Ferrybridge Multifuel 1 successfully passes another milestone

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The Ferrybridge Multifuel 1 (FM1) project under construction at Ferrybridge has cleared another major milestone in the commissioning process. Both of the boiler lines have undergone their ‘first fire’, which means that solid fuel has been burned for the first time at the new power station.

Construction work on the plant has been nearly completed and the facility is now deep into its commissioning phase to ensure all components and operating functions are robustly tested and all safety processes are in place. The ‘first fire’ marks an important milestone towards the completion of the plant, which is expected to enter full commercial operational before the end of 2015.

FM1 is owned by Multifuel Energy Limited (MEL) a joint venture between SSE and Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., is being built on land next to the existing Ferrybridge ‘C’ coal fired power station near Knottingley. Once FM1 is fully operational, it will be able to produce enough electricity to power around 160,000 homes*.

Nicholas Vigors of Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI), the main contractor for the construction of the plant said “The first fire marks a major milestone and is a culmination of the hard work of everybody who has been involved in the project to date. We still have a lot of work to do in order to finish the commissioning process and bring the plant into full commercial operation, but to have completed the first fires on lines one and two is a significant achievement which should be celebrated.”
Tom Mailet, Director of Engineering and Operations for MEL said: “All of the construction, commissioning and operations teams are delighted to have reached this key stage in the commissioning activities and we look forward to the plant being handed over to MEL later in the year.”

Further information about the Ferrybridge Multifuel projects is available on the website www.multifuelenergy.com or by contacting the project team by e-mail: info@multifuelenergy.com.

*Based on the industry average annual household consumption of 3,300 KWh of electricity and using a base load of circa 70MW net export capacity utilised for 8000 hours per annum.

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Notes to Editors

About MEL Ltd.

MEL is a 50:50 joint venture between SSE and Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. MEL is currently constructing a £300m multifuel generation facility at SSE’s Ferrybridge ‘C’ power station in West Yorkshire – known as Ferrybridge Multifuel 1 – and together the joint venture partnership has a pipeline of UK development projects.

SSE is one of the UK’s largest generators of electricity with around 11,700 MW of generation capacity in total (UK and Ireland) from the most diverse portfolio of power stations. It is the leading generator of electricity from renewable resources with a total generation capacity of around 3,400MW. Through its renewable development division, SSE Renewables, it is involved in the development of new renewable energy projects covering wind, wave, tidal, and hydro electricity.

Wheelabrator is a world leading energy from waste (EfW) company operating in North America, Europe and China. Wheelabrator is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Capital Partners, an energy focused private equity firm with over $13 billion in capital commitments.

Wheelabrator has developed, owned and operated EfW facilities for nearly 40 years. Today, it currently owns and/or operates 19 energy facilities in the United States, 15 of which are EfW.

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