Welcome to the Summer edition of FBR, which we hope you’ll agree has something for everyone. This issue continues to reflect the valuable input from our readers relating to the expanded coverage of sustainable/green energy via the magazine.

As the world looks to the post-pandemic recovery, one of the positive changes to emerge has been the growing importance of sustainability and environmental protection. Carbon neutrality and how to achieve it in the years ahead is high on many government agendas and although energy production is just one part of the bigger picture, it is nevertheless a crucial factor for success.

Green energy takes many forms, but at the end of the day it is reliant on the research and development undertaken by industry to provide solutions. These are now taking many forms, but the integration of forest residues with municipal waste, for example, continues to prove an attractive option.

To be part of the Autumn issue, please let us have your news no later than 1st September. Meanwhile, stay safe and enjoy your Summer.

Vince Maynard, Publisher
New CEO for Bioenergy Infrastructure Group

Bioenergy Infrastructure Group (BIG), an independent power producer specialising in energy-from-waste and bioenergy, is delighted to announce the appointment of Simon Hicks as its new chief executive officer. Simon will replace Hamish McPherson, who will depart in September, after nine years.

Hamish co-founded BIG in 2012, launching the business fully in 2015 with investment from InfraCapital, Helius Energy Investments, Aurium Capital Markets and the Foresight Group. Since then, Hamish has overseen the strong growth of the company, which has become one of the UK’s largest owner/operators of energy-from-waste assets, with a track-record of more than 100 highly skilled staff and a reputation for quality.

Simon brings a wealth of industry leadership experience, including recently as managing director for Recycling at Vitror. He joined BIG as Chief Executive Officer on 1 June, 2021, to deliver the next phase of the business plan, which

Simon Hicks, places environmental, social and governance considerations at its heart. Hamish will remain with the company in an advisory capacity until 30 September, 2021, to ensure a smooth transition to Simon.

Hamish McPherson, commented: "After nine incredible years at BIG, from strategic concept to institutional investment platform to industrial owner/operator with the potential to generate a million MWh of low carbon power each year. I have decided now is the time to take on this new challenge and hand over the reins of this great company to Simon, who can drive the business through its next exciting phase of growth. I am very proud of what we have achieved in such a short timeframe and would like to place on record my thanks to all of my wonderful colleagues at BIG, without whom none of this would have been possible and I look forward to following their continued success.”

Simon Hicks, commented: “I am really excited to be joining BIG at this phase in the development of the group and I am looking forward to building on the Team’s great work to date under Hamish’s leadership. As the sector continues to embrace net-zero, BIG is supremely well-positioned to step up and lead the field.

I firmly believe business growth is a journey and that we can unlock employee empowerment, inspiration and progression with a values-driven strategy – something I am looking forward to embedding at BIG.”

Steve Johnson, chairman of BIG, commented: “As a co-founder of BIG, Hamish has guided the company from start-up investor to one of the UK’s largest bioenergy firms. We are enormously grateful for his visionary leadership and partnership during the start-up period. The group is well-equipped for a new growth phase and we are excited about the opportunities ahead.”

Steve added: “Hamish has guided the company through the start-up process and has brought the business to a place where it is poised to scale further. We are confident that Simon will build on the strong foundations laid by Hamish and deliver on the group’s vision of providing clean, affordable, low carbon energy to the UK.”

Steve will remain as chairperson and the company’s board will also include Martin Price, who has joined the executive team to support its growth plans.

The transition will take place over the coming months, with Hamish on hand to ensure a smooth handover to Simon, who will step up as the new CEO of BIG on 1 June, 2021.

Metsä Fibre and Eltel sign agreement to build power line for the new Kemi bioproduct mill

Metsä Fibre, part of Metsä Group, and Eltel have signed an agreement from the new bioproduct mill being constructed in Kemi to the Kemimaa substation via the Pajussaari–Isohara–Keminmaa route. The new 110kV power line will be about 15 kilometres long.

The bioproduct mill, which operates completely without fossil fuels, will produce 2.0TWh of renewable electricity every year, equivalent to about 2.5% of Finland’s total electricity production. The mill will have an electricity self-sufficiency rate of 250%, and this will further strengthen Metsä Group’s position as a major electricity producer relying on renewable Finnish fuels. The new power line will transmit bioelectricity from the bioproduct mill to the national grid. Metsä Fibre and Eltel co-operation in the Kemi bioproduct mill project has already started earlier with the planning of power line. Actual construction work will begin in Spring, 2021, with the contract being completed by Summer, 2022. The degree of Finnish origin of the contract is very high, 85%.

“Want to partner with the best professionals in every field to build a cutting-edge bioproduct mill in Kemi, Finland. We require our partners to commit to the goals of the project in terms of safety, schedules and quality. Eltel’s operations comply with all of these principles. Together, we will build a significant part of the mill complex – a new power line that will supply the bioelectricity produced at the mill to the national grid,” says Jan-Pekka Johansson, Project Director for the bioproduct mill at Metsä Fibre.

“Today is a significant agreement for us and we’re excited to be part of the largest investment in the history of the Finnish forest industry,” says Juha Luusua, Managing Director of Eltel Networks Oy.

The agreement between Metsä Fibre and Eltel also includes dismantling the existing power line as well as modifying six transmission line substations. In Kemi. The delivery also includes 110kV underground cable works at Isohara and Kemimaa substations.

Metsä Group’s Kemi bioproduct mill project is progressing according to plan, with earthmoving and pile driving currently being carried out at the mill site. About 300 people and about 130 different companies are working at the site. The bioproduct mill project’s degree of Finnish origin is estimated to be about 70%. During the construction phase, the mill’s employment effect is estimated at nearly 10,000 person-years, of which more than half will be in Kemi. The total number of employees working during the construction phase is estimated to be about 15,000. The investment will secure the 250 jobs at the current Kemi mill for the coming decades. Through its direct value chain, the new bioproduct mill will employ around 2,500 people in Finland, some 1,500 more than the employment effect of the current Kemi pulp mill.

Totaling €1.6 billion, the investment in Metsä Group’s Kemi bioproduct mill is the largest in the history of the Finnish forest industry. The mill will produce 1.5 million tonnes of softwood and hardwood pulp per year, as well as many other bioproducts.

