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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 the production, injecting electricity in 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 BV, 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 virgin or clean uncontaminated wood chips. Power will be exported to the grid and heat will be utilized for draff fuel drying as well as the whisky process.



Aalborg Energie Teknik a/s

The venture 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.

Aalborg Energie Teknik a/s (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%), said 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.

The Helius CoRDe plant is the second biomass plant built by AET in the UK. The first is a 15 MWe power only plant at Western Wood in Port Talbot in Wales. This has been operating very successfully since 2008 utilising clean 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 beverage industry will increasingly look into the option of using co-generation in order to:

- Obtain a higher plant efficiency (e.g. from 75% to 95%)
- Turn traditional waste streams into revenue
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Support the companies sustainability policies
- Increase profitability of the company

For further details contact Frank Lund, AET Sales Manager on + 45 96 32 86 00.

For editors:

Helius Energy plc is a biomass energy development Company established to develop, install and operate biomass fired electricity generating plants. In addition to the CoRDE project, Helius has additional sites and plans to promote further biomass projects in the UK. For further information contact www.heliusenergy.com

AET is an engineering Company as well as EPC contractor based in Aalborg, Denmark. Over many years AET have accumulated a huge knowledge and experience on a wide range of biomass fuels, and biomass fired steam boiler plants, based on the AET Combustion System. Further details and references can be obtained from our website www.aet-biomass.com.