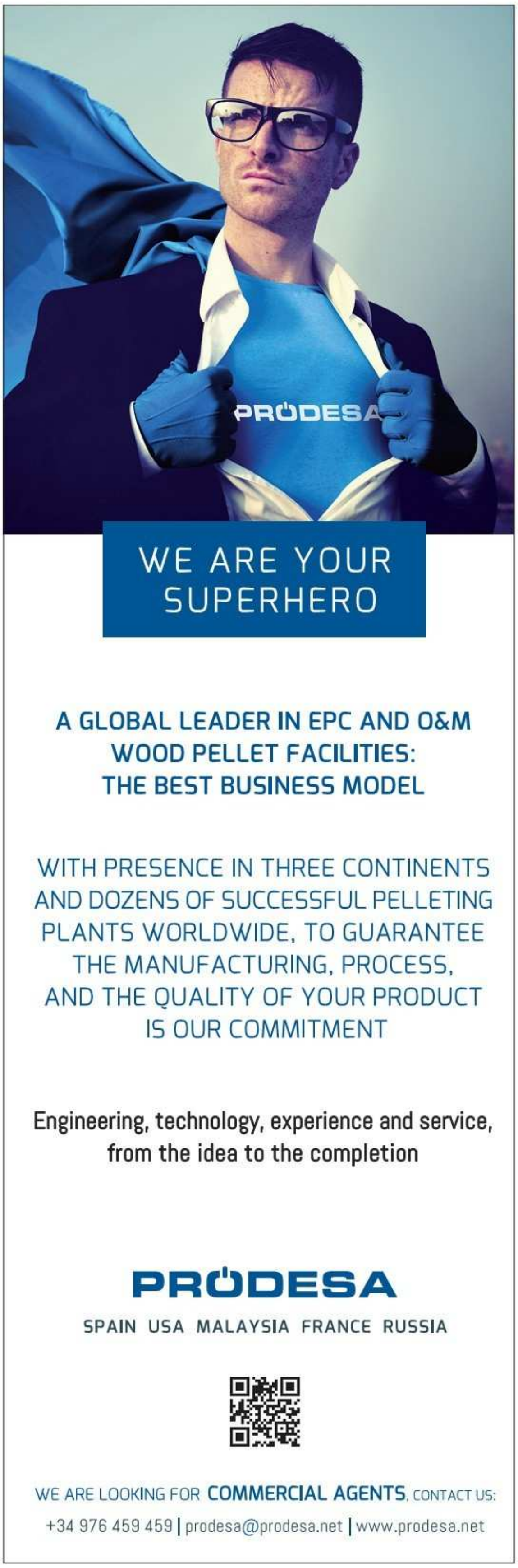
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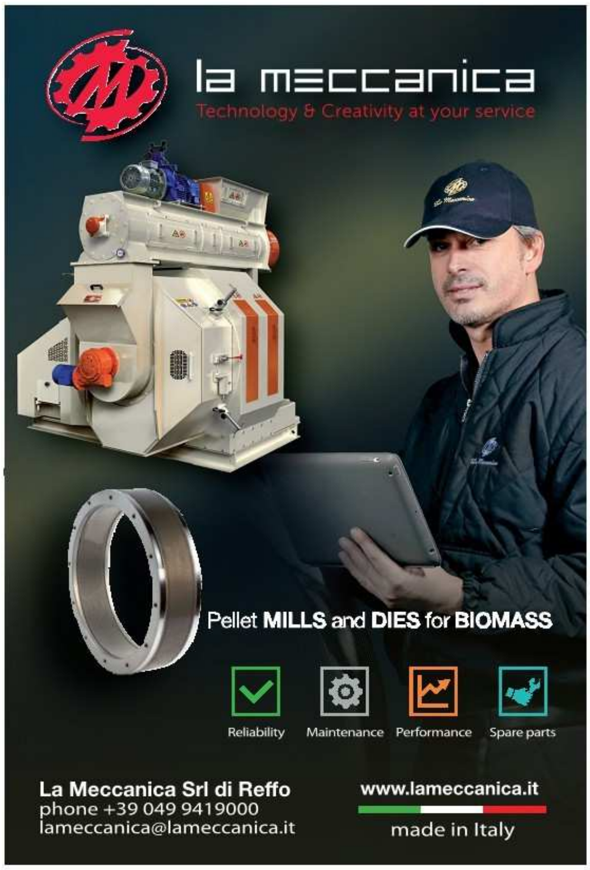
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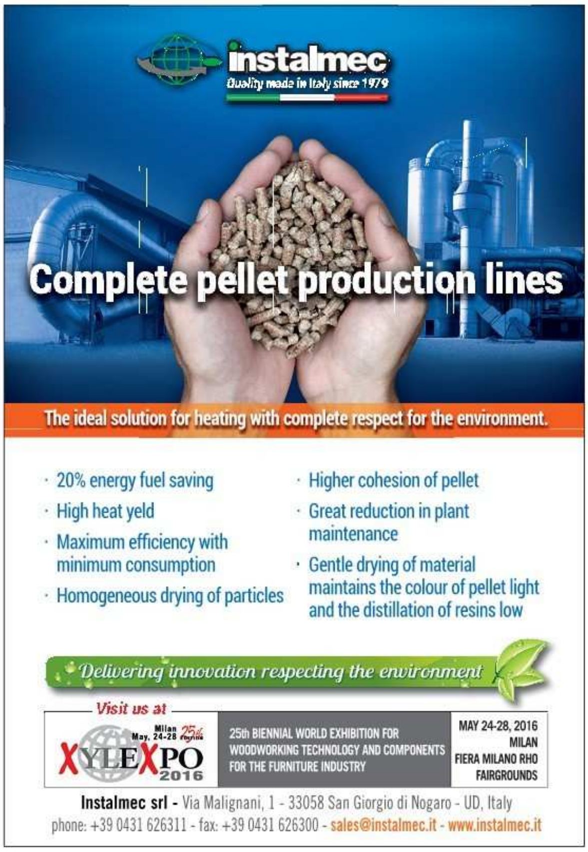
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Sumitomo to invest in Brazilian biomass pellet production