More information: Jan-Pekka Johansson Project Director Metsä Fibre jan-pekka.johansson@metsagroup.com
Buccleuch to market £250m Glenmuckloch energy project

Buccleuch has announced that it is to market a consented 210MW pumped storage hydro system (PSH) plus adjacent windfarm - a unique opportunity in the renewable energy space.

The project, which will be built on the former open cast coal mining site at Glenmuckloch, on the Queensberry Estate in Dumfriesshire, would see the development of an energy park, which would consign to history the black scar of previous mining activities.

Buccleuch is to market the scheme with the assistance of Edinburgh-based investment bank, Noble & Co.

Alan Wilson, Energy Director at Buccleuch said: “With much of the background work now completed for the site, and Buccleuch as sole owners of the projects, we have reached a pivotal moment and are now looking for a purchaser to take the project through to commercial operation.

“The scheme has the potential to be economically and environmentally transformational, both regionally and nationally.

“We are working with Noble & Co to market the project, with information having been sent to prospective investors. We will then move to the bidding process and keep the momentum going on delivering the scheme.”

It is estimated that the project will cost circa £250 million to complete, with a proportion of this likely to be spent within the local economy and will provide employment within the local communities, not only during the construction phase, where there will be a potential for over 300 jobs, but also over its operational lifetime, which could be up to a hundred years. Once completed, the PSH system will help provide a means of balancing an energy system increasingly based on renewable energy sources, by storing power during periods of increased generation and releasing stored energy at times of peak demand. Dumfries and Galloway Council declared a climate emergency for the region in 2019, and the UK Government aims to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by 2035.

Alan continued: “PSH at Glenmuckloch will support both these targets, with the windfarm alone having the capability to generate clean energy sufficient to power 28,000 homes and reduce CO2 emissions by almost 40,000 tonnes.”

Making subsidy-free solar a reality in North Wales

Leading renewable energy consultancy and service provider, Natural Power, has completed management of the construction phase at the 6MW Llwyndyrus solar farm near Pwllheli, Gwynedd, Wales, on behalf of the project owner, Blackfinch Investments.

Throughout the construction of the project, which coincided with local lockdowns and travel restrictions, Natural Power made use of local and remote specialists to manage and advise the contractor and successfully see this subsidy-free solar project through to commercial operation.

Tim Mair-Ford, construction project engineer at Natural Power, said: “The Llwyndyrus solar farm was one of the first subsidy-free assets to be built in Wales, and it is the first subsidy-free development for Blackfinch. Its successful construction represents a significant step forward for the Welsh solar market, where few solar farms have been built since government subsidies were phased out.”

Natural Power has been involved with Llwyndyrus since early 2019 and has delivered a range of services including due diligence, inspections, project management, procurement support, owner’s engineering and laterly, construction management.

Jolyon Ridgwell, Senior Energy Asset Manager at Blackfinch Investments, said: “Natural Power performed various roles during the development process for Llwyndyrus solar farm, including the project management. The team inspired confidence and worked closely with the key parties throughout the construction process. Conditions were challenging, but the Natural Power team remained calm and focused until completion, ensuring that the project was delivered as specified. Early indications are that the project is performing well, so this has been a good result all round.”

Since 2020, Natural Power has supported more than 9GW of solar projects including work as technical advisor, independent engineer of record, energy yield analysis, providing expertise on PV plant lifetime extension, and installation quality; as well as more than 600MW of storage projects supported through due diligence and lender’s technical advice roles. Globally, the business has supported more than 25GW of solar projects since 2012 and has a proven reputation and track record of working with clients to deliver solar projects from site finding and feasibility studies through permitting and construction.

More information: www.naturalpower.com/uk/ expertise/sector/solar

REA statement after the publication of the Biomass Strategy Call for Evidence

REA have welcomed publication of the Government’s Biomass Strategy Call for Evidence. The Strategy offers a recognition that bioenergy is an essential component in meeting net zero ambitions.

REA urge Government to consider range of existing bioenergy skills, supply chains and technologies already present in the UK across heat, transport and power, and the Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA) has welcomed the publication of the Government’s Biomass Strategy Call for Evidence.

With bioenergy already the largest contributor to renewable energy production across the UK’s heat, power and transport sectors, the REA say that the Government’s commitment to developing an up-to-date strategy is crucial to realising the energy transition.

The range of existing bioenergy skills, supply chains and technologies already present in the UK across heat, transport and power must also be considered.

Dr Nina Skorupska, CBE, Chief Executive of the Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA), said: “The REA warmly welcomes the publication of the Government’s Biomass Strategy Call for Evidence. Bioenergy is already the largest contributor to renewable energy production across the UK’s heat, power and transport sectors and Government’s commitment to developing an up-to-date strategy is of great importance to realising the energy transition. In 2019, the REA Bioenergy Strategy demonstrated that 16% of primary energy demand could be delivered using bioenergy at scale. Our latest evidence demonstrates the potential for over 300 jobs, but also over its operational lifetime, which could be up to a hundred years. Once completed, the PSH system will help provide a means of balancing an energy system increasingly based on renewable energy sources, by storing power during periods of increased generation and releasing stored energy at times of peak demand. Dumfries and Galloway Council declared a climate emergency for the region in 2019, and the UK Government aims to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by 2035. Alan continued: “PSH at Glenmuckloch will support both these targets, with the windfarm alone having the capability to generate clean energy sufficient to power 28,000 homes and reduce CO2 emissions by almost 40,000 tonnes.”

As a starting point, Government must consider the range of existing bioenergy skills, supply chains and technologies already present in the UK across heat, transport and power. Strategically important innovations, like bioenergy carbon capture and storage, will be delivered by building on the UK’s world-leading biomass sectors and adhering to strict science-led sustainability governance. Such developments require the market to direct how biomass is best used, delivering both immediate and future carbon reductions.

“The REA look forward to working closely with BEIS throughout the development of the Biomass Strategy, highlighting how the industry will play its part in the successful decarbonisation of the UK energy system.”

