



An environmental permit has been applied for for an impressive building on a plot of no less than 23 hectares. — © gvb

## **Large international glass factory at Kristalpark applies for a permit: “For Lommel, this means an industrial revolution”**

### **Lommel -**

**The plans of glass producer Ciner to build a large location in Lommel are now concrete. The environmental permit for an impressive building on a plot of no less than 23 hectares at Kristalpark has been applied for. “For Lommel, this means an Industrial Revolution”, responds Mayor Bob Nijs (CD&V).**

In September last year it was announced that the British-Turkish conglomerate Ciner had set its sights on a location on Gerard Mercatorstraat on Kristalpark III to build a new factory for packaging glass. In the long term, the location will be good for 1,300 tons of glass every day, more than 2 billion bottles for all kinds of soft drinks roll off the production line on an annual basis. Hopefully it will be the culmination of the work of two years of negotiations between the

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city of Lommel and LRM, who together manage the industrial park Kristalpark, and Ciner. The environmental permit has been applied for and the public inquiry will run until 5 March.

## 600 jobs

“For Lommel, it is the start of a new industrial revolution”, responds Mayor Bob Nijs (CD&V). “It is not only an important development for Kristalpark III, but also for the city. The company wants to invest between 300 and 350 million euros in glass production, an industry that fits seamlessly with Lommel's DNA.” Not to mention it will provide a lot of employment. “The company estimates it will hire more than 600 people. It is no exaggeration to say that this is a very important investment for the North Limburg region, perhaps the most important this year.”

## International

The intention is that the environmental permit will be issued this year. “And then it is of course up to the company to put the first sod in the ground. It is difficult to put concrete deadlines on this now. The permit procedure must first be completed,” says Nijs. The Lommel factory will have two production departments with glass furnaces. The start-up will take place in phases. “This is a sign of a long-term commitment.”

Previously, major players such as catering giant Van Zon, trailer builder Eduard Trailer Factory and diamond producer **Heyaru Engineering** also chose to settle at the Kristalpark. The international glass producer could perhaps cause a further chain reaction? “It does not come out of the blue that international players who want to establish themselves in Europe choose Lommel. It is by working together at different policy levels that our assets become known to major investors. Without wishing to be hasty, but this investment has already generated extra interest,” concludes the Lommel mayor.

The plans will be explained on 14 February during a digital information moment that starts at 5 p.m. You can obtain a link after registering at [milieudienst@lommel.be](mailto:milieudienst@lommel.be).