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Electrabel, Group GDF SUEZ, inaugurates biomass generating system at Gelderland power station in the Netherlands

Electrabel, Group GDF SUEZ, will put a new biomass installation into operation in its Gelderland power station in Nijmegen (Netherlands) on Thursday, 22 April. In this way Electrabel is making a significant contribution to sustainable energy generation in the Netherlands. The official inauguration will be attended by Mr. Jan van der Meer, alderman energy and climate of Nijmegen, and Mr. Ruud Bos, CEO of Electrabel Nederland.

The Gelderland power station is a coal/biomass power station with a total capacity of 590 MW. Thanks to conversion of the power station, about one quarter of the coal formerly burned will be replaced by biomass. This will raise the Gelderland biomass capacity from 44 MW to 180 MW, enough to supply 250 000 Dutch households with "green electricity." The biomass consists of wood pellets (compressed sawdust), with 470 000 tonnes annually being used as a clean fuel for the power station. The result will be a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 750 000 tonnes per year, the equivalent of the CO₂-advantage of about 250 wind turbines. The conversion represents an investment of more than 40 million euro.

P R E S S E L E C T R A B E L

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Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands. Ce communiqué de presse est aussi disponible en français.

Sustainable development is an important part of the strategy of Electrabel and the GDF SUEZ Group. One of the challenges for our company is to assure the energy supply at an acceptable price while respecting the environment.

Worldwide, 20% of the Group's generating capacity is based on renewable resources. In the Netherlands, thanks to the new installation the Group triples its renewable capacity, from wind power and biomass. Currently a new coal and biomass power station is being built in the Maasvlakte area of Rotterdam that will be able to run 50% on biomass, thus further raising the renewable capacity while limiting CO₂ emissions and strengthening the position of GDF SUEZ as a European leader in biomass.