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Valmet receives the 16th automation order from Hitachi Zosen Inova for energy-from-waste plants

Valmet will supply an automation system to an energy-from-waste facility currently under construction at Newhurst in Leicestershire, United Kingdom. The order was placed by Hitachi Zosen Inova AG (HZI), the engineering, procurement and construction contractor for the facility. This is the 16th time that HZI has chosen Valmet’s automation technology for its energy-from-waste plant projects. The plant will be owned by a consortium of Covanta, Biffa and Green Investment Group.

The order was included in Valmet’s orders received of the first quarter 2021. The value of the order will not be disclosed. The deliveries will start at the Newhurst construction project in Q3 2021, and the system will be taken over by the customer in 2023.

“Hitachi Zosen and Valmet have a long history and a strong field of energy-from-waste projects. As Valmet knows our requirements and expectations as an engineering, procurement and construction contractor, it is the ideal partner for the realisation of this project,” says Yannick Labordé, Technical Project Manager at HZI.

We cooperated closely with HZI throughout the tender phase and were able to fulfill 100% of the technical requirements. For Valmet, this project marks an important milestone in expanding our United Kingdom’s market share in the automation business in the energy-from-waste sector, but also in increasing the number of our references with Covanta who will operate the new plant,” says Riene-Neubert, sales director, Energy and Process Systems, Automation, Valmet.

Equipped with one incineration line, the Newhurst plant will treat up to 350,000 (UK) tonnes of non-recyclable solid waste per year and generate up to 42 megawatts of clean electricity, enough to power around 85,000 homes. With electrical net efficiency of 31%, the facility will be one of the most energy-efficient plants in the world when it enters commercial operation in 2023.

V E O selected to supply electrification and automation solutions to Ireland’s first heat recovery plant

T he delivery is part of South Dublin County Council’s energy company project, which is being implemented in collaboration with Fortum and Amazon Web Service (AWS). Ireland’s first publicly-owned, not-for-profit energy company founded by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is launching a heat recovery project which utilises excess heat from Amazon Web Service’s (AWS) data centre. The heat recovery plant will be implemented by Fortum Elct, who have selected VEO as the supplier of the electrification and automation solutions for the project.

In connection with the project, a district heating network will also be built in Dublin. When completed, the recycled heat collected by the recovery plant will initially heat 47,000m² of public sector buildings, 3,000m² of retail space and 125 rental apartments. As the project will reduce the need for gas heating in Ireland, it will therefore also decrease the country’s greenhouse gas emissions.

“It’s great to be involved in building eco-friendly heating solutions for international projects. The South Dublin project will help to mitigate climate change internationally and meet the EU’s emission standards on time. The delivery also strengthens VEO’s strategy to act as an international power generation automation and electrification integrator,” says VEO’s Key Account Manager Rami Luoma.

The South Dublin project is VEO’s first delivery for a heat pump project and it will be implemented as a turnkey package. Currently, VEO is working with the design and programming of the equipment, after which the production of low- and medium-voltage switchgear and control systems will start at VEO’s factory in Vaasa, Finland. The goal is to start heat supply in Ireland by the end of this year.

“Our strength in these kinds of projects is found in our strong process expertise and experience in successfully managing export projects with our international partners. In a large-scale project, the schedule responsibility is high, but through the use of our own products and close co-operation with local partners, I believe that we will keep to the timelines. We are also very pleased that through this delivery we will be able to strengthen our co-operation with our long-term customer Fortum,” says Luoma.

“We chose VEO because of their readiness to deliver automation and electrification solutions as a total delivery to the site in Ireland and their reliability as a supplier. The project has started nicely in close cooperation. Together with our customers we are tackling the challenge of providing clean, reliable and affordable energy to end-users. This includes developing low-carbon solutions for local energy systems that are critical for societies to thrive,” says Kari Laiti, Energy Systems General Manager of Fortum elct.

More information: Rami Luoma, Key Account Manager, CHP Plants (WTE & Biomass) VEO, +358 50 5327 428, rami.luoma@veo.fi

Orbital Marine Power launch 2MW tidal turbine

Orbital Marine Power (OMP), Scottish-based developers of the world’s leading floating tidal turbine technology, recently launched its 2MW tidal turbine, the O2, from the Port of Dundee.

The operation was managed by Osprey Shipping Ltd. and saw the 680-tonne tidal turbine transferred from the Forth Ports quayside facility in Dundee into the River Tay using a submersible barge. The launch marks the completion of the turbine build managed by TEKIQ Fabrication, and the O2 will now be towed to the Orkney Islands where it will undergo commissioning before being connected to the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) where it will become the world’s most powerful operational tidal turbine.

Speaking of the launch, Orkney’s CEO Andrew Scott, said: “This is a huge milestone for Orkait, the O2 is a remarkable example of British cleantech innovation and the build we have completed here is an inspiring display of what a UK supply chain can achieve if given the opportunity – even under the extraordinary pressures of a pandemic.”

The O2 turbine started construction in the second half of 2019 and reflects approximately 80% UK supply content. From Scottish steel work and main manufacturing through to anchors from Wales and blades from the south of England, the build of the O2 is estimated to have supported over 80 jobs within the UK economy.

The launch of the O2 marks the first vessel launch from Dundee since ship building ended over 40 years ago. O2 has the ability to generate enough clean, predictable electricity to meet the demand of around 2,000 UK homes and as much as 2,000 tonnes of CO2 production per year.

Chris Smith, MD of TEKIQ Group, commented: “The O2 programme has given us a significant opportunity to demonstrate our multi-disciplinary approach, and our proactive approach to working collaboratively with clients. We firmly believe that the transition to a net zero environment will deliver a surge of opportunities to the UK’s engineering and fabrication sectors and we are very proud to see Orkait’s O2 turbine launched today.”

Also speaking of the launch, John Alexander, Leader of Dundee City Council said: “I’m very proud of the role that Dundee has played in helping to deliver this pioneering tidal turbine and congratulate the team at Orbital Marine and TEKIQ for their incredible efforts during the hardest year in recent memory. Orbital Marine’s incredible piece of engineering will play a pivotal role in showcasing this technology and helping Scotland to achieve its ambition in tackling the climate emergency, further propelling Dundee into a city which is transforming itself into a hub for renewables and innovation.”

