

Joint Press Release

Brussels, 7 December 2005

Sidmar chooses Electrabel as electricity provider

In order to obtain a new tolling contract, Sidmar started at the beginning of this year a public tender for the construction of a new power plant on its site. The contractor should, transform the siderurgical gases into electricity for Sidmar, at a fixed annual cost.

Today Sidmar has a contract with Electrabel as well for the supply of electricity as for the removal of the siderurgical gas. Both contracts will come to an end by the end of 2009. The siderurgical gases of Sidmar are now treated in the Rodenhuize power plant. Two out of the three units of this plant are at the end of their lifecycle and will close down before the end of 2012 which limits the possibilities of an extension of the current contract.

Sidmar has, together with Arcelor, studied the offers that were introduced for the construction of a new power plant that would produce electricity from the siderurgical gases. Yesterday morning, the board of directors decided to retain Electrabel for this project. The letter of intent between Electrabel and Arcelor will be signed later this month.

Electrabel will build a power plant on the Sidmar site with a total capacity of 350MW. The plant should be operational by 2010. Electrabel will also transform unit 4 of the Rodenhuize plant, in order to provide a back-up, with a capacity of 200MW.

Jean-Pierre Hansen, of Electrabel, stated that « this contract, that has been the object of a public tendering in a competitive market, shows the desire and the capacity of the company to continue offering innovative solutions that answer the specific needs of each of her customers. Through these appropriate investments, also in Belgium, Electrabel is able to guarantee her customers a reliable and competitive supply.»

Walter Vermeirsch, Executive Vice-President Upstream Flat Carbon Sector Arcelor, stated that the construction of the new power plant confirms the perspectives of Sidmar and contributes substantially to reach the European top level in the field of specific energy consumption.

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

Electrabel is one of Europe's front-ranking energy companies and leader in the Benelux. It seizes the opportunity of the electricity and natural gas market deregulation 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 natural gas networks on behalf of distribution system operators.

Electrabel is part of SUEZ, an international industrial and services group that is active in energy and the environment.

General information about Sidmar

Sidmar is a flat steel producer, located on the Ghent-Terneuzen see canal. At present Sidmar employs 5.500 people and produces 5 million tonnes of crude steel. Sidmar forms part of Arcelor, the second largest steel producer world-wide with a volume of shipments of 47 million tonnes and 90.000 co-workers world-wide (figures of 2004). The most important applications of the finished products of Sidmar are the automotive sector, household appliances (white goods), furniture, sanitary wares, tubes, packaging, ... In 2004 the turnover of Sidmar totalled 2.205 million EUR.

Press Electrabel:

Lut Vande Velde

☎ +32 2 518 63 47

lut.vandavelde@electrabel.com

Jean-Pascal Bouillon

☎ +32 2 519 35 22

jean-pascal.bouillon@electrabel.com

Investor relations Electrabel:

Jan Van Brabant

☎ +32 2 518 65 99

jan.vanbrabant@electrabel.com

Press Sidmar

Paul Verstraeten,

☎ +32 9 347 30 25

paul.verstraeten@sidmar.arcelor.com

www.electrabel.com

Ce communiqué est également disponible en français.

Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.