

**AustroCel Hallein: “Exploring New Horizons Together”  
Oji Holdings Corporation becomes 100% owner – Transaction closed on January 14, 2026**

Hallein, 28. January 2026 – Following the successful closing of the acquisition by Japan-based Oji Holdings Corporation, AustroCel Hallein has reached an important milestone in its strategic development. After receiving all required regulatory approvals, the transaction was formally completed on January 14, 2026.

“With Oji, we have gained a long-term oriented, industrially strong owner who values our strategic direction and supports the sustainable development of AustroCel,” said Dr. Wolfram Kalt, CEO of AustroCel Hallein.

“Building on our successful transformation into one of Europe’s most advanced biorefineries, this partnership now enables us to scale our innovations internationally on a global industrial platform.”

The signing of the transaction took place on September 4, 2026. Originating from a traditional paper and pulp operation, AustroCel has evolved over recent years into a leading European biorefinery for the fully integrated material and energy-based utilization of wood. The company processes sustainably sourced forestry by-products to produce advanced biofuels (e-fuels), bio-based performance products and biosolutions, biogenic platform chemicals, and innovative biomaterials. Through this portfolio, AustroCel makes a significant contribution to the substitution of fossil raw materials and to industrial decarbonization.

“Oji and AustroCel are closely aligned in their core strategic objectives and share a long-term vision for the sustainable, value-oriented use of biomass,” Dr. Kalt added. “Our focus is on the joint development of the biomass growth segment, where technological expertise, industrial scalability, and global market access complement each other in an ideal way.”

The new ownership structure also creates additional opportunities for AustroCel’s employees. “Being part of an internationally active industrial group strengthens the Hallein site and opens up new development and career perspectives,” Dr. Kalt concluded. “We embrace these opportunities with a strong sense of responsibility and commitment as we take the next step in AustroCel’s development together.”

### **About AustroCel Hallein GmbH (Nicht in APA-OTS)**

AustroCel Hallein GmbH is a traditional company of the Austrian pulp industry that today ranks among the most innovative producers in the sector and is considered one of the leading biorefineries in Austria and beyond. The company employs 342 people, generates annual sales of more than €182 million, and has a production capacity of up to 160,000 tons of cellulose as well as associated energy products such as residue-based bioethanol and biogas per year. In July 2025, production of a novel hydrogel granulate that helps prevent soil dryness was successfully launched. In its modern biorefinery, AustroCel not only produces viscose pulp, bioethanol, and biogas, but also supplies heat and electricity for its own operations and the surrounding region. As a result, the Hallein-based innovation leader powers not only its own production with clean energy but also up to 30,000 households with electricity and/or district heating. The capacity of its bioethanol production is sufficient to cover around 1% of Austria's gasoline demand. With its specialization in advanced cellulose products, the biorefinery also develops pioneering innovations for non-textile markets – such as the pharmaceutical, food, and construction industries – all derived from wood.

[www.austrocel.com](http://www.austrocel.com)

Since January 2026, AustroCel Hallein has been part of the Oji Group, an internationally active Japanese industrial group with a strong focus on sustainable forestry, pulp, paper, packaging solutions and bio-based materials. [www.ojiholdings.co.jp](http://www.ojiholdings.co.jp)

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**Hiroyuki Isono, CEO of Oji Holdings and Wolfram Kalt, CEO of AustroCel Hallein are looking forward to a successful corporation in the future.**

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