Segezha Packaging Denmark switches to wind power

Segezha Group’s packaging production plant in Aalborg, Denmark, this year became the Group’s first facility to switch to totally on-grid, wind electricity.

By using renewable energy to power the plant’s manufacturing operations, Segezha Packaging Denmark has dramatically reduced its carbon footprint. Thanks to this initiative, 100% of the electricity supplied to the plant now comes from wind power.

On the back of the Danish government’s ambitious goal to reduce CO2 emissions by 70% by 2030, Segezha Packaging Denmark switched to green electricity at the beginning of this year. The company is therefore making a significant contribution to the region’s transition to renewable energy.

The switch to wind power will also help reduce the carbon footprint across Segezha Group’s European assets. Segezha Packaging’s progress in this regard is visible in its annual report on the CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions, which showed a 14% carbon footprint reduction for 2018 and a 5% reduction in 2019.
Stora Enso joins WWF’s Forests Forward impact platform

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tora Enso has joined the new WWF platform, Forests Forward. The platform engages businesses and investors to deliver on forest related sustainability ambitions, such as biodiversity protection and forest restoration. As participants in Forests Forward, companies commit to engaging in areas such as sustainable forest management and trade, better silviculture, reforestation and ecosystem restoration and biodiversity protection and recovery. Forests Forward aims to support companies, investors and communities in improving the management of a targeted 100 million hectares of forest globally by 2030.

“Sustainable forestry and biodiversity are at the top of Stora Enso’s forest management agenda. We can play a key role in contributing to more sustainable forest management, which will be enhanced with collaborations across the sector. The co-operation with WWF is a great example of a collaboration where we can exchange knowledge and findings to accelerate positive change together,” says Annette Stube, EVP, Sustainability at Stora Enso.

Forests Forward will enable companies to define and implement forward-looking, innovative pathways that have positive, clear impacts on forest landscapes. It will also enable investors to make a positive contribution to the global sustainability agenda. The platform includes an emphasis on communities and local forest management, calling for recognition of the critical role indigenous people and local communities play in forest conservation.

Forests Forward is a natural continuation for over 20 years of collaboration between Stora Enso and WWF. Within the WWF Forests Forward platform, Stora Enso co-operates with WWF Finland to promote the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of forests among private forest owners. Furthermore, together with WWF-Russia, Stora Enso supports sustainable forest management in the forest sector by promoting credible forest certification and good conservation values. At the end of 2020, the total area of forests in Russia certified by Stora Enso exceeded 1.3 million hectares.

Forests Forward is WWF’s main impact focused, multi-stakeholder forest sector engagement mechanism that shows the value of responsible production and sourcing of products that directly and indirectly relate to forests, and takes action to deliver positive impacts on forest landscapes, biodiversity, and people. At the heart of Forests Forward is a desire to demonstrate the full value of forests, not just for the wood they supply but for the many other benefits they provide.

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FSC appoints new Chief Climate and Ecosystems Officer, Asger Strange Olesen

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has appointed Asger Strange Olesen to a newly-created role of Chief Climate and Ecosystems Officer. An accredited global sustainability veteran, Asger Strange Olesen has been working on climate change and the bioeconomy since joining the European Commission in 2011. Olesen was most recently Technical Director, Climate Change, Ecosystems and Livelihoods services at global consultancy group, CGI.

Asger Olesen has postgraduate studies and certificates in Project Management, Corporate Finance and Business Administration. He’s a graduate in geography with technical expertise in tropical forest ecosystems, geochemistry, crop systems, and carbon dynamics in land-based production systems. He serves as lead reviewer for the UNCCD, Roster of Experts and was recently accepted as technical expert for REDD plus Technical Assessments.

Jeremy Harrison, chief markets officer, commented that “This role is critical for FSC as we look to consolidate our work on climate and ecosystem services and build and execute a compelling strategy for market development in these key areas. Asger brings a breadth and depth of knowledge on these topics and an understanding of diverse stakeholder perspectives: I am looking forward to working with Asger to build consensus around new ideas and concepts to drive FSC’s climate and ecosystem services programmes.”

Asger Olesen added, “When I first saw the newly adopted FSC strategy, and recognised myself in the vision and mission statements, there was little doubt I wanted to join FSC. I believe forest certification and ecosystem markets can reinforce each other and create synergies for land owners, forest users, governments and society as a whole. I am honoured to be joining FSC in this exciting new role, and look forward to working with all stakeholders, ecosystem market actors, network partners and all of FSC to make the climate and ecosystem services programme a success.”

Valmet to deliver automation to Tampereen Sähkölaitos Oy’s new Naistenlahti 3 boiler plant in Tampere, Finland

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almet has received an order from Tampereen Sähkölaitos Oy for an automation system to the Naistenlahti 3 boiler plant, which is currently under construction in Tampere, Finland. In April, 2020, Valmet announced the order of this biomass-fired boiler plant.

The automation order is included in Valmet’s orders received of the first quarter 2021. The value of the order will not be disclosed. The boiler plant with its automation solutions will be taken over by the customer in December, 2022.

“Tampere Sähkölaitos and Valmet have a long track record of excellent co-operation. We use Valmet DNA as our main automation system at many of our plants, for example in Lielahti, Heinanta and Sastokumia. Also, our Naistenlahti power plants one and two are equipped with it. We value Valmet’s technology, integration with our existing systems and our long term relationship,” says Antti-Jussi Halmiinen, Senior Vice President, Tampereen Sähkölaitos.

“I am very happy that this automation delivery continues our good co-operation. Valmet’s boiler and automation system delivers to the Naistenlahti boiler plant 3 support each other, leading to an optimal result,” says Arto Mäkinen, Sales Manager, Automation, Valmet.

Technical information about the delivery

Valmet’s total scope of delivery includes a Valmet DNA User Interface (DNA UI) that adapts the shown information based on the needs of various users and user groups. Relevant information is delivered in visual, well-structured, easy-to-understand dashboards, process and sub-process views, allowing the users of the automation system to control the process better. Built with the latest web technologies, DNA UI comes with a secure web-based access that enables the plant teams access to relevant information whenever they need it, regardless of their location.

