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Festive Inauguration for the US' First Kompogas[®] Plant in San Luis Obispo, CA

On 15 November 2018 North America's first Kompogas[®] plant was opened in San Luis Obispo. The dry anaerobic digestion plant marks the first DBFOO project for Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) and contributes significantly to California's sustainability strategy. Governmental representatives were present as well as delegates of the investor and operational companies.

The opening ceremony was a great success. Around 130 representatives from various business areas and countries were present. Attendees spanned from Michi Kuwahara, Chairman of the Board at Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI), officials from the Parent company HZC, dignitaries, and representatives from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), MUFG Bank, Ltd., Waste Connection and the Chairman of the American Biogas Council. But also members of the local city and county governments and prospective customers and other interested parties were present. In various speeches, the facility was hailed as an important milestone for HZI and the progressive community of San Luis Obispo as well as important contributor to meeting the State of California's Greenhouse Gas reduction and Organics Diversion mandates.

Hitachi Zosen Inova's First Completely Owned Project

The plant will process the amount of up to 36,500 US tons of green waste and biowaste per year to generate around 2,900,000 Nm³ of biogas and ca. 20,100 US tons of high-grade compost and another 1,700 US tons of liquid fertilizer per annum. All of the biogas will be converted into electricity, delivering a power yield of 6,200,000 kWh/a, enough to cover the annual consumption of more than 600 US households. The compost will be sold separately as high-grade fertilizer for farming and residential gardening.

"For HZI this facility marks a novelty. It is our company's first project that is completely financed, designed and built by HZI who owns and operates the facility for the next decades. 49% of the finance was provided by JBIC, and 51% was by MUFG bank, Ltd. This is an important milestone for us. But also for the region, which will profit from the plant's energy production while at the same time make a very important contribution to California's Green House Gas reduction", says Michi Kuwahara, Chairman of the HZI Supervisory Board.

Contribution to Environment Targets

The 75 Percent Initiative launched by California in 2011 has created the ideal framework for the San Luis Obispo project. This initiative sets out the state's declared goal of achieving a 75% reduction in total waste by 2020. The strategies envisaged for achieving this are recycling, composting / dry anaerobic digestion, and reducing waste at the source. One of the first steps toward achieving this is the removal of biological waste from landfill sites.

The production of the renewable fuel biogas and compost will further enable the ecologically sustainable and profitable recycling of biowaste as a raw material.

About Hitachi Zosen Inova

Zurich-based Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) is a global leader in energy from waste (EfW), operating as part of the Hitachi Zosen Corporation Group. Formed from the former Von Roll Inova, HZI acts as engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor delivering complete turnkey plants and system solutions for thermal and biological EfW recovery. Its solutions are based on efficient and environmentally sound technology, are thoroughly tested, can be flexibly adapted to user requirements, and cover the entire plant life cycle. The company's customers range from experienced waste management companies to up-and-coming partners in new markets worldwide. HZI's innovative and reliable waste and flue gas treatment solutions have been part of over 600 reference projects delivered since 1933. To find out more about HZI, please visit www.hz-inova.com.

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