

## Blastr expands green steel value chain to Norway

**March 9, 2023: Blastr Green Steel plans to invest in an iron ore pellet plant in Gildeskål municipality in Northern Norway. The plant will supply the company's recently announced green steel plant in Inkoo, Finland.**

"The world needs massive amounts of steel. However, the traditional coal-based processes make steel production one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions. The steel industry accounts for about 8 percent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as one ton of steel produced creates around 2 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. The decarbonizing of steel production is a key enabler for the green transition, says Hans Fredrik Wittusen," CEO of Blastr Green Steel.

The planned facility in Gildeskål will convert iron ore pellet feed into so-called high-quality direct reduction pellets, which are used as raw material for green steel production. The power needed for the process will be based on hydropower, and Blastr is now in discussions about long-term power contracts. The location is considered beneficial as it provides an ice-free harbour with easy access to seaborne iron ore from the Norwegian Sea.

The plant will provide 120 jobs when operational, in addition to significant indirect employment opportunities and economic effects for the municipality and the region. The investment in Gildeskål is estimated at more than EUR 1 billion.

### **Large-scale project for Nordic green industry**

The pellet plant in Gildeskål will supply raw materials for Blastr's planned green steel plant in Inkoo, Finland, where coal is replaced by green hydrogen in the steel production process. In total, this will be one of the largest industrial projects in the Nordic region. Pellets from the Gildeskål site will be a key part of Blastr's green steel value chain, where the aim is to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from steel production by 95 per cent.

"Our planned pellet plant in Gildeskål will supply Blastr's production of low-carbon steel in Finland as well as a significant and growing world market for direct reduction pellets. Therefore, this project will be an important contributor to decarbonizing global steel production," says Wittusen.

A final investment decision is expected in 2025, subject to relevant permits and agreements. The plant is tentatively planned to start production in 2028.

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**Blastr Green Steel** is dedicated to decarbonizing the steel value chain by developing local, sustainable and scalable value chains for steel production. By utilizing local raw materials and fossil-free energy and applying circular economy thinking throughout the value chain, Blastr aims to cut the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of its end products by 95% compared to conventional methods. The company will establish a pelletizing plant in Norway and a green steel plant with an integrated hydrogen production facility in Finland and is expected to become one of the largest industry start-ups in the Nordic region. The management of Blastr has extensive industrial experience, and the company collaborates with major industry players such as the energy company Fortum and the raw materials company Cargill Metals. Blastr was founded in 2021 and is part of Vanir Green Industries. For more information, see [www.blastr.no](http://www.blastr.no)

**Vanir Green Industries (VGI)** is a Nordic business builder and investment company that builds and scales new, sustainable and profitable companies necessary to accelerate the energy transition. In addition to Blastr, the portfolio consists of Removr (Direct air capture and storage), Freija (Provision of eFuels with focus on eMethane / eLNG production) and Njordr (onshore and offshore wind developments). VGI was founded by Tore Ivar Slettemoen, who also founded NYSE listed Freyr Batteries. For more information [www.vaniras.no](http://www.vaniras.no)