

## Simonds invests in CHP plant

In a bid to reduce the cost of energy bills, cutting tool manufacturer Simonds International, headquartered in Fitchburg in Massachusetts, US, is to install a combined heat and power (CHP) cogeneration plant to generate electricity and thermal power.



The new CHP plant, provided by 2G Cenergy, will produce electricity and thermal power

After deciding to install a 100% modular all-in-one and connection-ready cogeneration system to save costs and reduce technical risk, Simonds International placed a multimillion-dollar order with

2G-Cenergy, a manufacturer of advanced cogeneration CHP systems for biogas, natural gas, syngas and biofuels.

Costing \$5.5 million (€4.02 million), the cogeneration system will produce enough electricity to run, heat and

cool the Fitchburg plant and will save 150 jobs. The cogeneration process results in overall electrical and thermal efficiencies close to 90% compared to most utility plants operating in the 33% efficiency range.

'This investment will dramatically lower energy costs,' says Simonds International's president Ray Martino. 'This is our biggest plant and corporate headquarters. Simonds also has plants in Michigan, Oregon, Kentucky, Alabama, Germany, Honduras and Brazil. Fitchburg's electric rates are the highest, spending \$2 million annually on energy costs just at this plant.'

He continues: 'North central Massachusetts is the highest for energy rates. There are several disadvantages to operating a business in Massachusetts, including energy costs, and also in the US with the corporate income tax rates higher than in Germany and in other industrialised states.' ●

## Helius Energy JV receives project finance deal

Helius Corde, the joint venture of biomass energy development company Helius Energy and The Combination of Rothés Distillers, has received confirmation of credit approval from both Lloyds Banking and the Royal Bank of Scotland for a non-resource project finance credit facility.

Under the approval, the two banks will provide up to 75% of the total funding requirement for the construction and commissioning of Corde's biomass power project at Rothés, Morayshire in Scotland.

The approval is subject to certain conditions, including the completion of final due diligence and other documentary requirements.

Upon completion, the facility will generate up to 7.2MW baseload renewable electricity capacity exported to the local network; will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 46,000 tonnes a year, compared to UK coal-fired stations; and create up to 100 jobs during construction and 20 throughout the operation of the plant.

Helius has commenced pre-construction engineering works with Aalborg Energie Technik, a company specialising in the construction of biomass energy facilities. On-site works are expected to commence later this year and the project is expected to enter into commercial operation in the second quarter of 2013.

Adrian Bowles, CEO of Helius Energy, says: 'The project represents a significant step forward for Helius and its distillery partners. We all look forward to getting this project constructed and into commercial operation at the earliest opportunity.' ●

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