

From waste to resource: how to close the cycle for metal-containing sludges

Every day, large quantities of metal-containing waste are produced in manufacturing processes and post-treatment of metal products such as tubes or wires. Established disposal solutions for solid scrap have existed for many years. However, this does not apply to the disposal or recycling of powders, dusts and sludges, which also represent a large amount of waste in metalworking.

Especially in the processes of grinding, welding and cutting, manufacturers often face uncertainty regarding the disposal of the respective waste. Sludges contain varying amounts of metals, oils, water and abrasives that must be disposed of accordingly.

In many cases the oil fraction is too high for recycling in conventional recycling plants. Oil-containing sludges

that cannot be recycled are therefore often incinerated or disposed of in landfills. This not only creates expense for manufacturing companies, but also harms and exploits the environment. The vacuum distillation technology of Cronimet Envirotec addresses this problem and presents an alternative to landfills, incineration or briquetting of waste. The distillation separates liquids and solids, while working under vacuum prevents any oxidation of the metals.

This allows the quality of the metals to be maintained, and the raw materials do not decrease in value. Metal-containing industrial slurries and soft scrap do not have to be disposed of at high cost, but instead can be recycled into raw materials.

For companies in various metalworking industries this process adds value in



several ways. It is possible to reduce waste and increase sustainability as opposed to disposal in landfills. In addition, the cycles for manufacturers with their own melting facilities can be closed. Removing oil and water and offering downstream briquetting of the recycled material ensures proper utilisation as a new raw material.

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