



Zato Blue Devil -pre-shredder during installation at Eurajoki Group's Eurajoki site.

Eurajoki group enhances metal recycling with advanced shredding technology

Eurajoki Group is a metal recycling conglomerate comprising of several companies that provide recycling services and is particularly well known as a processor of scrap metal. The company's main facility is located in Eurajoki, Finland, where it operates a scrap metal shredding plant. To improve the efficiency of its shredding operations and further enhance environmental performance, Eurajoki Group has invested in a Zato Blue Devil primary shredder.

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Scrap metal processed for recycling is an important raw material for the steel industry. Unprocessed metal scrap such as old charcoal grills, end-of-life vehicles, and offcuts from the engineering industry are not immediately suitable to re-melt to create new steel. Firstly, all items need to be shredded so that the impurities can be removed and so that the different metal types can be sorted into pure streams in order to meet strict industrial standards. A significant proportion of incoming scrap is shredded at Eurajoki Group's main facility, which has been operating a large hammer-mill shredder for well over ten years. To increase the shredding efficiency and to improve safety, the company has now added a pre-shredder upstream of the main hammermill shredder. In the autumn of 2025, the Italian-manufacture Zato srl delivered a Blue Devil pre-shredder from Zato—supplied in Finland by Kranic Oy of Nurmijärvi. The pre shredder was commissioned at the

Eurajoki site. Although Zato has delivered over 200 Blue Devil rotaryshears globally Eurajoki Group is the first Finnish company to introduce a pre-shredder upstream of a large hammermill shredding plant.

This investment is part of our green transition

explains Juuso Luodesmeri, CEO of Eurajoki Group. "The pre-shredder, the main hammer mill, and the scrap feeding equipment all electricity operated, which we obtain from carbon-free green-energy sources. By using a pre-shredder, we can significantly improve the efficiency of the entire shredding process." The Zato Blue Devil

is a dual-shaft, slow-speed, high-torque rotary shear, commonly referred to as a pre-shredder. Its function is to pre-shred the mixed scrap metal to enable the hammer mill to process it much more safely and efficiently." The temperature inside the shredding chamber of a conventional hammer mill can reach very high temperatures. The scrap sometimes contains materials that may ignite or even explode," says Luodesmeri. "By removing flammable and potentially explosive materials during pre-shredding with the Blue Devil, we improve the overall plant safety and avoid unplanned production stoppages which can be very costly." He also notes that particularly hard and over bulky items that

cause excessive wear—or even damage—to hammer-mill's shredding chamber, can be reduced to a more manageable size while so called 'Unshredables' are removed during the pre-shredding process "With pre-shredding, we can significantly increase throughput. At the same time, wear and tear on the hammer mills components is reduced, overall energy consumption decreases, and noise levels are lower. This reduced noise is also an important environmental benefit."

Zato is a familiar brand whose service you can rely on.

Zato was already a familiar manufacturer to Luodesmeri prior to the investment, with experience of the company's equipment spanning more than twenty years. "I have been very satisfied with Zato's operations. Support from the factory is fast and reliable," he says. "When considering the Blue Devil, I studied international user experiences carefully and concluded that the investment was both necessary and technically sound." The Blue Devil pre-shredder was commissioned at Eurajoki during the autumn of 2025 and initially operated at approximately 50 percent capacity. Since the start of the new year, it is being run at full production capacity, operating in two shifts per day. The pre-shredder forms part of Eurajoki Group's broader €10 million investment programme aimed at developing advanced separation technologies. These upgrades enable materials recovered from scrap to be sorted and utilised more accurately and efficiently than before.

