



Press Event #allset

Krayenberggemeinde/Kassel (Germany), May 6, 2025

Werra 2060: Information on the Transformation of Potash Production in Germany

By transforming its potash fertilizer production and implementing the innovative Werra 2060 project, K+S is developing a future-oriented product portfolio and pioneering sustainable, environmentally friendly mining practices. Therefore, K+S will remain a reliable supplier of potassium and magnesium fertilizers "made in Germany" to the agricultural industry.

With the Werra 2060 project for the future, we are securing the operating life of our Werra integrated plant until at least 2060. This ensures a competitive, independent potash supply in Europe," says Dr. Josef Wiebel, Head of the Agriculture customer segment at K+S.

This is made possible by investments totaling €600 million and an innovative production process at the Werra integrated plant, which consists of three sites in Wintershall, Hattorf, and Unterbreizbach, located in the states of Hesse and Thuringia.

"K+S has always proven itself to be a reliable partner to German and European agriculture, supplying it with the fertilizers it needs, whether it's the coronavirus pandemic, sanctions against Belarus and Russia, or disruptions to shipping routes in the Red Sea," says Dr. Josef Wiebel. "With the investments in our German site, we are committing to continuing to meet this need while securing jobs and value creation in the region in the long term."

K+S will continue to reliably meet demand in Europe in the future

The annual market volume for potash fertilizers exceeds 75 million tonnes, and K+S expects demand to grow by an average of 1.7 percent annually over the next three years. This growth is primarily driven by large non-European markets, including Brazil, China, India, and Southeast Asia. K+S is one of the top five potash fertilizer producers worldwide, with a market share of just under 10 percent. The Werra plant alone produces approximately half of all potassium- and magnesium-containing fertilizers in the EU. K+S can cover 85 percent of the EU's demand for potassium and all of its demand for magnesium sulfate. Due to K+S's ongoing investments, this position will remain unchanged in the decades to come.

Innovative mining process – for security of supply and for the environment

Werra 2060 also considers environmental challenges. K+S uses the ESTA® process, an electrostatic separation method, to dry-sort the extracted minerals and process them into fertilizers without using water. “K+S has further developed this technology significantly,” says André Spiegel, Werra 2060 Deputy Project Manager. Downstream energy- and wastewater-intensive processing steps at the Unterbreizbach and Wintershall sites are, therefore, no longer necessary. Spiegel explains that the expanded utilization of the ESTA® process has another significant advantage: “We are introducing secondary mining at the Hattorf-Wintershall mine. This will enable us to extract additional raw salt with high mineral contents. The dry ESTA® production residues are transported underground and used to fill mine cavities for stabilization.”

This transformation in mining and processing significantly reduces the Werra plant's environmental impact.

- CO₂ emissions from production will be reduced by around 50% at the Unterbreizbach and Wintershall sites at the Werra river.
- The total volume of process water at the Werra integrated plant will be reduced by more than half as a result of the production transformation.
- The growth of the Wintershall tailings pile will decrease by around 90%.

Proven reliability and quality in K+S fertilizers

As the focus on dry production processes increases, K+S is expanding its specialty fertilizer portfolio. Internationally, the Company will focus more on Korn-KALI®, a potassium and magnesium fertilizer with sulfur that is already well known and popular in Germany. The only change is a slight modification to the nutrient composition due to the processing change, effective from the 2025/26 fertilizer season. At that time, Korn-KALI® will contain 38% K₂O, 6% MgO, and 12% SO₃ (4.8% S).

Note

More information about the Werra 2060 project, the ESTA process, and secondary mining is available at www.kpluss.com/werra2060.

Photos, graphics, and logos are available at #allset www.kpluss.com/allset in the downloads section.

Agriculture press contact at K+S

Kristina Tschachtschal

Head of Media & Education

K+S Minerals and Agriculture GmbH

Kristina.Tschachtschal@k-plus-s.com

+49 1525 6737645

Press spokesperson sites

Johannes Rützel

K+S Aktiengesellschaft

Johannes.Ruetzel@k-plus-s.com

+49 561 9301 1254