



Successful Start of New Biomass Fired Co-generation Plant

The Helius CoRDE biomass plant in Spreyside, provides for costs savings by more efficient energy use while supplying steam for production, injecting electricity to the national grid, and saving 64,000 tonnes of CO₂/year.

Successful reliability and performance trials have taken place at the Helius CoRDE plant in Rothes, a joint venture between renewables specialist Helius Energy, the Combination of Rothes Distillers (Cord) and Rabo Project Equity, a division of Netherlands-based Rabobank that specialises in backing renewable projects.

Operations have officially started at the plant that produces 8.4 MWe, enough electricity to power 9000 homes, 73.2 tons per hour of pot ale through the evaporator plant and liquid animal feed from the by-products of whisky distilling.

The plant conditions and burn solid residues from the malt whisky distilling process, known as draff, together with clean wood. Annual fuel input will be approximately 115,000 tons of wet draff from local distilleries and 60,000 tons of uncontami-

nated wood chips. Power will be exported to the grid and heat will be utilised for draff fuel drying as well as the whisky process.

The plant will generate revenues from index-linked gate fees received for processing distillery residues, electricity sales and sales relating to the plant's Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC). Income will also flow from the sale of pot or Spey ale syrup to the animal feed market, largely throughout the UK.

The plant, which employs 22 staff in a town of 1500 people, has been supplying the grid over the course of its commissioning phase in recent months.

CHP Project

Aalborg Energie Teknik (AET) was appointed by Helius Energy for the complete turnkey design, supply, erection and commissioning of the biomass CHP project. This incorporated all elements of the plant from

fuel reception, handling and storage systems through to flue gas treatment system only with the exception of civil works below ground level.

At the heart of the plant are the AET Combustion System and AET boiler. The unique AET fuel dosing and combustion technology provides the optimal combustion conditions and results in low emissions, high boiler efficiencies, high plant availability and low maintenance costs.

Helius, whose main shareholders include land owner Alastair Salvesen, who holds a 25.79% stake, Angus MacDonald and family (17.7%) and Stagecoach co-founder Ann Gloag (9.78%), says it would save about 46,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year, compared with a coal-fired facility of similar size.



It also expects to reduce a further 18,000 tons of CO₂ a year by closing the existing gas-fired Cord facility at the same site.

Second Biomass Plant

The Helius CoRDE plant is the second biomass plant built by AET in the UK. The first was a 15 MWe power only plant at Western Wood in Port Talbot in Wales. This has been operating very successfully since 2008 utilising clean wood and recycled wood, showing very high performance and availability figures.

According to Frank Lund, sales manager at AET, it is obvious that companies in the food and drink industry will increasingly look into the option of using co-generation in order to improve competitiveness:

- Obtain a higher energy efficiency
- Turn traditional waste streams into revenue
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Support the companies sustainability policies

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