

Land Energy re-starts wood pellet production at Bridgend (07/2009)

Land Energy confirmed today that they have completed an extensive re-engineering programme of their wood pellet plant in Bridgend and full production has re-started.

The £1.5m refit has included a new 12,000ft process, storage and feedstock building, new wood fibre refining machinery and upgraded fibre grinding and wood pellet capacity.

Bridgend is Land Energy's first manufacturing site with an initial design capacity of 35,000 tonnes of wood pellets per annum.

Two further production plants have been recently granted planning permission and a third is in the pipeline. The new plants will add an additional 150,000 tonnes of wood pellet output per annum to the Land Energy portfolio over the next 2 years.

John Westmacott, MD of Land Energy, said "We're very pleased the way the re-engineering of this site has progressed and Bridgend really strengthens our position in the market and widened our customer base. The plant re-build has given us the opportunity to put in state of the art machinery and to create first class wood pellets."

End.

Second round for planning permission in Wombleton (03/2009)

A planning appeal has been lodged against the earlier decision of Ryedale District Council to refuse planning permission for a wood pellet production facility on a former airfield in Wombleton, North Yorkshire.

Land Energy have been seeking to gain permission to change the use of the redundant potato storage and sorting facility, to the production of wood pellets since September 2007.

The appeal will be considered at a Hearing in July 2009.

End.

Planning permission for production site in Girvan granted (02/2009)

Land Energy has taken the next step in becoming one of the leading producers of wood pellets in the UK.

Planning permission has been granted for a new wood pellet production facility located near Girvan, South Ayrshire, Scotland.

The new site meets one of Land Energy's key criteria of re-using resources, by making use of an existing building that was a former textile factory.

The £15m project will include an onsite biomass combined heat and power plant to supply process heat and electricity to the new wood pellet factory, using the UK's first power generating turbine using Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) technology from industry leaders Turboden.

The plant will be able to supply enough wood pellets for the equivalent of up to 10,000 homes with sufficient energy for their heating and hot water needs.

The timber that will be used in the production process will be sourced locally from Scottish commercial forestry, ensuring the sustainability of this source of renewable energy.

The production site creates 12 full time jobs and further indirect jobs in forestry activities.

End.

Land Energy, Turboden & Gammel Engineering in UK First (10/2008)

Renewable energy company LandEnergy has ordered the UK's first power generating turbine using Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) technology from the industry leaders Turboden and signed an exclusive agreement with Gammel Engineering as their plant designers.

Italy based Turboden is the clear market leader in the ORC field with 25 years experience and over 80 operational plants across Europe. Gammel are also market leaders in biomass power generation and have designed 30 ORC plants in the last 10 years.

The turbine will be at the heart of a wood fired combined heat and power (CHP) plant to supply energy to one of Land Energy's wood pellet production factories.

The groundbreaking deal for the turbine was finalised in the summer and will be delivered within 12 months.

Wood fired CHP plants using ORC technology are highly efficient, converting up to 90% of the energy input into useful heat and power whilst achieving a net 90% cut in CO₂ emissions when compared to similar plants burning oil, gas or coal.

Land Energy's wood fuel is being supplied exclusively from UK commercial forests, minimising transport miles and maximising the environmental benefit of such plants.

End.

Going Green at Presteigne (09/2008)

Countrywide, the leading UK supplier to the rural community and Land Energy, the renewable energy producer have announced an exciting new proposal to convert Presteigne Mill from an animal feed manufacturing facility into a state of the art environmentally responsible wood pelleting mill.

Land Energy will invest £10million GBP, subject to local authority consent, to build a state of the art production of wood pellets which are gaining popularity as a source of competitively priced, clean, green energy for homes and businesses.

This latest cooperation is part of Countrywide's strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of its business, its staff and the local communities in which it operates. Land Energy's financial commitment ensures that it is business as usual for Countrywide's retail and energy operations providing both job security for current employees and new jobs for the future.

