

## Carbon dioxide manufacturer Yara invests £20m to boost operations

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Norwegian-based company commissioned tanker designs from Thornaby-based engineering firm K Home International.

A carbon dioxide manufacturer on Teesside has invested nearly £20m in two giant storage ships.

Yara - the largest producer of liquid in Europe - is also increasing capacity by a third on Teesside, in a further multi-million-pound investment that will help secure jobs.

The Norwegian-based company commissioned the tanker designs from Thornaby-based engineering firm K Home International (KHI), which also built the company's liquefaction plant at Wilton.

Meanwhile bosses say the Teesside plant is a "vital" base for their global business.

The company supplies for everything from drinks to coolants for nuclear power stations.

New tankers Yara Embla and Yara Froya, named after figures in Norse mythology, are twice the size of Yara's older ships - and the largest storage vessels in Europe.

They will serve as back-up to the Wilton plant, ensuring continued supply of liquid carbon dioxide to customers across Scotland, Ireland and the Midlands and beyond.

They were sent to Turkey to be converted, before being launched from Teesport.

Yara bought its current liquid production facility at Wilton from ICI in 1995.

Colin Trundley, operations director for Yara's business, said: "We have a shipping system which is unique, developed by Yara over the last 25 years. The new tankers will run between various points including Holland and the Thames and will be very busy.

"Our competition typically doesn't have the ability to link plants in different countries and supply various markets from different plants - this is what gives us our good supply position."

He said the UK and Ireland were important markets for Yara.

He added: "The production capacity on Teesside is important. Teesside is a vital part of the European supply chain.

"It's what's kept the UK system running in times of shortages. We've got a strong position here."

One of Yara's biggest suppliers of is Wilton's Ensus plant - which is currently offline.

"It's disappointing that Ensus is offline and we haven't seen the full benefits of the plant yet," added Mr Trundley. "It would have more of an impact if we didn't have the supply system we have."

<http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/business/carbon-dioxide-manufacturer-yara-invests-4052225>