2016



**Aurubis.** Seven letters that today stand for the leading integrated copper group and the largest copper recycler in the world. Aurubis is the employer of some 6,300 staff; a copper and metal giant. It wasn't that long ago, however, that the workforce, the industry and, not least, the citizens of Hamburg knew "their" world market leader by the name Norddeutsche Affinerie AG (NA).

That was the name under which the company traded for 143 years until 2009. Even in its founding year of 1866, though, the company already looked back on an impressive tradition stretching back to 1770, when the Hamburg Senate granted the company Marcus Salomon Beit permission to operate a "silver refinery and smelting furnace", the prerequisite for the establishment of a refinery for precious metals – silver and gold. The NA that arose from this and

other companies was founded on April 28, 1866.

To this very day, the greatest leap forward in technical development at NA has been the innovation of Dr. Emil Wohlwill: the introduction of electrolytic copper extraction in 1876. NA was the first company in the world to use chemically pure electrolytic copper on a large scale. A refined electrolytic process from Dr. Heinrich Wohlwill, Emil Wohlwill's son, brought the final breakthrough, but it also necessitated the expansion of the facility. This led to the decision, made in 1907, to bring all the existing businesses together on the island of Peute on the Elbe River and also have room for future expansion. In 1913 all departments of the new plant were running at full steam.



**Aurubis' biggest production site and the group headquarters is located in Hamburg**

Foto: Petra Wöller