



Press Information Vorwerk Group

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A new perspective for Vorwerk's historic Mühlenweg site

City of Wuppertal plans to acquire the property and develop the site for public-interest use

Wuppertal, September 25, 2026 – Vorwerk's historic site on Mühlenweg in Wuppertal-Barmen is set for a new chapter. Subject to the final decision at the upcoming City Council meeting, the City of Wuppertal will acquire the property and take over its further planning and development. Given the site's special significance in the company's history, Vorwerk carefully considered various options and is pleased that the proposed public-interest use offers a meaningful long-term perspective for the site. The sale is scheduled to be completed in 2026.

At the same time, Wuppertal remains of central importance to Vorwerk. With its new corporate headquarters in Raental and continued investment in Vorwerk Engineering in the Laaken district, the Wuppertal-based family company is underlining its long-term commitment to the city.

Public-interest use as the ideal solution for a historic site

The close connection between Vorwerk and Wuppertal dates back to the company's beginnings. Vorwerk was founded at Mühlenweg in 1883 as the *Barmer Teppichfabrik*. For many decades, the site served as the company's administrative and production location. Over time, industrial production was gradually transferred to other Vorwerk sites. The former production buildings were dismantled in the early 1970s, and the site has not been used for industrial purposes for more than 50 years.

Most recently, Mühlenweg was home to the administrative building constructed in 1955. After almost 70 years of use, it had reached the end of its technical and functional life cycle and has since been dismantled. The planned sale is not solely about the commercial utilization of the property. It is also about finding a meaningful long-term solution for a place that has been closely connected with the company's history for more than 140 years.



"For Vorwerk, Mühlenweg is far more than just a property. Important roots of our company lie here. That is why it was important to us, together with the owning family, to find a solution that reflects the special significance of this site," says Dr. Thomas Stoffmehl, CEO of the Vorwerk Group. "The fact that our discussions with the city have now opened up the possibility of a public-interest use, such as the construction of a school, represents a very positive perspective for Mühlenweg and for Wuppertal from our point of view."

City of Wuppertal to take over further development of the site

Subject to the final decision by the City Council, the City of Wuppertal now plans to acquire the Mühlenweg property from Vorwerk for EUR 4.8 million. The detailed planning and design of the site's future use will be the responsibility of the city and the relevant political bodies.

Following the completed dismantling of the former administrative building, the centrally located site in the area Barmen is immediately available for redevelopment. Planning permission is in place for approximately 27,000 square meters of above-ground gross floor area. This provides the site with the conditions required for timely further development.

ABOUT VORWERK

Vorwerk is Europe's number one direct sales company and the global leader in the direct sales of premium household appliances. Founded in Wuppertal, Germany, in 1883, the international family-owned company has built its success on a strong commitment to people, exceptional quality and products that are best experienced first-hand. Vorwerk's core business is the development, production and distribution of premium household products within the Thermomix® and Kobold ecosystems, combining innovative technology with personal advice and a vibrant community. Direct customer relationships have always been at the heart of Vorwerk's business model, with advisors playing a central role as trusted points of contact for customers. Responsible thinking and social commitment are deeply embedded in Vorwerk's corporate culture. This ranges from developing durable and repairable products to supporting social, cultural and educational initiatives. The Vorwerk family also includes the akf-Group, a financing partner for Germany's SME sector, providing tailored financing solutions backed by extensive industry expertise. In 2025, the Vorwerk Group generated sales of EUR 3.6 billion and is active in around 60 countries worldwide.

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