

Press release

Wieselburg, February 1st, 2012

EU research project SafePellets started

SafePellets supports the development of quality assurance and safety measures along the biomass pellets supply chain

SafePellets (Safety and quality assurance measures along the pellets supply chain) is performed and funded under the Research for the Benefit of SMEs activity of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union. The consortium consists of SME-industry partners and research institutes coming from five EU member states, in total 15 partners. The objective of the project is the development of guidelines for quality assurance measures along the pellets supply chain and solutions for safe handling and storage of pellets. In the course of the project methods for the assessment of off-gassing and self-heating shall be developed.

The project is driven by the joint interests of **SME-industry associations** and **SME-industries**. The partnering associations are the European Biomass Association, the Austrian Pellets Association, the German Pellets Association, the Swedish Pellets Association and the Danish Straw Association. The participating **SME-industries** are Firefly AB (SE), Laxå Pellets AB (SE) and Pusch AG (DE). Moreover, **large industries** – Verdo Energy A/S (DK) and Dansk Træemballage A/S (DK) – and **research partners** are contributing to the project. The research partners are Bioenergy 2020+ (AT), Danish Technological Institute (DK), Deutsches BiomasseForschungsZentrum (DE), SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SE).

The partners jointly aim to support international standardization work by developing guidelines for the safe production, handling, and storage of pellets from different sources. Moreover, partner Firefly plans to develop new sensor solutions to detect fires and off-gases in pellet storages of different scale. The overall findings of SafePellets shall be implemented as quality assurance and safety measures in guidelines serving the European biomass pellets industry and its customers. The partners jointly contribute with their method know-how, their competences in the fields of analytical chemistry and fire protection and their expertise on pellets production, storage and supply chain technology. The associations together with the industry partners will evaluate the proposed guidelines regarding their practical applicability and promote the implementation of novel industrial solutions for mitigation of risks associated with off-gassing and self-heating.

The project SafePellets is coordinated by Bioenergy 2020+. The duration of the project is three years. The budget is 4,0 Mio Euro, with 2,8 Mio Euro coming from EU funds. The kick-off meeting took place on January 25th and 26th 2012 in Wieselburg, Austria.

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