



Press release

July 2025

## **Agfa and VITO formalize strategic research agreement on green hydrogen in the presence of Minister-President of Flanders**

Mortsel, 8 July, 2025 – Agfa and VITO, the Flemish institute for technological research, have formalized their joint commitment to advancing green hydrogen technology at a signing ceremony witnessed by Minister-President of Flanders, Matthias Diependaele.

The two organizations have signed a long-term cooperation agreement focused on innovation in green hydrogen technology, marking a new phase in their strategic collaboration on next-generation membranes for alkaline water electrolysis.

The signing ceremony, held on 8 July, took place at Agfa's Mortsel facility, which is currently in the process of ramping up production capacity for its ZIRFON technology.

Vincent Wille, President Digital Printing Solutions & Chemicals at Agfa, said: "It was an honor to welcome the Flemish Minister-President as Agfa and VITO reinforced our long-standing shared vision to push the boundaries of green hydrogen technology. We have a rich history of working alongside VITO, having collaborated on the first generation of ZIRFON membranes in 2007, and our joint roadmap with them, combined with our new production capacity, will significantly accelerate the transition to a radically greener world."

Following the signing ceremony, Diependaele received a tour of Agfa's ZIRFON R&D facilities and ZIRFON production plant to learn more about ZIRFON's place in the hydrogen value chain and its benefits for more sustainable energy production. "This partnership between AGFA and VITO represents the very best of Flemish innovation: long-term vision, scientific excellence and industrial ambition. By anchoring this green hydrogen technology in Mortsel, we are not only advancing Europe's climate goals, but we are securing our economic future and strengthening Flanders' position as a global hub for sustainable industry", says Minister-President of Flanders, Matthias Diependaele.

A pink speech bubble containing the text "Global Reach. Local Touch." in white.

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The new facility, supported by the EU Innovation Fund, will open later this year and significantly increase Agfa's production capacity for its ZIRFON membranes, supplying the global market for industrial green hydrogen projects. The plant will have the capacity to support up to 20GW of energy per year, potentially avoiding 15 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually.

The visit concluded with a discussion on the joint innovation roadmap, focusing on the development of advanced membranes that improve electrolyzer performance and reduce the cost of green hydrogen production.

“We are proud to continue this collaboration with Agfa,” said Inge Neven, CEO of VITO. “Together, our two organizations combine scientific expertise and industrial knowledge to deliver concrete solutions for a carbon-neutral future. Through this partnership we hope to set the new gold standard for membrane performance, enabling breakthroughs in cost-efficiency and scalability that will make this revolutionary technology more accessible.”

Agfa's ZIRFON membranes are used as separators in alkaline electrolyzers and are globally recognized for their efficient, reliable performance, even under dynamic operating conditions associated with renewable energy.

To find out more about ZIRFON technology, visit [www.agfa.com/zirfon](http://www.agfa.com/zirfon)

**ENDS**

## **Notes to editors**

### **About Agfa**

The Agfa-Gevaert Group is a leading company in imaging technology and IT solutions with over 150 years of experience. The Group operates through three divisions: Radiology Solutions, Healthcare IT, and Digital Print & Chemicals. They develop, manufacture, and market analog and digital systems for the healthcare sector, for specific industrial applications, and for the printing industry. In 2024, the Group achieved a turnover of € 1,138 million.

### **About VITO**

VITO is a leading European research centre with 1,300 employees, turning science into sustainable technology, AI solutions, and policy advice. We support companies and governments in their transition to a regenerative economy, focusing on electrification, circularity, and smart climate solutions. With unique infrastructure and multidisciplinary teams, we create practical innovations that make real-world impact. Our mission: building a thriving planet for generations to come.





[www.vito.be](http://www.vito.be)

### **ZIRFON: For a radically greener world**

Agfa' innovative ZIRFON membranes, used in alkaline water electrolyzers to produce green hydrogen, power the green energy transition. Through their exceptional productivity and reliability, ZIRFON membranes enhance both the efficiency and reliability of electrolyzers and bring down the cost of green hydrogen production. Additionally, their industrial-scale production paves the way for the widespread deployment of green hydrogen production infrastructure.

[www.agfa.com/zirfon](http://www.agfa.com/zirfon)

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### **Social media:**

We are proud to announce the signing of a long-term cooperation agreement with VITO, the Flemish institute for technological research, to drive innovation in green hydrogen technology.

This milestone, celebrated at our Mortsels facility in the presence of Minister-President of Flanders Matthias Diependaele, marks a new chapter in our strategic partnership with VITO, building on our shared legacy of developing next-generation ZIRFON membranes for alkaline water electrolysis.

Read the full story: [LINK](#)

#GreenHydrogen #Innovation #Sustainability #Agfa #VITO #ZIRFON

**Global Reach.  
Local Touch.**

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