



Subject: Implementation of “WEEE end-processing standard” is embraced by four large smelters.

Dated: 15 September 2014

**EMBARGO:** till 18th of September 2014, 16.00 hrs.

As part of wider efforts to ensure the proper treatment of e-waste products and materials (WEEE), four of the largest copper and precious metal refinery companies – Aurubis, Boliden, Glencore and Umicore – have worked with EERA, the European Electronics Recyclers Association, to define normative requirements and governing principles for WEEE end-processing.

The resultant “WEEE end-processing standard” - co-produced with Eurometaux, the European Association of Metals - was finalised in spring 2014, with each company then invited to implement its requirements as part of their total quality management (TQM).

EERA and Eurometaux are proud to announce that all four companies will sign an agreement to implement the standard within the next two years. This will be completed on 18<sup>th</sup> September, at the EERA 10 year anniversary conference in Brussels, at Autoworld, helping to set a level playing field for e-waste recycling in Europe, and ensuring that valuable WEEE fractions are dealt with sustainably.

Looking ahead, other end-refiners are invited to become signatories to the standard, and wider stakeholders will be encouraged to reference it as a requirement in their contracts with WEEE take-back systems, WEEE recyclers or end-processors.

#### **Executive statements: Aurubis, Boliden, Glencore and Umicore:**

*Mr. Peter Willbrandt, CEO Aurubis AG: “Aurubis, as the largest copper recycler worldwide and one of major international companies involved in the processing of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) materials and fractions, has actively contributed to the standard signed today. Environment protection is one of the pillars of our corporate policy. Sustainable management of our business and operations is a central element of our strategy. Therefore we welcome the new standard and express our sincere hope that further companies and associations will become signatories to the present standard.”*

*“With our over 30 years of recycling experience, and as a world leader in e-scrap recycling, Boliden is very proud to have been part of developing the end-processing standard. By complying with this new recycling standard, we believe that further steps towards a more sustainable society are taken says Kerstin Konradsson, President Boliden Smelters.”*

*Hugo Morel, Umicore Executive Vice-President Recycling: "Umicore is satisfied that this standard has been created to help set a level playing field in the world of e-scrap recycling. This should undermine inappropriate recycling operations that rely on environment unsound and unethical sourcing. As one of the largest and most complex precious metals recycling activities in the world we are proud to have participated, within the industry and together with expert organizations, to this important step towards a more sustainable recycling chain."*

*Statement from Mr. Claude Bélanger, General Manger, Horne Smelter, a Glencore Company: "The Horne has always been very supportive of the End Processing Standard, as it reflects both the Horne Smelter's own standards and practices which have been in place for many years. As a major consumer of pre-processed end of life electronics, The Horne Smelter views this standard as a major step for the Electronic Recycling Industry, and a step in the right direction with regard to other industry standards being developed. Sustainable management of resources is a must in our industry, and the standard being signed today a demonstration that it can only be achieved through rigorous and constant controls. The Horne is proud to have participated in the development of this standard, and to have reached consensus with other major End Processors."*

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### Notes for Editors:

- In a business environment where different standards and guidelines are in place or being developed, the signatory companies believe that the existence of a general standard on WEEE end-processing is of utmost importance. It offers the global e-waste recycling business a framework and reference for guaranteeing the sustainable end-processing of a crucial part of the electronic waste stream. It also guarantees to authorities and producers that WEEE-fractions, which are often the most critical from environmental and economic perspectives, are dealt with in an efficient and sustainable manner.

As such, this standard underlines that recycling is a multi-step activity, not limited to collection and pre-processing, but also encompassing end-processing, the stage at which complex end-of-life products are turned into new materials for the manufacturing industry.

This standard aims to achieve worldwide recognition, and will as a first step provide the basis for forthcoming EU standards. In the frame of the new WEEE Directive, CENELEC, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization, has been tasked by the European Commission to define standards covering all aspects of WEEE recycling, including collection, pre-processing and end-processing.

- The signatory companies share the opinion that this end-processing standard can contribute to enhancing the overall performance of the recycling chain, creating a more level playing field, thereby combatting illegal practices or the use of inefficient and harmful technologies.

Brussels based **Eurometaux** represents the enterprises and organisations that make up the broad non-ferrous metals supply chain - from mining and refining to fabrication and recycling. Non-ferrous metals represent 2% of EU GDP and create 450.000 direct jobs and over 1 million indirect jobs in Europe. Their use in high-tech and high added-value activities makes them very valuable to the EU's economy and competitiveness.

Eurometaux helps develop collaborative approaches and mediates on policy matters between the European Union and international authorities. One of its key aims is to improve regulatory and policy framework to enable members to progress their strategies. For further information: <http://www.eurometaux.org>

**EERA** is a professional association with 37 European members for the recycling and reprocessing industry dealing with WEEE. EERA stands for a resource efficient economy where WEEE is managed as a resource and is returned into the economy as a raw material or as equipment for re-use. A full recycling economy with market actors cooperating along the value chain, better collection processes, high quality recycling, appropriate regulatory framework, eradication of illegal practices and product design integrating a life-cycle approach is what EERA envisages. Our mission is to achieve a level playing field for fair competition in the WEEE value chain, harmonization of regulations, effective and efficient recycling and reprocessing with prevention of pollution, minimization of emissions and a high quality of secondary raw materials and components. For further information: <http://www.eera-recyclers.com>