



Pressemitteilung

Press release · Communiqué de presse

Vechta, May 2020

WELTEC BIOPOWER Builds Biogas Plant for Greek Abattoir

Efficient Bioenergy Generation from Animal Waste

In the summer of 2020, the German plant manufacturer WELTEC BIOPOWER will start building a biogas plant in Veria, northern Greece. The main investor and operator of the project is one of the largest abattoirs for cattle and pigs in Greece. The 500-kW plant – which WELTEC has planned in collaboration with its Greek partner Tectoros Machinery in Megara – is set to go live as early as mid-November 2020.

For many years, a lot of animal waste has accumulated in the north of Greece. According to the Greek research institute CRES, the waste from animal husbandry and slaughtering throughout Greece amounts to 17.5 million t/year. This corresponds to a potential biogas capacity of approximately 370 MW. The capacity currently installed in Greece is only about 83 MW.

The new WELTEC plant in Veria will make use part of these resources for the generation of energy. The anaerobic digestion process will mainly use cattle manure and meat processing leftovers. Apart from these substrates, the 4,903-m³ stainless-steel digester will also be fed with production wastewater and fats. The input substances will come from the operator's own abattoir and farms as well as from farmers in the vicinity.

The highly efficient digestion will start with a customised input process. For this purpose, the substrates will first be loaded into a 60-m³ moving floor feeder. The feeder will transport solid substrates, such as orange peels, to the **MULTIMix** unit, where they will be shredded and then pumped to the digester. Liquid substrates will be pumped directly into the digester from two storage units. „Following the digestion process, the entire digestate will be treated in a downstream hygienisation unit“, explains Alain Priser, International Sales Manager at WELTEC BIOPOWER.

Meanwhile, Greek investors are looking for such custom-tailored plants in order to make profitable and climate-neutral use of the wide variety of raw materials. This is the only way how the share of renewable energies in the power generation can be doubled from the current level of 30 percent to 60 percent in 2030. This target was defined in National Energy and Climate Plan 2021 to 2030 (NECP) adopted by Greece. An intermediate step will be to shut down 14 coal-fired power plants in the next five years. Besides natural gas, renewable energies are to play a key role in closing the resulting power supply gap.

In the coming decade, Greece will invest some €9 billion in such plants. During this period, the installed biogas and biomass utilisation capacity is expected to triple. In this process, new laws are to provide investment security. „The Greek power grid operators will be required to preferentially connect these plants to the grid, purchase their electricity and pay defined minimum prices“, explains WELTEC's Greek partner John Tectoros. Tectoros Machinery and WELTEC BIOPOWER have collaborated in the Greek energy reform since 2007. With a portfolio of 18 plants and extensions that they have set up, they are the market leader for biogas plants in Greece. Based on the concept of the latest plant in Veria, more plants are likely to be added to the portfolio.

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Organic energy worldwide

Pictures/Captions



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Company Portrait

WELTEC BIOPOWER GmbH is one of the world's leading enterprises in the field of stainless-steel biogas plant construction. The company has planned, developed and built anaerobic digestion plants since 2001. Today, the medium-sized company has about 80 employees at the headquarters in Vechta, Germany, and has established more than 300 energy plants in 25 countries worldwide. The global distribution and service network spans six continents. The range of customers includes businesses from the agriculture, food, waste and wastewater industries.

The strength of **WELTEC BIOPOWER** lies in custom-tailored design and technically mature solutions for projects up to 10 megawatt capacity. In this context, the high proportion of internally developed components is a key success factor. The company also owes its leading edge to the use of stainless steel. This enables the input of a diverse range of feedstocks, a fast and economic assembly and a consistently high quality standard regardless of the location.

After a biogas plant goes live, **WELTEC BIOPOWER** offers additional support through its experienced mechanical and biological service team. 24/7 availability contribute significantly to the efficiency of the plant.

Nordmethan, a subsidiary company of **WELTEC BIOPOWER**, addresses another business area: The operation of biomethane plants and the provision of heat through energy contracting. In this way, the **WELTEC** Group covers the entire value chain of energy generation with biogas and biomethane – from the plant construction to the plant operation.

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