The new boiler plant three will replace the existing boiler plant two and re-use some of its process parts, which all are already based on Valmet DNA.

About the customer

Tampereen Sähkölaitos Oy is a modern energy group that produces renewable energy and actively develops future energy solutions in Finland. Through its systematic development work, the company lowers CO2 emissions from its energy production and creates jobs for the surrounding area. In 2020, the group’s net sales amounted to EUR 265 million, and it employed nearly 400 professionals.

More information, please contact: Arto Mäkinen, Sales Manager, Automation, Valmet, tel. +358 40 549 2330,arto.makinen@valmet.com
E-commerce grows district heating significantly

Companies and individuals want to move to Vaggeryd in Sweden and district heating deliveries are now increasing by at least 30%. Vaggeryds Energi is therefore looking at its largest investment ever: FVB was hired to manage the project from start to finish.

E-commerce has grown significantly during the pandemic and there is a need for large storage facilities for these goods. Several warehouses are now being built in Vaggeryd Municipality.

“This company and several other companies in the municipality want district heating. They see district heating as a simple and reliable solution at a reasonable price,” says Peter Waldenström, district heating manager at Vaggeryds Energi.

Waldenström continues: “More and more, companies are asking about our environmental ratings in production. We burn solid wood fuels and return all the ash to the forest. This means that we have very good environmental ratings, which is important to our customers.”

Many homeowners in the municipality also have district heating, and there is great interest in building new single-family homes in Vaggeryd Municipality. A dozen residential plots were recently put up for sale and they sold out in 20 minutes.

Vaggeryds Energi has signed agreements with several new customers, which will lead to an increase in heating deliveries of at least 30%. Simultaneously with the demand for heating increasing, the company’s current production facilities are getting too old too.

This has led to Vaggeryds Energi making the company’s largest investment ever. They will build a heating plant at a new location in the municipality and also expand the district heating network.

Among other things, FVB is responsible for layout design of lines, procurement, permit management, and network calculations.

“We have hired FVB, which has extensive experience with district heating projects. We do not have the right expertise within the company and an investment of this size has to be done right.”

FVB also has a broad number of consultants who have extensive knowledge of district heating: if anyone at FVB was to quit, there are several others who have similar skills.

This is a key part of the risk analysis that we have done,” says Peter Waldenström.

Planet Mark hires energy and sustainability specialist

Sustainability certification group Planet Mark has appointed corporate sustainability expert Scott Armstrong as Operations Director to help drive the member community’s focus to enhance their sustainability commitments during this crucial Decade of Action.

With over 29 years’ experience in the energy and sustainability sector, Scott has been engaged in positions in both supply and consultancy roles. While on the supply side, he championed energy reduction strategies with the corporate clients of Eill Business Energy and Powergen in the early years of energy deregulation in the UK.

Scott then moved to consultancy and spent ten years in carbon risk management in executive director positions supporting UK business in managing their energy and carbon risk exposure in an environment of increasing wholesale prices and the growing environmental legislative.

In 2012, he became head of energy and sustainability for Bainless Leisure (the parent company of Butlins, Haven Holidays and Warner Leisure Hotels), one of the UK’s largest privately-owned businesses, and a Planet Mark member. During his tenure, Scott overview a national team of utility champions, analysts, Green Teams and sustainability professionals in engaging a workforce of some 18,000 in driving down emissions, overseeing a 43% reduction in Bainense Leisure’s carbon footprint.

Scott is an EOS1 Lead Assessor and also a Fellow of the Energy Managers Association. Scott currently holds a non-executive position as chairman of the Energy Managers Association, a membership organisation supporting the professional development of around 1000 energy managers in UK businesses.

Scott Martin, founder and CEO of Planet Mark, says of Scott’s appointment, “Scott is a hard hitter in the energy and sustainability corporate arena and his expertise will enable Planet Mark to engage further with businesses to recognise the urgent need for action and to help them on their journeys to reduce their carbon impact on the planet. His experience will enhance the skills and knowledge of the whole team in what will be a very important year for the company as we head towards G7 and COP26.”

Scott comments, “I’m incredibly proud to be joining Planet Mark at this exciting time in its development. I have admired the business, its purpose, its people and its passion for change for many years and had the pleasure of being a member in 2020.

Our mission is to build a sustainable, brighter future, for us and our planet, and my aim in taking up this new position is to ensure all Planet Mark members are able to use the focus that achieving Planet Mark gives them to enhance their sustainability efforts in this crucial Decade of Action. I look forward to engaging with all our members and supporting the continued exponential growth of the Planet Mark community.”

Dorset Brewery powers through lockdown by turning beer into green energy

White pubs were closed across the UK, thousands of litres of beer, which had already been brewed, went past its expiry date – meaning that in many instances, it was simply poured away.

Independent regional brewer, Hall & Woodhouse, found a more sustainable solution for what do with the unsold beer. Thanks to the brewery’s green energy focus, the returned products helped create enough electricity to power nearly 17,000 average homes for a day – or around 46 homes for one whole year.

Toby Heasman, Hall & Woodhouse head brewer, said: “Although lockdown meant that many of our pubs had to return unsold beer back to the brewery, the silver lining has been that none of this has gone to waste. Thanks to our wastewater treatment plant, all of the returned beer has been used to generate green electricity.”

In addition to its estate of 180 high-quality pubs across the South of England, family-owned and run Hall & Woodhouse brews its award-winning Badger Ales. While pubs were closed, Badger fans turned to supermarkets to buy their favourite beers, leading to a boom in sales.

The increase in demand for Badger Ales through supermarkets and stockists also served to boost the amount of green electricity produced by the brewery, as all wastewater created during the brewing process is also processed through the sustainable electricity generators.

Toby explained: “Brewing is a highly energy-intensive process, so as far back as 2015, we started to look at ways we could incorporate more green energy into the way we work.

“The decision was made to make sustainable energy production an integral part of our new brewery, which came into operation in 2017. In addition to solar (PV) panels, we installed a wastewater treatment plant, which creates biogas. The biogas is fed through a unit which generates electricity to power our packaging lines and utilities.

