



# Auby Smelter

# France

## Fast Facts

**TECHNOLOGY:** roast, leach, electrolysis (RLE) smelting  
**PRODUCTS:** special high grade (SHG) zinc, battery zinc, sulphuric acid, indium metal  
**EMPLOYEES:** ~ 280



## OVERVIEW

The Auby smelter is a mid-scale electrolytic zinc smelter. It produces cathodes as finished products, rather than casting into ingots. Feedstock of both zinc concentrates and zinc secondaries is consumed at the plant using the RLE process to produce zinc cathode.

The Auby smelter produces zinc primarily from zinc concentrates and, to a lesser extent, recycled zinc secondary feeds. The Auby smelter can process a high percentage of secondary feed material input without adversely affecting overall plant productivity, efficiency or residue output.

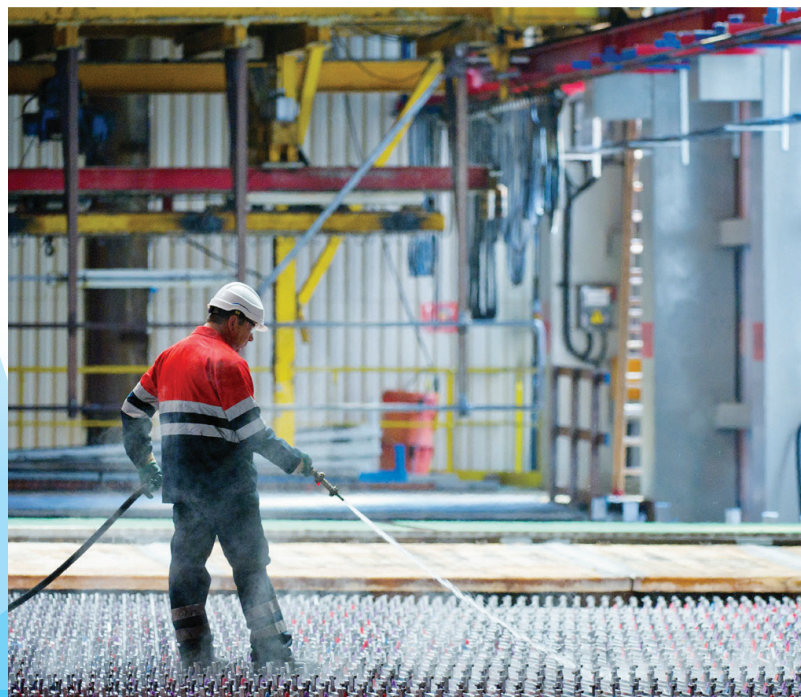
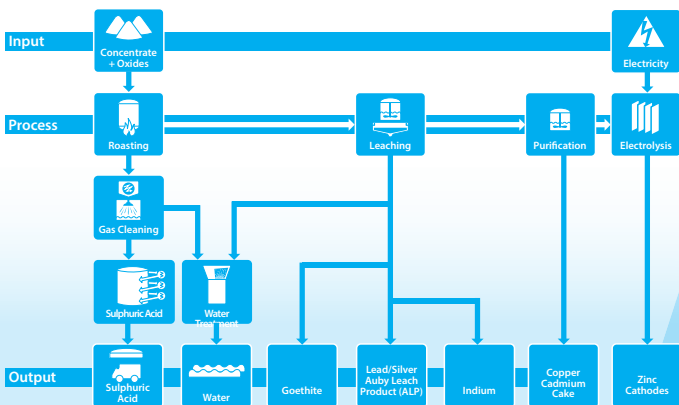
The Auby smelter produces SHG cathode and some extra pure quality cathodes, the latter sold as battery-grade zinc. The site also produces by-products of sulphuric acid, Auby Leach Product (a product containing both lead and silver), copper and indium.

An Indium refinery, producing 99,998% pure Indium was commissioned in May 2012.

## Location

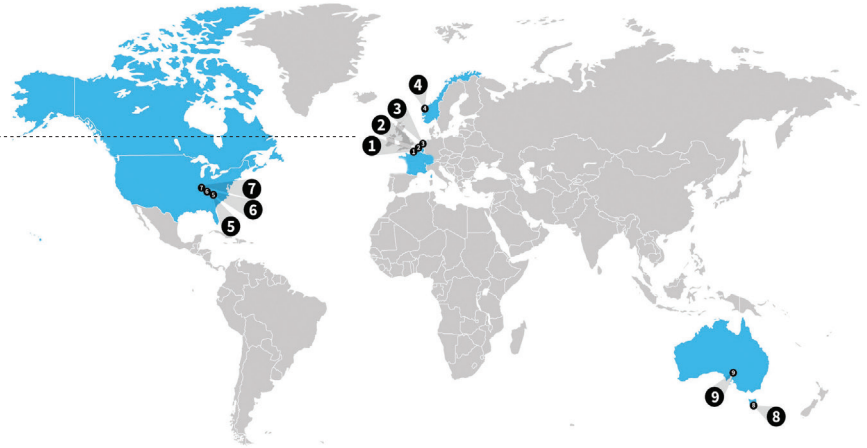
The Auby smelter is located in the town of Auby in the north of France, approximately 35 kilometers south of the city of Lille. It is adjacent to the Canal de la Deule, which connects to the seaports of Calais and Antwerp, and is well connected to several motorways.

## PRODUCTION PROCESS AT AUBY



# AUBY, AND NYRSTAR'S OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE

## Auby, France



- 1 **AUBY** Smelter, *France*
- 2 **BALEN / OVERPELT** Smelter & Oxide Washing Plant, *Belgium*
- 3 **BUDEL** Smelter, *The Netherlands*
- 4 **HOYANGER** Fumer, *Norway*
- 5 **EAST TENNESSEE** Mine Complex, *USA*
- 6 **MID TENNESSEE** Mine Complex, *USA*
- 7 **CLARKSVILLE** Smelter, *USA*
- 8 **HOBART** Smelter, *Australia*
- 9 **PORT PIRIE** Multi-metals Processing Facility, *Australia*

## NYRSTAR OVERVIEW

Nyrstar Auby is part of Nyrstar, a global multi-metals business, with a market leading position in zinc and lead.

Nyrstar has mining, smelting and other operations located in Europe, the United States and Australia and employs over 4,000 people.

The company's global operations are located close to key customers and major transport hubs to facilitate delivery of raw materials and distribution of finished products.

In July 2019, Nyrstar's operating business became majority owned by Trafigura, one of the world's leading independent commodity trading companies. Visit [www.nyrstar.com](http://www.nyrstar.com).

## HISTORY

The Auby plant was established in 1869 by Compagnie Royale asturienne des Mines, in the middle of Coal mine era in order to access energy required for the industrial thermal process of refining zinc. This process remained almost unchanged until 1954, when the plant modernized its process introducing a vertical furnace. Later in 1975, the refining technology moved from thermal to hydrometallurgic (electrolysis), which is still the current process today.

Available infrastructure on site paved the way for the establishment of Indium Cement in 2007, coinciding with the plant's integration into the Nyrstar Group. Between 2009 and today, the plant has increased zinc production capacity and developed an indium metal refining process.



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