



MUIRHOUSE

FARM PARTNERSHIP

PRESS RELEASE

Open for Bio Business

Launch of Scotland's newest bio-fuel production plant

First commercial customer fills up

Visit of Vice-Chairman of Parliamentary Renewable Fuels Committee

Muirhouse Farm, Stow, Scottish Borders: Monday 7th April 2008. Bio-diesel from Scotland's newest farm-based bio-fuel production plant started flowing today. Iver Salvesen, who owns the 600 acre Muirhouse Farm near Stow, has invested in the facilities as part of his farm diversification programme. Today marked the launch of commercial operations with the supply of the first batch of Muirhouse bio-diesel to The Edinburgh Airport Car Wash Company.

On hand to declare the Muirhouse facility open was Lord Palmer, President of the transport division of the Renewable Energy Authority and Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Renewable Fuels Committee.

Declaring the new plant open, **Lord Palmer** said: "Two things are certain: global fossil fuel stocks are limited and demand for them is ever increasing. Rising populations

around the world and the dramatic growth in the new economies such as China and India are just two factors in this. Fuel and energy shortages are looming and I strongly believe that bio-fuels offer us part of a solution by providing much needed extra fuel capacity.

“With high oil prices, now is the time we should be encouraging increased bio-fuel use but the British Government continues to display a lack of joined-up thinking in this area. For example, on the one hand the Government has signed up to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) which comes into force this month and which is designed to encourage the use of alternative bio-fuels. On the other, last month’s Budget Statement announced a significant bio-fuel price rise in 2010. This is a muddled approach which does little to promote the research and investment into alternative fuel sources which we so vitally need.”

Commenting, **Iver Salvesen** said: “I strongly believe that one of the best ways to reduce damage to the environment is to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. That’s why, last year, we made the significant investment needed to set up our own bio-diesel production unit and planted our first crop of oilseed rape. Since September, we have successfully been running our own vehicles on our own bio-diesel. We are delighted now to have reached the output level where we can offer Muirhouse bio-diesel to a wider market.

“This year’s Budget was very disappointing. The Government have effectively announced a 40% increase in bio-diesel fuel tax, removing at one stroke the commercial attraction of bio-diesel just at the very time when an increasing number of people and companies are seeing the advantages of switching to renewable fuels.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

The opening of the Muirhouse Farm bio-diesel facility comes at a time of increased focus on reducing our reliance on the diminishing stocks of global fossil fuels. A growing number of farmers throughout the country are actively considering setting up their own bio-fuel plants and a range of commercial transport operators, including some regional bus companies, are switching to bio-fuel. At the same time, public debate on bio-fuel production is increasing especially with the surprising measures included in the Government’s 2008 Budget which, from 2010, will remove the price advantage enjoyed by bio-diesel over ordinary diesel, effectively adding 20p per litre to the cost.

Lord Palmer is a former President of the British Association of Bio-Fuels and Oils (BABFO) and is President of the transport division of the Renewable Energy Authority. He is a member of the European Union Committee on Environment, Agriculture, Public Health & Consumer Protection. A long-time campaigner on behalf of bio-fuels, he was instrumental in persuading the British Government to adopt the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) which is due to come into force this month (April 2008). Under the terms of the RTFO, 2.5% of all road vehicle fuel is required to be supplied from sustainable, renewable sources. This will rise to 5% in 2010. The RTFO is expected to cut carbon emissions in the transport sector by up to 3%.

On his own Berwickshire farm at Manderston, Adrian Palmer is heavily involved in the growing of oilseed rape for bio-diesel production.

Iver Salvesen has owned Muirhouse Farm, near Stow in the Scottish Borders, since April 2003. The hill farm produces a wide variety of direct-to-end-user products: from lamb and beef from its own herds and Highland cattle to pheasant sausages. Muirhouse bio-diesel is refined from 100% crushed oilseed rape seed supplied locally from the Scottish Borders. The aim in 2008 is to deliver bio-diesel from crops grown directly on the farm. Refined bio-diesel requires no adaptations to standard diesel engines.

In addition to his farming and bio-fuel interests, he is the founder and Managing Director of The Natural House Co. which designs and supplies wooden houses from Scandinavian renewable sources.

The Edinburgh Airport Car Wash Company operates diesel-powered carwashes at Edinburgh and Glasgow airports. As part of its drive to promote eco-friendly practices and find alternative, non-fossil fuel sources, the company will in future run its machines on bio-diesel.

ENDS
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