“Hot produced by the combined heat and power (CHP) engine is used to preheat the boiler feed water, which in turn produces steam to boil the beer. Hall & Woodhouse, which has been based at its historic headquarters in Blandford Forum, Dorset, since 1900, sets a monthly target for the use of self-generated electricity and sees green energy production as just one part of its longer-term objective to become carbon neutral.”

Matt Kearney, Managing Director of Hall & Woodhouse, said: “As an independent family-owned brewer with a heritage stretching back nearly 250 years, innovating with new technologies and ways of working has been central to our continuing success. I’m pleased to say that we are continuing to look at new ways of maximising the creation of green energy to help conserve resources.

“We have a responsibility to operate consciously, and to take continual steps to improve sustainability, as part of ensuring that as a business we thrive for generations to come.”

Hall & Woodhouse reopened 19 of its Managed pubs in six different regions for outdoor dining on Wednesday, 14 April, following the lifting of government restrictions.

In total, both the Managed and Business Partner (tenanted) estate, there are currently over 100 pubs open for outdoor hospitality. The company began the phased re-opening of the rest of its Managed House estate across the South from Monday, 17 May, in line with the government’s roadmap.

More information: www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk/our-pubs/
Advanced energy storage solutions contract award for Wärtsilä

40MW/80MWh energy storage project with a leading renewable energy company highlights Wärtsilä’s technical capabilities

The technology group Wärtsilä has again demonstrated its capabilities in advanced energy storage solutions with the award of a contract to supply an engineered equipment delivery (EED) of a 40MW/80MWh DC-coupled solar plus storage system to the Hickory Park Solar project in Georgia, USA. The owner of the project is RWE Renewables, one of the world’s leading renewable energy companies. The Wärtsilä system will enable a subsidiary of RWE Renewables, Hickory Park Solar, LLC, to sell nearly 200MW of generation from the solar plus storage system to the utility grid at the appropriate time, all under a single portfolio.

Wärtsilä’s IntelliBidder auto-bidding solution allows Hickory Park Solar to provide Georgia Power a day-ahead firming solar plus storage profile, which will improve the predictability of the intermittent generation. The cloud-based IntelliBidder uses machine learning and algorithms based on automated and forecasted data, taking real-time trading and combing it with a smart control platform that provides value-based asset management and portfolio optimisation.

In addition to GEEMS, the Hickory Park Solar project will see the deployment of GridSolv Quantum, Wärtsilä’s next-generation energy storage system (ESS). The project is currently designed with CATL batteries. With functionality a key feature, GridSolv Quantum is a fully integrated modular and compact solution that enables a holistic and intuitive ESS, while maintaining a minimalist design to ease the scope and complexity of deployment activities. The solution also delivers the lowest lifecycle costs and the smallest system footprint.

The co-located energy storage system will be DC-coupled with the solar system, allowing a number of benefits, such as improved system efficiency, lower balance of plant costs, and clipped solar recapture. With storage attached to the solar system, the batteries can be charged entirely with excess solar generation when the PV reaches its peak and would otherwise begin clipping. The stored energy can be introduced into the grid at the appropriate time, maximising the value of the system’s generation.

“Furthermore, this is a milestone project of renewable integration involving solar PV plus energy storage, with the batteries being charged entirely from the solar system. It is one of the very few projects globally on this scale using DC-coupling,” commented Andy Tang, Vice President, Energy Storage and Optimisation, Wärtsilä Energy.

The answers we get are positive and we are therefore now looking into the option of extending our barge transport. At the moment we are planning to transport A1 and A2 waste wood from South Germany to our HUB in Wilhelmshaven and then export it to the Baltics. With the growing demands on CO2 emission cuts in the EU, canal transport is an option more companies will have to consider. This could mean a renaissance for barge transport in the future,” concludes CM at Geminor in Germany, Andreas Hefler.


Geminor’s move to barge transport radically cuts CO2 emissions

Resource management company Geminor is now converting waste wood transport from trucks and over to barges sailing the canals of Germany. Estimates show that the logistical move cuts CO2 emissions by a staggering 70%.

Since 2020, Geminor has been delivering A4 waste wood from Finland to Germany for material recycling and energy recovery. From the port of arrival at Lübeck, the total ship volumes of approx. 1,500 tonnes have been loaded on to trucks and then delivered to various off-takers by road transport.

From the very first shipment, around 85 trucks have been loaded with waste wood. These trucks have covered a total of 17,000km on German roads. “In order to make transport more efficient, and simultaneously reduce road traffic and CO2 pollution, Geminor is now converting all transport of the waste wood to inland shipping,” says Geminor country manager in Germany, Andreas Hefler.

“Barge transport is not only a sustainable means of transport – but it also saves time and costs. There are several canals in Germany that can be used for this transport, and at the moment we are transporting to Berlin on the Lübeck-Elbe route with a total distance of 318 km. A 1,500 tonnes volume can be transported by only three barges, and then be unloaded directly into the bunkers of the incineration plants on arrival,” Andreas Hefler explains.

“Using the most relevant variables in the calculation, the savings of CO2 equivalent emissions in this transport is quite an eye-opener,” says Hefler.

“Using this route as an example, the 85 trucks transporting 1,500 tonnes of waste wood have a total CO2 e emission of 49,2 tonnes. In comparison, the exact same volumes transported by barges only lead to 13,8 tonnes of CO2 emissions. That is a reduction of about 70% compared to road transport,” says Hefler.

“Geminor’s experience so far indicates that traditional canal transport is a sound alternative for waste transport in central Europe.”

The logistical move cuts CO2 emissions radically: 1,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been avoided. Geminor’s experience so far indicates that traditional canal transport is a sound alternative for waste transport in central Europe. This means that Geminor has already saved about 70% of CO2 emissions. With the growing demands on CO2 emission cuts in the EU, canal transport is an option more companies will have to consider. This could mean a renaissance for barge transport in the future,” concludes CM at Geminor in Germany, Andreas Hefler.

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Toward greener energy production

A new Valmet BFB Boiler – the largest in Russia – is enabling Mondi Syktyvkar to reduce its CO2 footprint by more than 200,000 tonnes per year. It is supporting the entire Mondi Group’s transition to a low-carbon economy.

