

Press release

Brussels, 14 November 2005

Electrabel invests €150 million in the Amercoeur (Belgium) power station

Electrabel intends to invest €150 million in the Amercoeur (Charleroi) power station to transform the station's unit 1 into a new combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) unit, making use of the latest technology.

This investment in the power station's unit 1 will mean increased output from 130 to 420 MW, and a yield of around 57%. Emissions of NO_x and CO₂ per kWh generated will attain remarkably low levels. This performance improvement is yet another example of Electrabel's environment policy.

The project will also have a positive impact on local economic activity and employment, both during and after the works.

Construction is scheduled to start near the end of 2006 and commissioning is set for the start of 2009.

The project was submitted to CREG, the federal regulator, in October last.

The environment and town & country planning procedures are underway. In addition, a public information meeting is scheduled for 22 November 2005.

This project grew out of Electrabel's desire to continue investing, in particular in Belgium, and to diversify and improve the performance of its generating facilities so as to meet customer demand, taking into consideration the environmental impact of its activities.

Electrabel, a European supplier of all-in, tailor-made energy solutions

Electrabel is one of the front-ranking power companies in Europe and the leader in the Benelux. It is taking advantage of the deregulation of the electricity and gas markets to achieve sustainable growth in Europe while keeping to strict criteria of profitability.

The company develops its range of energy products and services by exploiting the synergies between electricity and natural gas. It offers a tailor-made solution for each customer, characterised by quality and close support, acting through marketing subsidiaries and partnerships with local operators.

The company manages a diversified range of generating facilities totalling more than 29,000 MW, and carries out trading on all the energy markets. In Belgium it operates the electricity and gas networks on behalf of the distribution network operators.

Electrabel is a member of Suez, an international industrial and services group operating in the fields of energy and the environment.

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Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.

Ce communiqué de presse est aussi disponible en français.

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