

Abengoa opens the new sulfur recovery plant in the Port of Bilbao

- The plant has the capacity to treat 120,000 tons of sulfur and produce 350,000 tons of sulfuric acid and oleum in an efficient, sustainable and safe way.
- The project required an investment of €70 million and currently employs more than 35 people.

Zierbena, (Vizcaya), October 17, 2012. The Regional Minister of Industry, Innovation, Trade and Tourism of the regional government of the Basque Country, today opened the new sulfur recovery plant constructed by Befesa, Abengoa's industrial waste recycling company, in the Port of Bilbao, Zierbena (Vizcaya). The Basque minister was accompanied by Marce Elorza, Mayor of Zierbena; Javier Molina Montes, chairman of Befesa; and Asier Zarraonandia Ayo, the sulfur recovery manager.

The main activity of this plant, which required an investment of more than €70 million, is to produce sulfuric acid and oleum from sulfur and other desulfurization waste. The new facilities have the capacity to treat 120,000 tons of sulfur and produce 350,000 tons of sulfuric acid and oleum.

However, thanks to a thermal recovery system, the plant will also generate more than 90,000 MW of electricity per annum from the waste sulfur recovery process, of which around 30,000 MW will be used by the plant and the remaining 60,000 MW will be sold to the network.

The sulfuric acid production plant, which uses waste sulfur, employs more than 35 people who work around the clock in shifts since the plant operates uninterrupted 24 hours per day, 365 days of the year.

The business of producing sulfuric acid and oleum (a compound rich in SO_3) from waste sulfur recovered from plants in the petrochemicals sector, offers a more efficient, sustainable and safer way of managing the environmental impact of oil companies using a cleaner and more reliable process.

The plant therefore has the most modern and efficient technology, much of which is considered as "best available techniques" according to the European Union's BREF reference documents. These European standards establish the best environmental practices for each sector.

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Innovative technology solutions for **sustainability**

The sulfur recovery business is part of the industrial waste management area in which Abengoa is the number one Spanish firm in terms of treated volume as well as one of the leading players in the countries in which it operates. Its main competitive advantage is its presence across the whole of the industrial waste management cycle, achieving important synergies between the different links in the chain.

The launch of this plant represents another step for Abengoa and its technology in solving the serious problem of managing waste and promoting sustainable development.

About Abengoa

Abengoa (MCE: ABG) is an international company that applies innovative technology solutions for sustainable development in the energy and environment sectors, generating electricity from the sun, producing biofuels, desalinating sea water and recycling industrial waste. (www.abengoa.com)

Communication Department contact

Patricia Malo de Molina Meléndez
Loreto González Goizueta
Tel: +34 954 93 71 11
E-mail: communication@abengoa.com

Investor Relations contact

Bárbara Zubiría Furest
Irene Sánchez Aizpurua
Tel: +34 954 937 111
E-mail: ir@abengoa.com