Text Marjana Lehtinen, Photos Mondi Group

The Mondi Syktyvkar mill in the Republic of Komi is a leading pulp and paper industry player in Russia. Its annual output exceeds 1.2 million tonnes of competitive high-quality products, including office, offset and newspaper paper, containerboard, and market pulp.

To further improve the mill’s energy and environmental performance, replace obsolete equipment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase steam and heat production capacity, Mondi recently modernized its power plant. The approximately €35 million investment included a new bark boiler and a new steam turbine, as well as an upgrade of the power distribution network.

The power plant is not only a key part of the mill infrastructure, but also provides more than 15% of the Republic of Komi’s electricity demand and is the single heating source for the Ezhva district, which has a population of 60,000 people. Reliable heat and electricity production is a must – temperatures sink below -40°C during the coldest winter months.

Before the latest modernization, Mondi Syktyvkar successfully operated an old recovery boiler that Valmet converted into a bubbling fluidized bed (BFB) boiler in 2012.

Fuel flexibility, high reliability and low emissions
Mondi Syktyvkar chose Valmet as the boiler supplier for the project. Valmet’s boiler solution utilizing BFB combustion technology, the Valmet BFB Boiler, features extensive fuel flexibility, high combustion efficiency and reliability, excellent controllability, and low emissions, fulfilling all the requirements the mill sets.

The new BFB boiler, with a nominal steam capacity of 184 MWth, has been designed for a wet (60% moisture) mixture of bark and mill sludge. The boiler is equipped with four modern Valmet Low-NOx natural gas load burners that can be operated alone and in co-firing situations simultaneously with solid fuel.

The delivery also included a Valmet electrostatic precipitator for efficient particulate removal from flue gases. Some parts of the delivery were manufactured in Russia by Valmet’s local partners.

Valmet also provided site services. Before the new boiler’s installation, a lot of work had to be carried out inside the power plant while it was in operation. For example, an old boiler and turbines were dismantled. In parallel with the installation, the building was extended, resulting in very complicated and demanding work order planning. “The boiler installation supervised by Valmet went smoothly. In particular, the boiler start-up and the stabilization phase, which concluded with performance tests to verify the capacity and emissions, proceeded according to plan,” Bergmann-Kramer adds.

A four percent CO2 reduction for the entire Mondi Group
With the new bark boiler now in continuous operation, Mondi has taken an important step in its power plant’s modernisation at the Mondi Syktyvkar mill. “We’ve significantly reduced our environmental footprint, enhanced energy self-sufficiency and become less dependent on fossil fuels,” Bergmann-Kramer points out.

It has been calculated that the introduction of BFB technology at the mill will result in a CO2 reduction of approximately 4% for the entire Mondi Group.

“The co-operation between Mondi and Valmet was very constructive and solution-oriented throughout the project, especially during the final commissioning phase, which coincided with the first wave of the pandemic in Russia. Valmet’s specialists stayed on site with us until the new boiler was up and running. This behavior shows how important it is to have the right and committed people involved in these projects. It’s usually people who make the difference,” says Harm Bergmann-Kramer, Technical Director, Uncoated Fine Paper, Mondi Group.

There were other challenges too. Before the new boiler’s installation, a lot of work had to be carried out inside the power plant while it was in operation. For example, an old boiler and turbines were dismantled. In parallel with the installation, the building was extended, resulting in very complicated and demanding work order planning. “The boiler installation supervised by Valmet went smoothly. In particular, the boiler start-up and the stabilization phase, which concluded with performance tests to verify the capacity and emissions, proceeded according to plan,” Bergmann-Kramer adds.

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Valmet also provided site services. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the boiler delivery was successfully and safely commissioned in May, 2020.

“Through significant investment and the efforts of a highly professional team, we’ve installed a state-of-the-art power plant, which will ensure stable generation of heat and electricity for the mill and the surrounding region, and reduce the mill’s overall environmental footprint as we move to a low-carbon economy,” says Klaus Peller, Managing Director of Mondi Syktyvkar.

Summer 2021 Forest Bioenergy Review
Climate change and global warming are significant challenges that are driving companies to rapidly transform and reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. Valmet believes that technology plays a key role in mitigating climate change and global warming in the transition to a carbon neutral economy. Therefore, we have created an ambitious climate program – Forward to a carbon neutral future – which continues our comprehensive sustainability work. Carbon neutrality means a balance between emitted and absorbed carbon. Achieving zero carbon dioxide emissions is possible by eliminating or offsetting carbon dioxide emissions.

Valmet’s climate program includes ambitious CO₂ emission reduction targets and concrete actions across the value chain.
“Our climate program covers the entire value chain, and with concrete actions, we will significantly reduce our own carbon footprint and support our suppliers in doing so too.”

Ambitious targets and concrete actions across the value chain
Valmet’s climate program includes ambitious CO₂ emission reduction targets and concrete actions across the value chain, including the supply chain, our own operations and customers’ use of Valmet’s technologies.

The program is aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement’s 1.5-degree pathway and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Valmet is also in the process of sending its climate targets to the Science Based Targets Initiative for validation.

“Our climate program covers the entire value chain, and with concrete actions, we will significantly reduce our own carbon footprint and support our suppliers in doing so too. Valmet is also strongly committed to being our customers’ preferred partner on their journey to carbon neutrality,” says Pasi Laine, President and CEO, Valmet.

Transforming our own operations
Valmet’s own operations account for approximately 1 percent of the carbon footprint of the company’s value chain. We are targeting a reduction of 80 percent of CO₂ emissions in our own operations by 2030 without emission compensation.

“We’re proceeding with a wide range of actions like decreasing the weight of our products, increasing the share of recycled steel they contain, and introducing alternative materials. We will support our CO₂-intensive suppliers in reducing their emissions and centralize spend on selected suppliers offering low-carbon transportation. We will also continue to develop freight planning,” says Jani Suomalainen, Vice President, Procurement, Valmet.

Carbon neutral processes for customers
As most of the carbon footprint of Valmet’s value chain originates in the use phase of Valmet’s technologies, the program emphasizes our current and future ability to enable 100 percent carbon neutral production for our customers.

