

April 9, 2025

NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A.

NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A., after having invested more than 12.7 billion JP¥ (85 million EUR) over the past five years, to support the implementation of the EURO 7 European automotive emission standard, has inaugurated its new production lines which are in mass production mode.

The inauguration ceremony took place on April 9, 2025, in the presence of Mr. Adrien DOLIMONT, Minister-President of the Walloon Government in charge of Budget, Finance, Research and Animal Welfare, as well as Mr. Yves JEHOLET, Vice-President and Minister of Economy, Industry, Digital Affairs, Employment and Training. NGK was represented by Mr. Jun MORI, Senior Vice President, Top Executive R&D, responsible for Corporate R&D, Engineering, Quality, Safety & Environment, etc., and by Mr. Motoo NORITAKE, Vice President, Top Executive of the Environment Business Group in which NGK Ceramics Europe S.A. is integrated.

NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A., founded in 1985 in Baudour (province of Hainaut), is the Belgian subsidiary of the Japanese company, NGK INSULATORS, LTD. It specializes in the production of ceramics substrates which are used to produce catalytic converters for automobiles. To meet the “Euro 7 challenge”, NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. has implemented a technological upgrade, bringing cutting-edge equipment and knowledge to reinforce the economic, social, as well as ecological dimension of its activity.

The climate challenges and society's awareness of what is at stake, are leading to more restrictive standards and new technologies. Combustion engine and hybrid vehicles, which represent the majority of vehicles sold in Europe, need to keep on reducing their gas emissions. Euro 7, to be implemented in 2027, represents a new technological challenge for the European automotive industry.

To meet this challenge, NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. has made a substantial investment on its site in Baudour. All major equipment has been replaced with next generation equipment using more advanced technologies in digitalization and process automation. This allows a reduction of energy consumption and digital revolution. The purpose is to produce higher performance HONEYCERAM® ceramic substrates, used in catalytic converters, which are essential to the implementation of this new standard. The EURO 7 standard, which applies to all types of vehicles, sets stricter limits on pollutants from exhaust fumes, as well as non-exhaust emissions like brake dust and tire particles. As a response, our company is producing high performance substrates with thin wall, high cell density and larger surface area, which allows for better conversion of polluted gases.

This reshaping of the site which has materialized over the past five years and required a total investment of more than 12.7 billion JP¥ (85 million EUR). NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. has become the most modern facility within the NGK group worldwide for small size HONEYCERAM substrates. NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A.'s ambition aligns with the Walloon Government's ambition for Wallonia on three aspects: economic, social and ecological.

Mr. Adrien DOLIMONT, Minister-President of the Walloon Government, has declared: *« NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. investment in Wallonia is further proof of our attractiveness to foreign companies and the quality of Walloon expertise. This strategic investment is fully in line with our ambition to make Wallonia a key player in the low-carbon and digital transition. It also illustrates our commitment to supporting industrial innovation, promoting skilled jobs, and encouraging projects that combine economic performance with respect for the environment »*

Mr. Pierre-Yves JEHOLET, Vice-President and Minister of Economy of the Walloon Government has pointed out: *"I am delighted with the inauguration of this new production line, which fully contributes to the low-carbon transition while strengthening our economic base. This investment demonstrates the attractiveness of Wallonia and our commitment to industrial innovation. The Walloon Government will remain alongside those who create jobs, invest and contribute to the reindustrialization of our region".*

NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A.'s ambition :

Economic: By bringing this cutting-edge technology to Wallonia, NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. allows the area to resume its recovery as well as increase the level of training and knowledge of its staff members. NGK INSULATORS, LTD. has been developing new products for the past 100 years and its 40 years+ presence in Wallonia is the promise of more opportunities to come.

Social: Qualified staff members with permanent contracts remains a top priority due to their added value to NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. Let us not forget the temporary staff, subcontractors and suppliers. Without the investment, the future of the plant would have been in jeopardy.

Ecological: NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A.'s products contribute to the society and the environment, and especially as part of the implementation of the Euro 7 European automotive standard. Additionally, thanks to a more sophisticated process, unit energy consumption for the manufacturing products will be reduced by more than 30 %.

To learn more about NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A., visit:

<https://www.ngkceramicseurope.be>

About NGK INSULATORS, LTD. (hereinafter “NGK”)

NGK is a leading company in the field of ceramics. Since its foundation in 1919, NGK has used its unique ceramic technology to provide numerous ground-breaking products that solve social issues. Today, NGK is active in more than 20 countries worldwide, with business foci including mobility, energy, IT and industry.

As one of the largest manufacturers of ceramic substrates for automotive catalytic converters, NGK is actively reducing the strain on our global environment. Furthermore, NGK's products include the energy storage system “NAS®” battery, in addition to the compact, thin and high-energy-density lithium-ion rechargeable “EnerCera®” battery line, vital tools for sustainable energy infrastructure.

Through providing innovative, high-quality products, NGK is committed to contributing to our society. In order to create a future where people can coexist with nature, we will continue to develop and provide products that support social infrastructure while preserving the environment.



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