

Press release

Niederweningen, 25 July 2011

Strengthened distribution of municipal sludge dewatering technologies

Bucher Unipektin and Degrémont, a subsidiary of Suez Environnement, have entered into a distribution partnership for municipal sludge dewatering technologies. The partnership combines Bucher Unipektin's innovative dewatering technology for municipal sludge with Degrémont's leading position in the water treatment industry. The partnership ideally complements the technological strength of Bucher Unipektin with the global market position of Degrémont in the municipal water market.

Bucher Unipektin in Niederweningen, Switzerland, a subsidiary of Bucher Industries AG, Switzerland, is the world's leading manufacturer of machines processing apples at unmatched yields into apple juice. The heart of its systems in solid-liquid separation technologies consists of the patented hydraulic press. The over decades accumulated expertise led Bucher Unipektin to redesign its robust and proven press technology with automatic and self-optimizing operation for dewatering municipal and industrial sludge. The Bucher sludge press delivers best dewatering results with lowest possible moisture contents. This results in significantly lower disposal costs for the dewatering process allowing in most cases the sludge to be incinerated without further drying or additional fuel injection.

For more than 70 years, Degrémont, a subsidiary of Suez Environnement, has been a leading world expert in offering water treatment solutions to its clients, local authorities or industries. Degrémont designs, builds, equips and operates facilities for drinking water production or desalination, wastewater treatment and water recycling plants, but also sludge treatment plants. After thorough assessment of Bucher Unipektin's press technology including the operating experience of major municipal wastewater treatment plants in Europe, Degrémont chose Bucher Unipektin as partner and equipment supplier to enhance and participate to Degrémont's innovative product offering.

The distribution partnership includes all 33 countries where Degrémont operates main subsidiaries or local branches and offers a win-win situation for both companies. While Bucher Unipektin profits from Degrémont's worldwide distribution network, Degrémont will take advantage of the preferred access to this particular innovative technology for sludge dewatering from Bucher Unipektin. The worldwide annual sales potential for Bucher Unipektin is estimated to reach Euro 20 million within the next four to five years.

“Bucher Unipektin is a world leading manufacturer of mechanical and thermal separation technologies and equipment for drying heat-sensitive products. The heart of its systems consists of the patented hydraulic press processing fruits at unmatched yields into fruit juice and dewatering sludge with lowest possible moisture contents. Within Suez Environnement, Degrémont has been the world water treatment specialist for more than 70 years. Operating worldwide with 4 500 employees, Degrémont generated revenues of Euro 1 520 million in 2010.

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Simply great machines

Bucher Industries is a global technology group with leading market positions in speciality areas of mechanical and vehicle engineering. The company's operations currently include specialised agricultural machinery, municipal vehicles, hydraulic components, manufacturing equipment for the glass container industry, and wine and fruit juice production equipment. Bucher Industries' shares are traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange (SIX: BUCN). More information can be found at www.bucherind.com.