



PRESS RELEASE

Evergaz enters the Belgian biogas market, strengthening its European leadership position.

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Evergaz continues to develop in Europe by investing in two anaerobic digestion units in Belgium: AM Power (44%) in Egem and Bio NRGY (44%) in Aalter. These two plants are a joint venture with Stefaan Delabie, a biogas pioneer in Belgium.

In keeping with their development in Germany in 2017, their partnership with SICAE-Oise to develop anaerobic digestion in the Oise, Somme and Aisne departments in February, and after the Meridiam investment fund acquired an interest in Evergaz in April, this Belgian transaction confirms Evergaz's strong ambition while reinforcing their status as French and European expert in biogas.

[Belgian anaerobic digestion units are among the largest in Europe](#)

With a capacity of 7.5MWel. and the ability to treat 180,000 metric tonnes of waste per year, AM Power is one of Europe's largest sites. The unit was developed and started up in 2012 by Stefaan Delabie. It treats a broad range of waste and by-products, essentially livestock manure and waste from agri-food industries, and supplies power to more than 11,000 people. Dry digestate is sold as natural fertiliser.

In operation since 2012, BioNRGY, initially owned by Eneco (a Dutch company specialising in green energy production), was taken over by Stefaan Delabie in 2014. The unit treats manure, slurry, by-products, glycerin, etc., with a treatment capacity of 60,000 metric tonnes per year, and biogas recovery in a 2.9MWel cogeneration unit.

[Implementation of an innovative digestate treatment system, unique in Europe](#)

The partnership between Evergaz and Stefaan Delabie was established based on an innovative industrial digestate treatment project, developed and tested by Stefaan Delabie for 5 years. AM-Power is a partner in a large-scale European Union H2020 project known as "SYSTEMIC". AM-Power is one of the five European demonstration plants where developments are underway for the post-treatment of digestate, more specifically the recovery of nutrients. This process consists of extracting water from liquid digestate to reduce the volumes to be spread. The implementation of this system on both sites is a reflection of Evergaz's desire to find unique digestate treatment solutions, and draw on Evergaz's expertise in and feedback from the operation of biogas plants. Digestate treatment and recovery are key issues for anaerobic digestion, notably in France where regulatory changes are currently envisaged in this domain (study of the implementation of specifications for territorial anaerobic digestion, announced by Sébastien Lecornu in March 2018). The RGREEN INVEST management company will contribute to funding the industrial project in conjunction with EVERGAZ Belgium.

Biogas, a future-oriented sector

Biogas is at the very heart of energy and ecological transition. As an organic waste treatment solution, biogas production by anaerobic digestion also produces renewable energy – electricity and heat, biomethane fed into gas networks, or bioNGV (fuel gas) – and a natural fertiliser with recognised agronomic properties, substitutable for chemical fertilisers. Underdeveloped in France – 600 biogas plants only, compared with 9,000 in Germany – the anaerobic digestion sector is one of the government's priorities. A task force was set up in January, led by Sébastien Lecornu, Secretary of State to the Minister of Ecological and Inclusive Transition. The findings were published by the Ministry on 26 March, announcing a number of extremely positive incentives for the sector, aimed at developing biogas on French territory.

Evergaz's approach is coherent with the dynamic of the sector in France and Europe, and the company leverages its unique expertise, gained following feedback from the operation of its anaerobic digestion units. With 10 existing biogas plants in Europe - 6 plants in France, 2 in Germany and 2 in Belgium - Evergaz is targeting, by 2022, an objective of 120 million Nm³ annual biomethane energy production, 64MWel. installed capacity and the treatment of more than 1 million metric tons of waste per year.

ABOUT EVERGAZ

As an integrated operator specialising in biogas production and usage development, Evergaz develops, owns and operates a portfolio of biogas production plants. Created in 2008 as Holding Verte under the initiative of AQUA, investor-accelerator in the environment and energy sector, Evergaz supports and brings together territorial stakeholders - farmers, industrial companies and public authorities - to provide a sustainable organic waste management and treatment solution while producing green energy as well as a natural fertiliser.

Committed to developing the French biogas industry, Evergaz is a founding member of Biogaz Vallée® and France Biométhane. Evergaz is run by Alain Planchot, CEO, and Frédéric Flipo, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and co-founder. Evergaz is an independent company, majority owned by its management team, AQUA and Meridiam.

Find out more on: www.evergaz.com

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