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**Electrabel (SUEZ) chooses Wilhelmshaven to build a coal-fired power plant in Germany**

Electrabel chose Wilhelmshaven site on which to build its first coal fired power plant in Germany. With the highest attainable efficiency to date of 46%, the power station will provide a stable supply of energy in a profitable and environmentally friendly way. It will indeed benefit from the most recent technologies. Every year, approximately 900,000 t CO<sub>2</sub> can be spared when compared to a current conventional plant in Germany.

Electrabel and Rhenus Midgard further signed a 40-year coal supply contract. The fuel supply of the new power station will use the Lower Saxony Bridge, an engineering structure in which the state of Lower Saxony will invest €21 million in the coming years.

Erik von Scholz, CEO of Electrabel Deutschland AG, and the mayor of Wilhelmshaven, Eberhard Menzel, signed a partnership agreement. This contract comprises the continuous cooperation between the city and the company and a concrete plan for the future stages to be implemented. Erik von Scholz stated that, "We need local and reliable partners for a project of this magnitude to materialise. The city of Wilhelmshaven is such a partner". Eberhard Menzel added that he is "convinced that Electrabel's ambitious project for Wilhelmshaven will be further developed with the reliability and solid basis of trust, which were shown during the previous exchanges and negotiations."

Construction of the plant will begin in 2008. After four years of construction works and an investment of around one billion euros, it should be commissioned in 2012. The complete documentation required for permission to be granted has just been sent to the Supervisory Office in Oldenburg.

Electrabel is preparing the construction of a second 800 MW power station in northern Germany. It is planned to be commissioned at the end of 2012, either in Brunsbüttel or in Stade.

**Electrabel, a European supplier of comprehensive, tailored energy solutions**

Electrabel is one of the front-ranking power companies in Europe and the leader in the Benelux. It is taking advantage of opportunities offered by deregulation of the electricity and gas markets to achieve sustainable growth in Europe while keeping to strict criteria of profitability.

The company develops its range of energy products and services by exploiting the synergies between electricity and natural gas. It offers a tailor-made solution for each customer, characterised by quality and close support, acting through marketing subsidiaries and partnerships with local operators.

The company manages a diversified range of generating facilities totalling more than 30,000 MW, and carries out trading on all the energy markets. In Belgium it operates the electricity and gas networks on behalf of the distribution network operators.

Electrabel is a member of Suez, an international industrial and services group operating in the fields of energy and the environment.

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*Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.*

*Ce communiqué de presse est également disponible en français.*