



## Pressemitteilung

Press release · Communiqué de presse

Vechta, August 2015

### Beat the Clock with WELTEC Fast construction of biogas plants is more important than ever

**On July 21, 2015 the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) announced a consultation period on proposed changes to the feed-in tariff accreditation. The consultation is relatively short and runs up to the 19<sup>th</sup> August. DECC has indicated an announcement soon after.**

For the biogas industry this is likely to mean the abolition of pre-accreditation. This makes it possible in the future to lower the feed-in tariff (FIT) during the development phase of anaerobic digestion projects up to 5 megawatts capacity. To date, pre-accreditation has helped secure a feed-in tariff rate and positive investment climate: Operators had security of promised feed-in tariffs when their plant went live within twelve months from the pre-accreditation, so this year could be used for the final engineering and the construction.

With the announced changes, the fast realization of projects currently under development is critical. Only when projects are implemented quickly, can you then calculate the quarterly digressions of the feed-in tariff. An example of the competitive advantage offered by WELTEC BIOPOWER is the 500kw agricultural biogas plant which was recently built near Cullompton (Devon). The experienced team of engineers and biologists constructed and commissioned the plant fast, on time and within budget, to a tight deadline. The construction team arrived on site in August 2014, and a successful G59 test was achieved in December 2014. The flexible modular design of the stainless steel tanks as well as container solutions for the CHP, control unit and pump block were the key factors for assembly to commissioning after only a few months.

„Nevertheless, the termination of pre-accreditation will have a devastating effect on investors and not least fatal consequences for the achievement of climate change goals“ said Jens Albartus, the Managing Director of the biogas plant manufacturer WELTEC BIOPOWER (UK) Ltd. According to Mr Albartus, the complicating factor is that the abolition of the pre-accreditation is to be adopted in September and thus an extremely short time frame. The announcement to subject a further revision of the feed-in tariffs this year is very counterproductive, said Mr Albartus.

However, the manufacturer WELTEC BIOPOWER can help those affected by the changes publicized by DECC, and has an encouraging signal to the biogas industry as an answer to the announcement. „With an experienced partner at your side, who implements AD projects quickly clients from all sectors can still realize an economic biogas plant operation,“ emphasizes Mr Albartus. The director asks the government for a sustainable long-term strategy for the British economy, to which the participants can orientate. „The feed-in tariff is a success story and such changes will be a massive risk“ emphasizes Mr Albartus.

These conditions are also necessary so that the UK achieves their ambitious goal: To deploy 15 percent of energy needs from renewable energy sources by the year 2020. Furthermore, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are to be reduced compared to 1990 by about three quarters. „In addition to wind and solar power, there must be another renewable source such as biogas, so the ecological energy mix has a solid basis“ summarizes Jens Albartus.

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Organic energy worldwide

### Pictures/Captions



*The G59 test was achieved only four months after start of assembly.*



*The 500kW AD plant in Devon is an example of the fast construction time of WELTEC BIOPOWER.*

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### Company Portrait

In 2015, biogas pioneer WELTEC BIOPOWER GmbH celebrated its 14th anniversary. To date, the company has planned and established more than 300 plants. Based on the modern approach of experienced engineers and the expertise of its 80 employees, the company from Vechta, Lower Saxony, offers complete biogas plants from one source and has developed into one of the world's leading providers of biogas plants.

In view of the corroding impact of the hydrogen sulphide and ammonia compounds contained in biogas on un-protected parts, WELTEC builds the fermenters from stainless steel, thereby ensuring a long useful life of the plant. Additionally, the manufacturing depth guarantees a consistently high standard regardless of the location and ensures an export rate that is far above the industry average.

The plants have a modular structure. WELTEC BIOPOWER uses only tried-and-tested system components and develops most of the technologies along the entire value chain internally: fermenter technology, mixing technology, control technology, hygienisation systems and digestate processing solutions have been developed in the company.

With its comprehensive services, WELTEC makes sure that its biogas plants are technically and economically stable. The CHP service guarantees stable output, the biological supervision continually monitors relevant parameters, and systematic repowering makes sure that the biogas plant is always up to date. Operators can choose from a range of different service packages.

One of the main strengths of the medium-sized enterprise is its ability to deliver individual and flexible solutions – from compact plants to large computer-controlled plants in the megawatt range, waste recycling plants and biogas parks with gas processing technology.

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