



Pressemitteilung

Press release · Communiqué de presse

Vechta, February 2016

WELTEC Group Acquires 3.3 MW Biogas Plant

Comprehensive Restructuring Makes Plant Operation Sustainable

In 2015, the WELTEC Group had acquired two biomethane refineries. Now the company has taken the next step on its growth path: In January 2016, Nordmethan GmbH, a subsidiary of the plant manufacturer WELTEC BIOPOWER, purchased an existing biogas plant in Falkenhagen, Brandenburg, Germany.

Following the fundamental technical and administrative restructuring and modernisation, the currently decommissioned Falkenhagen biogas plant is expected to resume operations towards the end of 2016. Upon go-live, the plant with its five digesters, five post-digesters, five digestate storage units and six combined heat and power (CHP) plant will generate 3.3 MW of electricity. The power will be fed into the public power grid, and the exhaust heat from the CHP plant is to be used for the digestate drying process.

The plant had been built in 2007 and commissioned in 2008. Until 2015, the plant was operated by various owners. By means of renovation investments totalling about €2 million, the WELTEC Group wants to re-enable profitable operation. Among other things, the restructuring measures comprise the replacement of all solid matter input systems and a general overhaul of the six CHP plants. All tank roofs are to be replaced, and the mixer technology is to be serviced and replaced if necessary. Moreover, the pumps will be replaced, the control technology will be modernised, and the three dryers will be repaired.

Jens Albartus, Director of WELTEC BIOPOWER and of Nordmethan, is confident that these measures will enable economically successful operation of the biogas plant in Falkenhagen. Former employees have been taken over within the scope of the acquisition, thereby securing jobs. "The biogas plant features a concept that we can build on", says Albartus. One of the reasons for the purchase was that due to Nordmethan's nearby biomethane plant, the company has long-standing contacts with local farmers. Thus, it was easy to find regional partners to supply substrates – primarily maize silage and pig manure – for the Falkenhagen site.

If things develop as expected, the WELTEC Group might decide to expand its biomethane refinery and biogas plant operations. "Our strength lies in the scope of our group: The array of WELTEC BIOPOWER and Nordmethan is capable of covering the entire biogas value chain from the planning stage to permanent operation", explains Albartus.

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Pictures/Captions



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Towards the end of 2016 the six combined heat and power (CHP) plant will generate 3.3 MW of electricity.

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Company Portraits

WELTEC BIOPOWER GmbH is one of the world's leading enterprises in the field of stainless-steel biogas plant construction. The company has planned, developed and built anaerobic digestion plants since 2001. Today, the medium-sized company has about 80 employees at the headquarters in Vechta, Germany, and has established more than 300 energy plants in 25 countries worldwide. The global distribution and service network spans six continents. The range of customers includes businesses from the agriculture, food, waste and wastewater industries.

The strength of WELTEC BIOPOWER lies in custom-tailored design and technically mature solutions for projects up to 10 megawatt capacity. In this context, the high proportion of internally developed components is a key success factor. The company also owes its leading edge to the use of stainless steel. This enables the input of a diverse range of feedstocks, a fast and economic assembly and a consistently high quality standard – regardless of the location.

After a biogas plant goes live, WELTEC BIOPOWER offers additional support through its experienced mechanical and biological service team. 24/7 availability and an in-house lab contribute significantly to the efficiency of the plant. In addition, since 2008 the company has ensured certified internal quality and environmental management in accordance with the ISO 9001 and 14001 standards.

Nordmethan GmbH plans, develops and operates energy plants for the production and use of biomethane. Headquartered in Vechta, Lower Saxony, the company has been active throughout Germany since 2008. Together with the affiliated biogas plant manufacturer WELTEC BIOPOWER GmbH, the enterprise covers wide parts of the biogas value chain. The core segments of Nordmethan GmbH comprise the operation of biomethane refineries, power and heat contracting and energy management.

In the field of biomethane production, Nordmethan employs its expertise in the long-term operation of anaerobic digestion plants with gas processing technology. At four company-owned sites, the highly developed plants produce 27.8 million standard m³ of natural gas-grade biomethane, which is fed into the public gas grid and is thus available throughout Germany.

On the basis of this gas and tried-and-tested technologies, Nordmethan also supplies power and heat to its customers. 16 decentralised combined heat and power plants generate a total thermal output of 8.6 megawatt for municipalities as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, e.g. in the fields of horticulture and housing association. The customers benefit from low energy prices without any risk, as the cost of establishment, operation and maintenance of the CHP plants is borne by Nordmethan.

Nordmethan's credo is to guarantee reliable energy supply at stable prices, thereby ensuring the energy of tomorrow. Apart from the operation of energy plants, Nordmethan boasts competencies in future-oriented energy concepts, optimisation of existing heat generation plants and efficient management of energy flows.

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