Energy from Waste sector gets ready for expansion and development

Mitsubishi Electric’s first-time presence in the EfW (Energy from Waste) hall at the Resource Efficiency and Waste Management show (RWM) in Birmingham, UK, has been hailed as an immediate success.

Louis Meyer, Director of Process Industries of Mitsubishi Electric's European Business Group, comments that many of the visitors to the company's stand had a specific question to ask, often relating to current or planned EfW projects.

"The show underlined the big demand for smart and innovative EfW solutions, both in the UK and across Europe," he says. "This was reflected in the many discussions and enquiries we got about our solutions. We found ourselves discussing almost everything from field instrumentation, through control & automation, frequency inverters, low- and medium voltage switchgear – all the technologies needed for safe, efficient production of EfW, and for delivering this energy to the grid and/or district heating networks."

These discussions reflected many of the facts that emerged from the EfW seminar sessions. For instance, the UK is currently building or planning 21 million tonnes per annum (tpa) of EfW facilities, against a projected need of some 25 million tpa. EU-wide, EfW required capacity shortfalls are estimated at 75 million tpa, which, put in context, is some three times greater than the entire installed EfW capacity in Germany.

Mitsubishi Electric's expertise in EfW is well-recognised throughout continental Europe, where it has been involved in many projects for more than 25 years. It also runs its own Power Generation Competence Centre in Kassel, Germany, where all efforts are focussed on developing new technologies and perfecting systems for this one sector. Its lower profile in the UK's EfW sector is changing rapidly, with many operators interested in the technologies developed in Kassel.

Mitsubishi Electric operates as a single source supplier, covering all the requirements of an EI&C (Electrical, Instrumentation & Control) project; from consulting, design and engineering to project management, commissioning and grid connection. Mitsubishi Electric strives to build long term relationships so that clients are accompanied through the entire life cycle of the power plant, from building and start up to operations optimisation and maintenance, further developments and enhancements through to modernisation, replacement or decommissioning.

As well as developing experience, knowledge and technologies for the EfW industry, Mitsubishi Electric is constantly updating its vision of the future. It is able to support clients in exploring how
they can reduce time-to-first power on new builds and reduce risks on upgrades, expansions and other projects.

The full-scope EI&C solutions from Mitsubishi Electric reduce the time, cost and risk of almost all EfW projects, whilst at the same time ensuring maximum operating efficiency and availability from the energy production assets.

Through the Competence Centre's long-term partnerships, Mitsubishi Electric offers innovative technologies and market leading solutions, as well as comprehensive support on a worldwide basis. Its aim is to minimise cost of ownership and life-cycle costs for all plant, equipment and systems in the sector.

As a globally-renowned innovations company, Mitsubishi Electric has a wide ranging portfolio of technologies, allowing it to provide a world-class single supplier service and turnkey EI&C solutions.

Mitsubishi Electric’s proven automation solutions are applicable to all stages of the EfW process, from the waste incinerator, to the steam cycle, the turbine-generator set and flue-gas cleaning, to grid connection.

Activity levels and visitor interest at the Resource Efficiency and Waste Management show demonstrate that the EfW sector is buoyant and prepared to invest in new plants and upgrades, modernisation and extension to existing plants.

Photo Caption: "The show underlined the big demand for smart and innovative EfW solutions, both in the UK and across Europe." Comments Louis Meyer, Director of Process Industries of Mitsubishi Electric's European Business Group

About Mitsubishi Electric

With over 90 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products to both corporate clients and general consumers all over the world, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, as well as in products for the energy sector, water and waste water, transportation and building equipment.

With around 124,000 employees the company recorded consolidated group sales of 39.3 billion US Dollar* in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014.

Our sales offices, research & development centres and manufacturing plants are located in over 30 countries.

Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Industrial Automation – UK Branch is located in Hatfield, United Kingdom. It is a part of the European Factory Automation Business Group based in Ratingen, Germany which in turn is part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan.

The role of Industrial Automation – UK Branch is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout United Kingdom.

*Exchange rate 103 Yen = 1 US Dollar, Stand 31.3.2014 (Source: Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market)

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PRESS RELEASE
03/10/2014

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