

PRESS RELEASE

EnviTec Biogas enters the Estonian market

Delivery of two EnviThan biogas upgrading plants to Estonia

Lohne/Saerbeck, 02 June 2020 – An Estonian premiere: EnviTec Biogas AG marks its debut on the Estonian market with a double order for EnviThan gas upgrading plants. “Our two projects in Tartu and Vinni give us an important foothold in the Baltic market for our EnviThan technology,” says Lars von Lehmden, Managing Director of EnviTec Anlagenbau GmbH & Co. KG. While the German plant engineering company has already completed seven biogas plants in neighbouring Latvia, gas upgrading plants are a new kind of venture for the Baltics.

Both gas upgrading units will be built as extensions to existing biogas facilities. During the roughly six-month construction project, customer AS EG Ehitus—a subsidiary of gas network operator AS Eesti Gaas—completed the necessary pipe laying work themselves. Von Lehmden: “We’re now delivering the raw gas components, including the purification and gas upgrading systems, all of which are pre-fabricated as custom parts at our Saerbeck facility and are now ready for shipping.”

Before biogas can be fed into an existing natural gas network, the gas must first be purified and conditioned. This step will be handled by the two plants using the innovative EnviThan biogas upgrading technology. For this environmentally friendly and exceptionally cost-effective process, EnviTec Biogas equips its gas upgrading plants with membrane modules from Evonik Fibres. “These hollow fibre membranes clean the raw biogas generated in the biogas plants exceptionally well, resulting in a final methane content of 97% purity by volume,” explains von Lehmden.

The process exploits differences in gas permeation rates and solubility. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) molecules are smaller than methane molecules: they are more soluble in polymers and therefore pass through the polymer membrane more rapidly. While most of the CO₂ and water vapour pass through the molecular screen, the valuable methane is concentrated on the high-pressure side of the membrane. The upgraded methane is then piped to the feed-in station, where, thanks to a sufficiently high outlet pressure, it can be fed directly into the natural gas grid. The biomethane can then be used as an environmentally friendly fuel by the transport sector, for example.

Rated at 465 Nm³/h, the gas upgrading plant in Vinni is scheduled to be operational by the end of June, and will run on biogas from wet and solid manure, flotate, and vegetable, harvest and food residues. In Tartu, the 425 Nm³ EnviThan plant will operate using biogas produced from wet and solid manure, and harvest residues. Both plants will feed their biomethane into the existing natural gas network.

The Republic of Estonia is the smallest Baltic state, with just 1.3 million inhabitants—roughly the same population as Lower Saxony in Germany. Estonia joined the European Union in 2004 and also has the lowest national debt of any EU member state: this gives it a positive entrepreneurial climate that also benefits investors in the renewable energy sector.



Precision, experience and teamwork are required when loading the 28-ton containers.



The first plant is already on its way to Vinni, the second is also ready for transport.

About EnviTec Biogas AG

EnviTec Biogas AG is a full-service biogas provider who covers the entire value chain for the production and processing of biogas, including the planning and turnkey construction of biogas plants and biogas upgrading plants as well as their commissioning. The company takes charge of biological and technical services on demand and offers full plant and operational management. EnviTec operates 76 own plants, making it one of the largest biogas producers in Germany. The company's business activities also include the direct marketing of processed biomethane as well as the marketing of electricity and balancing energy. With a presence in 16 countries worldwide, EnviTec Biogas AG is represented by its own companies, sales offices, strategic partners and joint ventures. In 2019, the EnviTec Group generated revenue of EUR 213.6 million and EBIT of EUR 10.3 million. The Group currently employs 433 people. EnviTec Biogas AG has been listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange since July 2007.

Contact:

Katrin Hackfort
 EnviTec Biogas AG
 Phone: +49 25 74 88 88 - 810
 E-Mail: k.hackfort@envitec-biogas.de