Japan-based Sumitomo Corporation has announced that it has signed a contract to acquire up to 20 percent stake in Brazilian company Cosan Biomassa S.A., a producer and distributor of sugarcane biomass pellets and subsidiary of one of the world's largest sugar and ethanol companies Cosan S.A. Industria e Comercio. The deal is subject to the prior approval of anti-trust authorities in some jurisdictions.

Cosan Biomassa has developed a fuel pellet made from sugarcane residues such as bagasse and straw. In December 2015 it began production at the world's first large-scale production plant, annual capacity 175 000 tonnes, for this type of pellet.

– Brazil is already among the largest producers and exporters of agricultural commodities in the world. Pelletized biomass is a new commodity being created to serve the low carbon economy. By making use of sugarcane residues and benefiting from the economic and environmental advantages that the shift to rail logistics brings to the game, Brazil is positioned to become the Saudi Arabia of renewable energy, said Mark Lyra, CEO, Cosan Biomassa.

Through the participation of Sumitomo Corporation, Cosan Biomassa will increase its exports to Japan and Europe along with increased domestic sales. Sumitomo started importing biomass fuel for power generation to Japan in 2008 and manages a biomass power plant via its subsidiary, Summit Energy Corporation, which plans to build a couple of more. Sumitomo has been in search for competitive and sustainable resources outside of Japan to supplement domestic biomass resources, and also to step into the European market, where bulk of fuel pellet demands exists. The company regards Cosan Biomassa as an ideal resource to fulfill both needs.

