

Electrabel builds a new 400 MW CCGT unit in Italy

On 9 April 2004, the Italian minister for industry authorised Electrabel to build and operate a 400 MW combined-cycle unit in Rosignano, in the Tuscany region of Italy. Electrabel started the construction works for this new plant in September 2004, this marked the completion of a long process pursued in close cooperation with Solvay.

This project is based in part on a framework agreement with Solvay stipulating the terms and conditions for installing the unit on its site in Rosignano and supplying its plant with electricity. Surplus electricity will be sold on Italy's deregulated market. In other words, Electrabel is consolidating an initial investment on this same site. The new Roselectra power station will be built by Electrabel alongside its Rosen station (commissioned in 1996), a high-capacity cogeneration unit which supplies Solvay with 400 tonnes of steam per hour. The steam is mainly used in the manufacture of sodium carbonate.

One of the technical specifications of the CCGT (combined-cycle gas turbine) unit is that it is cooled with seawater, yielding a significant gain in efficiency and power thank to the lower temperature of its cold source. It will be fired exclusively by natural gas.

Various forms of synergy were exploited with both the Solvay plant and the Rosen power station, specifically the use of existing infrastructure and Solvay's provision of seawater and demineralised water. Representing an investment of €200 million, the unit will take two years to build; construction began in September 2004. The station is scheduled to commission in October 2006.

According to Electrabel CEO Willy Bosmans, *"This new CCGT unit bolsters our footprint in Italy – a key market in our European growth strategy – and marks another step forward in the diversification of our generating facilities."*

Solvay is an international chemical and pharmaceutical group with headquarters in Brussels. It employs more than 30,000 people in 50 countries. In 2003 its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 7.6 billion generated by its three activity sectors: Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals. Solvay is listed on the Euronext 100 index of top European companies. Details are available at www.solvay.com.

Electrabel, a European supplier of all-in, tailor-made energy solutions

Electrabel is one of Europe's front-ranking energy companies and leader in the Benelux. It seizes the opportunity of the electricity and natural gas market deregulation 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 28,500 MW, and carries out trading on all the energy markets. In Belgium it operates the electricity and natural gas networks on behalf of distribution system operators.

Electrabel forms part of Tractebel, which carries out energy and service activities internationally as part of SUEZ.

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