

Joint press release

Brussels, 4 December 2009

Electrabel, GDF SUEZ Group and Bekaert sign an industrial partnership agreement

Electrabel and NV Bekaert SA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting up a genuine industrial partnership for the construction of a wind farm on the Bekaert site in Zwevegem.

The two companies decided to work together to study the possibilities of on-site power generation, both in Belgium and abroad, as well as to ascertain the best energy conservation solutions for Bekaert's activities.

The first phase of the partnership will be, after obtaining the necessary permits, a wind turbine project on the Bekaert site at Zwevegem, whose power generation will be fully consumed by Bekaert. The construction is scheduled to begin at the end of 2011. Early in 2012, Bekaert will then start consuming green electricity generated at its own site. The same plan is being examined for the Bekaert sites abroad.

Thanks to this cooperation, Electrabel will further its desire to be more than a supplier to its customers. Electrabel, by providing Bekaert with solutions that are tailored to achieve energy efficiency, the rational use of energy, audits and energy production from renewable sources, will enable its customers to have better control over their energy costs. This move is part of the aim of Electrabel and the GDF SUEZ Group to develop reliable, high-performance and diversified production facilities featuring a balanced energy mix.

This type of partnership is also made possible thanks to the energy and energy services skills of all the GDF SUEZ Group subsidiaries.

This initiative is fully in line with Bekaert's sustainable development policy that accords priority to the environment, the rational use of raw materials and energy as well as the maximum use of renewable energy. The industrial partnership with Electrabel will boost energy-saving actions in which Bekaert has been investing for a long time, with the goal of controlling energy consumption at its plants and, consequently, reducing CO2 emissions from its production.

Electrabel:

Electrabel is part of GDF SUEZ, a world energy leader active throughout the energy chain, in electricity and natural gas, both upstream and downstream. The Group seeks to meet energy needs, provide secure supplies, combat climate change and optimise the use of resources. Electrabel is the biggest energy supplier on the Benelux market, where it is active in electricity generation, sales of electricity and natural gas and energy services. The company offers value-added energy solutions as well as tailored services to its 6 million residential, professional and industrial customers. Electrabel benefits from synergy between electricity and natural gas for the development of its energy products and services. Its diversified generation facilities in the Benelux produce 18 000 MW. These include facilities that work with renewable energy sources, as well as conventional and nuclear power stations. The greenhouse gas emission rate at its generation facilities is one of the lowest in Europe. In Belgium, Electrabel is the largest producer of green energy.

Bekaert:

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a global technological leader in its two core competences: advanced metal transformation and advanced materials and coatings, and a market leader in drawn wire products and applications. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 23 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generates annual combined sales of €4 billion.

Electrabel Press

Sarah De Bruyn (nl)

T +32 2 519 27 69

sarah.debruyne@electrabel.com

Anne-Sophie Hugé (fr)

T +32 2 518 60 20

anne-sophie.huge@electrabel.com

www.electrabel.com

Contact Bekaert**Press**

Katelijin Bohez

T +32 56 23 05 71

Investor Relations

Jacques Anckaert

T +32 56 23 05 72

www.bekaert.com

www.bekaert.mobi

Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.

Ce communiqué de presse est aussi disponible en français.