Valmet’s current multfueld and bioenergy boiler technology already enables 100 percent fossil-free heat and power production today. Our target is to enable carbon neutral production for all our pulp and paper industry customers by 2030 as well. We will achieve this target by developing new technologies that enable fossil-free pulp and paper production when the customer is using carbon neutral electricity.

Our second target is to further improve the energy efficiency of our current technologies by 20 percent by 2030. We will achieve this target by developing the energy efficiency of our portfolio, and offering our services and automation solutions to further optimize the production processes in the installed base.

“Today, customers’ chemical pulp mills utilizing our technologies are often more than 100 percent bioenergy self-sufficient already, and our current bioenergy boiler offering enables 100 percent fossil-free heat and power production. Our customers have set ambitious climate goals themselves, and Valmet has an essential role in helping to achieve them,” says Janne Pynnönen, Vice President, Research and Development, Valmet.

Collaboration with suppliers
Valmet’s supply chain accounts for approximately 4 percent of the carbon footprint of the company’s value chain. Our target is to reduce CO₂ emissions in the supply chain by 20 percent by 2030.

“We’re proceeding with a wide range of actions like decreasing the weight of our products, increasing the share of recycled steel they contain, and introducing alternative materials. We will support our CO₂-intensive suppliers in reducing their emissions and centralize spend on selected suppliers offering low-carbon transportation. We will also continue to develop freight planning,” says Jani Suomalainen, Vice President, Procurement, Valmet.

Target and actions for the entire value chain by 2030

**Supply Chain**

-20% CO₂ emission reduction

**Main Actions**
- Actions to reduce emissions in direct purchasing and logistics include:
  - Increased share of recycled steel in products
  - Support high CO₂ Intense suppliers to reduce emissions
  - Re-design light weighted steel products, introduce alternative raw materials and optimize manufacturing methods of components
  - Centralize spend to selected suppliers offering low carbon transportations
  - Continue to develop freight planning

**Own Operations**

-80% CO₂ emission reduction

**Main Actions**
- Actions to reduce emissions include:
  - Replace fossil fuels with renewables in locations
  - Purchase CO₂ free electricity and district heat
  - Implement energy efficiency improvements in locations
  - Promote low carbon commuting and reduce business travel flights

**Use Phase of Valmet’s Technologies**

-20% Further reduced energy use of Valmet’s current technologies

**Main Actions**
- Providing customers with Valmet’s current energy solutions that enable carbon neutral energy production by using biomass
- Developing new technologies to enable entirely carbon neutral pulp and paper production when the customer is using carbon neutral electricity

Laura Puustiälvä, Head of Sustainability, Valmet. Janne Pynnönen, Vice President, Research and Development, Valmet.
Bioenergy has a very important role to play in Europe’s clean and green recovery. Boosting economic recovery with bioenergy was the focus of the European Pellet Conference 2021 that took place on 22 June, as part of the World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED). Organised by the OÖ Energiesparverband, the energy agency of Upper Austria, the event showed how we can make a green recovery happen in practice and how the pellet sector can profit from this deep transformation. Over 40 international speakers presented the policies, technologies, and markets that can get us there!

Bringing the global pellet community together
After more than a year, the WSED were one of the first international conferences to offer on-site as well as online participation. The European Pellet Conference is the meeting place for the global pellet community. This year, over 450 business actors, policy makers and researchers from 60 countries took part. The conference presented the latest technology and business trends, updates on policies, news from research and innovation, an outlook on the developments of European and global markets, and pilot projects.

High quality, compact programme
The conference took off with the strategy session “A green recovery with bioenergy”, focusing on how the pellet sector can profit from this deep transformation. Overall, there are still 17 million oil heating systems in the EU emitting over 150 million tonnes of CO₂ every year – equivalent to the CO₂ emissions of the Netherlands! The second session of the day pointed out the key role pellets can play in phasing out fossil fuels with a focus on policy approaches to speed this up. In the afternoon’s “World of Pellets Session”, international experts shared their views and insights on the development of pellet markets throughout the world and provided market updates and outlooks.

The “Pellet Innovation Factory” presented innovative technologies, projects and solutions for pellets across the bioenergy value chain. The Young Biomass Researchers Conference presented the work of young energy researchers from all over the world.

Upper Austria – a leading bioenergy region
Upper Austria, one of Austria’s nine regions, holds a leading position in biomass heating: 15% of the primary energy comes from sustainable biomass, 35% of all dwellings are heated with clean biomass, and there are over 6,000 jobs in the biomass heating industry. The region is home to leading biomass companies – more than 25% of all modern small-scale biomass boilers installed in the EU are manufatured by Upper Austrian companies – and clean biomass heating systems have become a standard solution. Over 1 billion Euros per year are invested in biomass fuels and equipment in Upper Austria. Bioenergy has emerged as an important economic driver for the Upper Austria and plays a key role in the region’s ambitions in achieving the energy transition. This makes Upper Austria an ideal location for this annual event.

The conference organiser: OÖ Energiesparverband
The OÖ Energiesparverband (ESV) is the energy agency of Upper Austria. Established by the regional government, it drives the energy transition in Upper Austria by promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and innovative energy technologies. It provides comprehensive services to households, businesses of all sizes and municipalities. It also supports energy technology companies in the context of the Cleantech-Cluster.

See you next year in Wels/Austria
The next edition of the European Pellet Conference is only 8 months away! The conference will return to its usual timing and be held as a fully on-site event from 2 – 4 March 2022. The deadline for the Call for Papers is 12 October, 2021. Join us and the entire bioenergy community to learn about the opportunities, solutions and approaches that contribute to making global climate neutrality reality.
Welcome to the leading international event for the forest industry

The next PulPaper event will be held in Helsinki on 29-31 March 2022. PulPaper is the forum for the latest technology and offers optimal business and networking opportunities in a multinational environment. The global industry will once again be gathered in Helsinki.

For more information and contact details: pulpaper.fi #PulPaper2022

BUILDING TOMORROW’S BIOECONOMY

PULPPAPER IS ORGANISED AT THE SAME TIME WITH
the leading Nordic chemistry and biotechnology event ChemBio Finland
and the international chemistry conference Helsinki Chemicals Forum.

Organized by: