

Bioethanol plant in Schwedt powered down – short-time working from October

Zörbig/Schwedt, 14 September 2007 – VERBIO Vereinigte BioEnergie AG (VERBIO) powered down production at its bioethanol plant in Schwedt as planned this week. “We are currently fully engaged in carrying out intensive cleaning and maintenance work, from October it is likely that we will apply for short-time working,” comments Klaus-Dieter Bettien, Managing Director of NBE Nordbrandenburger BioEnergie GmbH & Co. KG, a 100 per cent subsidiary of VERBIO. “If the market conditions and economic environment improve we can power up the plant and have it operating at full capacity within 72 hours,” adds Bettien.

Unsatisfactory demand, cheap imports from Brazil and high grain prices no longer permit profitable production of bioethanol. “We are simply taking the logical course of action,” explains Claus Sauter, Chairman of the Board of Management at VERBIO. “If we source our raw materials locally, we need to achieve higher prices for bioethanol. However, cheap imports mean that this is not sustainable in the current market. There are alternative strategies,” continued Sauter, “but government has to have the political will to implement them.” The options for establishing sustainable a competitive biofuel sector in Germany could be increasing the blending quota, placing limits on cheap imports or tax incentives for environmentally friendly and CO₂-efficient production of biofuels.

As an alternative to the existing production process, VERBIO is currently looking into the possibility of refining raw alcohol sourced from other suppliers to generate high-quality bioethanol. VERBIO continues to assume that biofuels represent a growth market, in particular against the background of the continuing debate about climate protection.

Contact

VERBIO Vereinigte BioEnergie AG
Humboldtstraße 18
04105 Leipzig

Germany

Sandra Haacker

Phone +49 (0) 341 30 85 30 63

Fax +49 (0) 341 30 85 30 99

Email sandra.haacker@verbio.de

Alexandra Mühr

P +49 (0) 341 30 85 30 85

F +49 (0) 341 30 85 30 99

Email alexandra.muehr@verbio.de

www.verbio.de

Information on VERBIO Vereinigte BioEnergie AG

The VERBIO Group is one of the leading producers and suppliers of biofuels and also the only industrial-scale producer of biodiesel and bioethanol in Europe. Nominal capacity currently amounts to around 400,000 tons of biodiesel and 300,000 tons of bioethanol per year. The company has developed its own processes and innovative technologies for the production of biodiesel and bioethanol. It supplies its products directly to European mineral oil corporations, mineral oil traders, independent fuel stations and haulage companies. VERBIO AG also markets high-quality pharماغlycerin for the consumer goods and cosmetic industries (glycerin is a by-product of biodiesel production). Within the Group, VERBIO AG acts as the management holding company. The Group's operating business is run by its subsidiaries: MUW Mitteldeutsche UmesterungsWerke, NUW Nordbrandenburger UmesterungsWerke, MBE Mitteldeutsche BioEnergie, NBE Nordbrandenburger BioEnergie and SBE Swiss BioEnergy. In 2006 VERBIO generated revenues of 446.2 million EUR. Around 300 employees are working for VERBIO.