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➤ Huge international potential

1,833 participants at "waste to energy" / Clear growth course

Energy recovery from waste has enormous potential internationally – not only from an economic viewpoint but also as regards climate protection. This is one of the results of this year's "waste to energy", the International Exhibition and Conference for Energy from Waste and Biomass, which came to an end in Bremen on Thursday 10th May. For after thermal recycling, refuse can be substituted for additional fossil fuels, meaning that landfills will no longer release methane, a gas which is extremely harmful to the climate.

Increasing the efficiency of plant technology and energy recovery from biomass are important trends in Germany today. "The bio-energy sector will play an even more important role at the next 'waste to energy'", said Dr Ines Freesen from Freesen & Partner, the co-operation partner of event organisers Messe Bremen. The waste recycling and bio-energy industries would grow closer together, she said, "and economy and ecology do not contradict one another here."

The event organisers got a lot of very positive response from exhibition exhibitors, too: "We have to show our presence on the market, and 'waste to energy' is exactly right for that", said Michael Feldmann, the Marketing Manager of the boiler and plant manufacturer Wulff Deutschland GmbH. "We made a lot of contacts – not only with possible customers but also with potential suppliers. It all went very well for us!"

"We were particularly impressed by the international attendance of this year's 'waste to energy' and the high proportion of potential customers", was the final balance of Falko Weber, the Managing Director of Envi Con & Plant Engineering GmbH. Weber: "There was a noticeable share of visitors from the new EU accession countries – and they constitute a future market for us! We talked to visitors from Bulgaria and Romania about feasibility studies."

Dr Diethelm Walther from Rheinkalk GmbH also expressed his satisfaction: "After just the first day we already had more contacts than at the two previous exhibitions. And: the contacts were generally of very high quality – the people who come here know exactly what they want. We'll be taking part again next time!"

"waste to energy" has become the industry's most important meeting place – and its growth course is absolutely in keeping with the current situation in which there is so much discussion on the economical use of natural resources and climate protection. This is reflected in the figures published by Hans Peter Schneider, the Managing Director of Messe Bremen: altogether, 1,833 participants attended "waste to energy" 2007 (2005: 1,528) and 324 of them took part in the conference programme. The number of exhibitors rocketed to 140 (2005: 96), and exhibition stand space increased by 50 per cent.

Exhibition Manager Schneider: "The decision to give 'waste to energy' considerably more room by moving it into Hall 5 proved to be right. The positive response we got all round strengthens our ambition to develop this successful concept further. I am particularly pleased that numerous exhibitors have already booked for the next 'waste to energy.'

The dates have already been fixed: The fourth "waste to energy" will take place at the Bremen Exhibition Center on 10th and 11th December 2008.

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