– By 2030, we foresee that Japan will consume as much as 10 million tonnes of pelletized biomass, or even more most of which would come from overseas. Renewable energy including biomass will play a prominent role in our power generation sector by that time. We envisage that a relevant portion of this demand will be met by agricultural waste, particularly sugarcane biomass pellets produced in Brazil. Sugarcane's productivity and abundant availability tied to the fact that we are using its residual by-product as a raw material gives us a unique sustainability condition when compared to other biomass sources in the world, said Yoshinobu Kusano, General Manager, Biomass Business, Sumitomo Corporation.

According to the statement there is a significant amount of sugarcane residue annually available for biomass pellet production in the State of Sao Paulo, and Cosan S.A. is a dominant player via its parent company. With this abundant availability, the venture would aim to produce 2 million tonnes by 2025, and up to 8 million tonnes biomass pellets in the future, subject to future growth of the market as well as a satisfactory return.

BI85/5256/AS

First shipment of energy pellets

International "waste-to-product" business, UK-headed Shanks Group plc, has shipped the first cargo of "ICOPOWER" energy pellets from its own quay in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Last year the company secured a six-year contract extension with Heidelberg Cement Group for the supply of its energy pellets, which are used to power cement kilns and to produce cement clinker. Under the contract, Icopower, part of the Group's Solid Waste Division will supply Heidelberg with an increased volume of 54 000 tonnes per annum. Shanks invested in its own quay in the Port of Amsterdam to underpin the servicing the contract along with a new 2 300 m^2 storage shed at its Icova site in Amsterdam.

The company has developed a tailored production process that employs a unique combination of sorting, drying and pelletising technology. Specifically collected commercial waste is used as feedstock to make high calorific pellets that meet strict production specifications. Due to their consistent and specific chemical composition, the energy pellets are not classified as a waste product in the Netherlands, unlike solid recovered fuel (SRF) or refuse derived fuel (RDF).

– The extension of this important contract is in line with our strategy of making more from waste. It provides us with a guaranteed outlet for our energy pellets for the next six years and also generates cost savings through increased efficiencies, said Michael van Hulst, Managing Director of Shanks' Commercial Division.

BI85/5248/AS

Portucel pellet plant well underway

Photo Prodesa

In April 2015 Spain-headed pellet plant developer and technology supplier Prodesa Medioambiente S.L was awarded a contract by the Portuguese pulp and paper group Portucel, to supply milling and pelleting production lines for its new Colombo Energy pellet plant in the US. Sited in Greenwood County, South Carolina the plant is under construction with first pellets off the production line slated for summer 2016. Once fully operational, the new facility will have an annual production capacity to produce 460 000 tonnes of pellets, creating 70 new local jobs. The estimated global investment of the project is US$110 million.

Portucel is an integrated forest, pulp, paper and energy group that is currently Europe's largest producer of uncoated wood free paper, with a total annual paper capacity of 1.5 million tonnes and eucalyptus pulp capacity of 1.3 million tonnes.

As part of its responsibilities in the project, Prodesa will supply the complete milling, pelleting and cooling lines, including five large hammer mills, 15 pellet mills, five vertical coolers and over 1 800 instrument signals to be processed through the PLC to enable a safe and well informed operation of the plant. Prodesa's scope of supply includes project engineering, technical support, installation, start up, training, and the after sales service and maintenance of the plant under a two year contract.

From its US facilities in Alpharetta, GA, Prodesa is committed to the development and construction of pellets plants, and also provides support and help to its clients with the maintenance and operation of the plant.

– This minimizes the learning curve required to reach full capacity, keeping the plant running and producing at the required capacity and quality during the critical first months of the plant, said José Ignacio Pedrajas, Business Development Manager, Prodesa.

Being accountable for the last part of the process where the pellets are manufactured, Prodesa is responsible for the quality of the pellets, which in this case means delivering 100 percent of the capacity to I2 pellet quality standards. The pellets are destined for export to undisclosed European utilities for co-firing.

BI85/5242/AS