

Press Information

Kyocera to build new refining facility in Japan recover Tungsten carbide from used cutting tools

Kyoto/Sunds, 28th October 2026. Kyocera Corporation will build a new refining facility at one of its Japanese plants to recover tungsten carbide, the primary raw material used in cemented carbide, from used cutting tools. The facility is scheduled to begin operations in fiscal 2030.

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has certified the initiative under its "Plan for Securing a Stable Supply of Critical Minerals" program (2026 Critical Minerals No. 5-1).

Tungsten is a critical mineral used as a primary raw material in cutting tools essential for manufacturing automobiles, aircraft, and other products. It is also used in semiconductors and electronic components. However, Japan relies on imports for much of its tungsten consumption, making a stable supply increasingly important amid rising global demand and heightened supply risks.

To address this challenge, Kyocera has developed its proprietary "Amino Acid-Based Streamlined Process," which utilizes naturally derived amino acids. By reducing the number of steps required in the refining process, this technology enables efficient recovery of tungsten carbide from used cutting tools, helping promote resource circulation while requiring fewer process steps than conventional refining methods.

Kyocera has been working to extend the service life of cutting tools, promote their reuse through regrinding, and collect used tools. The new facility will further strengthen the company's circular use of resources. Through this initiative, Kyocera aims to secure a stable supply of tungsten, strengthen supply chain resilience, and contribute to a resource-circulating society.



For more information on Kyocera: www.kyocera-unimerco.com

About Kyocera

KYOCERA UNIMERCO Tooling A/S specializes in the development, production, and distribution of innovative cutting tools for the metalworking, woodworking, and food processing industries. With a strong focus on providing standard and customized solutions that enhance productivity and precision, Kyocera Unimerco combines advanced technology with a deep commitment to customer service. Founded in 1964 under the name Unimerco, Kyocera Unimerco now operates in 15 countries and employs over 670 people. Since 2011, the company has been part of the Kyocera Group and belongs to [KYOCERA Europe GmbH](#), which has been successful in Europe for over 50 years.

KYOCERA Europe GmbH is a company of the [KYOCERA Corporation](#) headquartered in Kyoto/Japan, a renowned supplier in semiconductor, industrial and automotive components as well as electronic components, printing and multifunction systems, smart energy systems, and communications technology. Kyocera is one of the most experienced technology producers, with more than 65 years of industry expertise. The Kyocera Group comprises 279 subsidiaries (31 March 2026). With around 73,800 employees, Kyocera generated net annual sales of around EUR 11.83 billion in the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Kyocera appears on the 2026 Forbes list "Global 2000" of the world's largest publicly listed companies. In addition, Kyocera has received, for the fourth time, the grade A in the CDP rating (2025) in the area of climate and, for the year 2025, a silver rating in the EcoVadis sustainability survey. Already for the tenth time, Kyocera has been recognized by Clarivate as a "Top 100 Global Innovator 2026" as one of the world's innovation drivers.

Kyocera also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation – established by Kyocera founder Dr Kazuo Inamori – to individuals worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (equivalent to approximately €539,000 per prize category).

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