

Pressemitteilung · Press Release

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One of the most modern plants in Europe

Official Opening of Plymouth Energy from Waste CHP Facility – Bell made from recycled aluminium marks entrance to the site

After more than six months of successful operation, the Plymouth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility has today been officially opened by Councillor Roger Croad, chairman of the South-West Devon Waste Partnership (SWDWP) in the presence of Dr Georg Müller, CEO of MVV Energie AG, and Mr John Meaken, Head of Naval Safety at HMN Base Devonport.

“We are all proud and happy to officially mark the start of operations of one of the most modern energy from waste power plants in Europe”, Dr Georg Müller said in his speech. “The name itself shows what makes this plant so special. Plymouth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Plant certainly is a mouthful, but it brings it all together: We make the best use of residual waste after recycling has taken place and extract the energy with a high degree of efficiency, thereby avoiding landfill and offering a clean and sustainable solution for the residual waste from Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon.”

Mr John Meaken, Head of Naval Base Safety, HMNB Devonport, said, “The opening of the Devonport Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility marks the culmination of more than six years work in considering, negotiating and implementing many new ideas and measures to supply the Royal Navy and the Naval Base with its energy demands. We are proud of the cooperation we exercised with MVV and their local authority partners, of the benefits that will allow the Naval Base to be more competitive, and the environmentally sustainable manner in which our energy needs are now being met.”

Looking back, Councillor Roger Croad, chairman of SWDWP, said: “Back in 2007, Devon, Torbay and Plymouth Councils each had a major waste problem with their over-reliance on landfill. So we began talking about a new joint solution and formed the South West Devon Waste Partnership (SWDWP) to undertake a procurement process. Liaising with DEFRA, the project attracted PFI credits and MVV became the appointed contractor. The solution is very much ‘energy focused’ rather than ‘waste focused’. Located at Devonport, supplying electricity and heat directly to the Naval Base has made this solution so cost effective and sustainable.”

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The official opening was marked by the ringing of a large bell at the entrance to the Facility's site. This bell is part of an artwork called "Redivivus" by the renowned Cornish artist Alastair Mackie. It was cast from aluminium recovered from the ash residues of the waste combustion process in the Facility.

Total construction time for the Facility was just over three years. During this time, as well as during the planning phase, MVV Environment Devonport maintained a continual dialogue with the public about the project. Dr Müller said: "One of our most important concerns is, and always will be, a good relationship with our neighbours. Their concerns will always be taken seriously, and acted upon." Additionally, MVV Environment Devonport will fund the North Yard Community Trust for the next 25 years. This trust supports numerous projects which improve life in the area, especially with regard to the chances offered to children and young adults."

Note to Editors:

MVV Environment Devonport Limited is an English registered company with its registered office in Plymouth. It is a subsidiary company of MVV Umwelt. Both companies are members of German utility company MVV Energie, whose headquarters are in Mannheim. MVV Umwelt provides flexible solutions for waste disposal, producing environmentally sustainable energy. In Germany, MVV Umwelt operates five Energy from Waste and biomass facilities, managing 1.6 million tonnes of waste a year. With over 45 years' experience, MVV Umwelt is in the top three companies in Germany in its field.

The facility at Devonport makes use of around 245,000 tonnes per year of household, commercial and industrial residual waste. The waste originates from the communities of the South West Devon Waste Partnership, a partnership between Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Devon County Council. The Facility generates around 190,000 megawatt hours of electricity and around 60,000 megawatt hours of steam for heating purposes per year. The energy is delivered to the neighbouring dockyard and Her Majesty's Naval Base Devonport. It replaces the natural gas-based heating energy generation there and thus cuts CO₂ emissions by around 77,000 tonnes a year.

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