

## **BIOMASS PLANT LANDS MAJOR INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENT AWARD**



Green success: Paul Gavens (left) Executive Vice President and Managing Director of SembCorp Utilities UK receives the NEPIC Environment Award for North East Businesses from Mike Huggon, Managing Director of BOC for the UK&Ireland.

SembCorp's new biomass power station has scooped a major award for environmental achievement.

The plant, which uses around 300,000 tonnes of wood a year as a fuel to generate enough electricity to power around 30,000 homes, has won a top award from north east business leaders.

Judges on behalf of the North East Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC) voted SembCorp's Wilton asset the winner in the Environment Award for North East Businesses category, sponsored by BOC.

Dave Lockyer, BOC Tonnage Account Manager and one of the award judges was particularly impressed with SembCorp's 'wood to energy' approach. He said: "The new station is a beacon of environmental achievement both locally and nationally and

SembCorp deserves praise for having the vision and determination to deliver such a significant project.”

Paul Gavens, Managing Director of SembCorp Utilities UK, said: “We are delighted to receive this award. This project will make a significant contribution to Government’s aim for renewable energy schemes to meet 20 per cent of the UK’s energy needs by 2010 and help the country in meeting its long-term target of achieving a 60 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.”

The plant saves around 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year compared with a conventional power station – the equivalent of the carbon exhaust emissions of around 67,000 vehicles.

Nearly half of the total energy value of the wood comes from the recycled timber supplied to SembCorp (much of which was previously sent to landfill) with around 20 per cent of the total energy produced coming from the three other supplies of wood - from managed forests in the north east, sawmills and a specially grown energy crop.

The plant began commercial operation in September last year and was officially opened by Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks in November.

SembCorp’s project was selected as the winner for its positive environmental impact, sustainability and commercial impact.

The company will donate the £2000 prize money to South Bank Community Primary School, close to the Wilton International site. Teachers will put the money towards the planting of saplings on a section of the school field and creating a covered bedding area for youngsters to grow plants.

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### **NEPIC (The North East Process Industry Cluster)**

NEPIC is an organisation representing 500 pharmaceutical, biotechnology, speciality, commodity and petrochemical companies based in North-east England.

NEPIC companies are vital to the North-east economy, providing £8bn of GDP and over 25 percent of the region’s industrial base, employing 34,000 people and impacting the income of a further 200,000. NEPIC aims to create more jobs in the North-east and acts as a catalyst for new businesses, promoting a world leading infrastructure to attract major capital investment.