

SSAB and Heidelberg Materials to develop EAF slag into a more sustainable binding agent

SSAB and Heidelberg Materials are entering a collaboration to develop electric arc furnace slag (EAF slag) into an alternative binder in cement. Research project brings together also leading expertise from universities and Swerim.

The project aims to develop EAF slag into an efficient and more sustainable alternative binder in cement, known as a Supplementary Cementitious Material (SCM), to reduce the climate footprint of the construction sector. The project has been granted funding of over SEK 20 million through The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth from the Just Transition Fund with national co-financing.

“This is a natural next step in our shared journey toward creating valuable solutions for our by-products. We are transitioning to electric arc furnaces in Oxelösund with start of production planned for early 2027, in Luleå in 2029, and thereafter in Raahe, Finland. SSAB’s goal is production in line with sustainable development and circular economy. This also includes our side streams. Our ambition is to develop applications for the slag that will be generated in electric arc furnaces in the near future. Through this project, we are seizing these opportunities by combining strong expertise and long experience with a shared determination to drive change,” says **Marko Mäkikyrö**, Director, By-product Sales & Development at SSAB.

The new four-year research project builds on knowledge from previous successful research and collaboration initiatives. By bringing together leading expertise from Luleå University of Technology, the University of Oulu, and Swerim, along with industry partners SSAB and Heidelberg Materials, the project forms a strong consortium with unique competence and capacity. This provides the best possible conditions to take the next step in development and meet future challenges.

Goal: An industrially scalable solution

The focus is on developing methods to optimize the slag, from lab to pilot scale, and on evaluating performance in cement and concrete applications. The goal is to create an industrially scalable solution that can be applied to future products.

Collaboration with history and a future vision

Heidelberg Materials and SSAB have a long-standing collaboration on raw materials by using parts of SSAB’s slag as input in cement production at the Slite cement plant in Sweden. This new project is an important part of a partnership as SSAB transitions its production to electric arc furnaces.

“We see a good opportunity in including EAF slag from SSAB as part of our strategy to reduce the carbon footprint of our products. Through this collaboration, we unite leading expertise from industry and research with a

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common ambition to deliver the building materials of the future” says **Magnus Ohlsson**, CEO at Heidelberg Materials Cement Sverige AB.



SSAB and Heidelberg Materials launch a new research project for sustainable concrete

We’ve secured funding from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth to develop EAF slag into a circular, low-carbon Supplementary Cementitious Material (SCM). The four-year project brings together SSAB, Heidelberg Materials, Luleå University of Technology, University of Oulu, and Swerim to reduce CO₂ emissions and create scalable solutions for the construction sector.

For further information, please contact:

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SSAB is a global leader in premium steels, shaping a stronger, lighter, and more sustainable world. With high-strength and advanced steels, pioneering decarbonized offerings, and value-add services, we deliver unique customer value and accelerate customer competitiveness worldwide. A steelmaker since 1878, our teams in more than 50 countries set the standard for industry-leading performance. SSAB operates steel mills in Sweden, Finland, and the United States and is leading the transformation of the industry - dramatically reducing emissions from our own production. SSAB shares are listed on Nasdaq Stockholm, with a secondary listing on Nasdaq Helsinki.