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**Renewi plc**

Press release

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## **Renewi and PMC develop unique, safe and circular solution for recycling contaminated steel**

Leading international waste-to-product company, Renewi plc (LSE: RWI) and start-up business Purified Metal Company (PMC) have developed a unique, safe and circular solution for the recycling of asbestos-contaminated steel.

Renewi will exclusively collect and transport contaminated steel directly to PMC's new recycling facility in the Netherlands. As asbestos was frequently used in the construction of buildings, plants, ships and housing between 1960 and 1993, the lifespan of many of these structures will soon be coming to an end, resulting in increasing amounts of asbestos-contaminated steel scrap. As asbestos is harmful for health, its remediation is usually an extremely labour-intensive and expensive process with any hazardous materials needing to be disposed of in a safe and controlled way.

PMC's facility, which will open in 2020, has been specifically designed to recycle steel which has been contaminated with these hazardous substances into new secondary raw materials. It will combine innovative processes with existing techniques originating from other industries – the first time this unique combination has been used. During the process, the fibrous parts of the asbestos will be destroyed, ensuring that it is no longer hazardous. In addition, other hazardous substances contaminating the steel, such as chromium-6 and mercury, are captured or neutralised.

The process prepares steel for reuse as a premium raw material for the steel industry in the form of Purified Metal Blocks (PMBs™). The innovative treatment process is safer, more affordable and more efficient than current remediation techniques.

The collaboration between the two companies will have benefits for both customers and the environment through the recovery of valuable raw materials from complex waste streams and the reduction of carbon emissions.

**Gijs Derks, Commercial Director in Renewi's Netherlands Commercial Division, said:**

*"PMC's processing method provides a unique solution for this particular waste stream. Renewi's 'waste no more' vision matches perfectly with the goal behind the collaboration with PMC and its new innovative technique of processing contaminated steel to produce secondary raw materials. Through collaboration with PMC, we are not only putting our vision into practice but also underlining our position as the leading waste-to-product company within the construction industry."*

**Jan Henk Wijma, Managing Director and co-founder of PMC, said:**

*"It's fantastic to see an idea that we had a number of years ago coming into action. Through working with market leading company such as Renewi, we are able to offer a solution for the collection, transportation and processing of with asbestos-contaminated steel scrap that is both circular and safe. We can then convert this steel into a premium raw material for reuse. This means that we are taking the first big step towards fulfilling our mission of ensuring that absolutely no steel goes into the ground anywhere in the world!"*

**Ends**



## Contact

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## Notes for editors

### **About Renewi**

Renewi, created in 2017 by the merger of Shanks Group plc and Van Gansewinkel Groep B.V., is a leading waste-to-product business ideally positioned to be part of the solution to some of the main environmental problems facing society today: reducing waste, avoiding pollution, and preventing the unnecessary use of finite natural resources.

We are listed on the London Stock Exchange and are a constituent of the FTSE250 index. With over 8,000 employees in Europe and North America, we have deep expertise and an extensive breadth of waste management products and services.

For us, waste is a state of mind, an opportunity. When we take away someone's waste, we then give it new life. We transform a wide range of used materials into useful products and raw materials for our customers, like recycled paper, metal, plastic and glass, woodchips, compost, energy, fuel, and other products.

In the process we protect the world from contamination, preserve finite natural resources, and enable customers to meet their sustainability goals. With our deep international expertise we also provide our customers with an extensive product range, combined with local service and attention.

Above all, our team is committed and passionate about our mission: waste no more. Renewi operates across five divisions:

- Netherlands Commercial – Collecting, sorting, treating and recycling commercial and household waste in the Netherlands
- Belgium Commercial – Collecting, sorting, treating and recycling commercial and household waste in Belgium
- Hazardous Waste – Treating soil, water and packed chemical waste at our flagship ATM facility and conducting specialist industrial cleaning in the Netherlands
- Monostreams – Managing a range of waste streams which focus on specific end markets such as glass, electronic goods, organics and minerals in Europe
- Municipal – Operating long-term waste management contracts with local authorities in the UK and Canada

### **About Purified Metal Company**

Purified Metal Company is made up of a group of shareholders who, having pooled their many years of knowledge and expertise, provide innovative approaches to the recycling of asbestos-contaminated steel. By combining the knowledge and experience gained through working in various industrial markets, the shareholders were able to come up with a unique and innovative process that makes it possible for steel contaminated with hazardous substances, including asbestos, to be converted into secondary materials.

Purified Metal Company's mission is to implement this innovative, patented process through the building of a processing plant. The company's vision is to recycle asbestos-contaminated steel scrap in a sustainable and safe way all over the world. Currently, contaminated steel scrap is primarily sent to dedicated landfill sites, which means that valuable raw materials are lost. In order to solve this problem, Purified Metal Company has developed a process that is safe, circular, and economically attractive too. This innovative method complies with all current legislation and regulations.

Building work on Purified Metal Company's plant in Delfzijl (Netherlands) will commence this year. The plant is being specially constructed for the recycling of steel scrap contaminated with asbestos or other chemicals. The plant, to be located on a 3.8-hectare plot, is expected to be operational in 2020 and will employ around 70 people.

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