John Hardman, Managing Director of Countrywide, said 'I am pleased to announce that in line with our business strategy, the development of greener alternatives for the mill and promotion of renewable energy has resulted in economic as well as environmental sustainability for the local community. Working in partnership with Land Energy and our feed manufacturing partner, BOCM PAULS has helped us successfully achieve this'.

John Westmacott, MD of Land Energy says, "We've been working alongside Countrywide in developing this project and are delighted to see this new deal coming to fruition."

"Presteigne is a great location for wood pellet production and the investment will secure jobs and put more business into the forest economy. The new investment will see leading-edge technology going into the Mill and put Wales at the forefront of the bio energy sector."

End.

Foresight Invests £14 Million In Recycling And Renewable Energy Companies (06/2008)

Foresight Group ("Foresight"), the leading UK venture and growth capital investor, has completed three new investments, totalling £14 million, in the environmental sector. The investments further boost Foresight's reputation as an investor in this space with a strong focus on investments in the infrastructure which is supporting the increasing demand for recycling and renewable energy generation in the UK.

The Investments

Foresight has invested £5 million in Yorkshire-based Land Energy, a producer of wood pellets, to fund the development of wood pellet production plants. Each plant will source wood from local forests and produce pellets for local use, delivering renewable wood fuel in the form of wood pellets to schools, homes and offices in the area in order to help them lower their carbon impact. Although wood is not a new fuel for heating, its value as a renewable resource has just begun to be recognised. In Germany, for example, wood pellet consumption for fuel has risen ten-fold in the last four years because pellets are both easy to use and economical.

"Land Energy fits our vision of a business that helps the environment while offering attractive returns to investors. We are working with the company to roll-out the concept to three regions of the UK. We strongly believe that local sourcing of wood pellet fuels will gain popularity in the future as people start to count the rising financial and carbon costs of transporting fuel," said Matt Taylor, a Partner of Foresight Group.

The second investment sees Foresight committing £6 million of funding to AWP Environmental, a company that is looking to reduce the amount of potentially dangerous industrial wastes, such as used oil, paints and inks, which are sent to landfill. Over five million tonnes of hazardous waste is sent to landfill or incinerators in the UK every year. AWP is already a market leader in the collection and effective disposal of these materials and is believed to be the first such business to adopt a zero emissions policy. The company now plans to convert waste materials into renewable electricity using an advanced gasification technology to avoid harmful emissions. The development of the new plant in Tockwith, Yorkshire will cost approximately £18 million and will supply enough electricity to power around 6,000 homes.

"AWP is bringing proven processing technology from abroad to solve UK waste problems. Foresight has made the investment to fund the new plant with a view to rolling-out the concept to other sites around the UK in the future," adds Matt Taylor.

Completing the trio of new investments is Lynwood, a company which collects off-cuts and waste materials from manufacturers of a variety of plastic products and remoulds this material into useful products. The company's outdoor furniture range has already attracted the attention of several Local Authorities interested in purchasing, for example, park benches that neither rot nor need painting. The company has also identified a major future opportunity relating to the replacement of wood in construction. Lynwood is Foresight's second investment in plastics recycling, building on the success of plastic-bottle recycler, Closed Loop. Foresight has agreed a £3 million cash injection which will enable the company to more than double production capacity and fund its expansion across the UK. Andrew Page, the Foresight partner responsible for the firm's investments in Lynwood and Closed Loop, commented: "Landfill just isn't an option any more for valuable wastes of this sort. Lynwood's expertise in plastics sourcing and blending positions the company as a leader as the industry moves from waste to re-using valuable materials."

Bernard Fairman, Managing Partner and Founder of Foresight, said: "These investments follow the successful raising of Foresight's £22 million EIS fund at the end of 2007 which continues to see very strong deal flow and is already more than 40% committed. The environmental infrastructure market is developing very quickly, as we predicted when we launched the fund, and we are seeing a wide range of interesting deals across the infrastructure space, so much so that we have recently added a fourth member to the team to keep up with the flow of investment opportunities."

End.