

Ozmotech's plastic-to-fuel solution in demand

New private Australian company, Ozmotech Pty Ltd, has developed ThermoFuel technology to recycle plastic waste into commercial grade diesel fuel that complies with international fuel and EPA standards. It has just signed another contract, this time to sell 31 of its leading edge systems to European company EnvoSmart Technologies, for \$190 million.

This contract brings the total number of ThermoFuel system sales to over 60, with 46 destined for export. In full production, these systems will produce an estimated 350 million litres of diesel per annum from over 400 000 tonnes of waste plastic, most of which will be diverted from landfill.

Currently, 20 per cent of our

waste is non-biodegradable plastic that just ends up in landfill. The robust ThermoFuel plant can produce about 9000 litres of high-grade diesel fuel

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from 10 tonnes of almost any type of waste plastic by employing liquefaction, pyrolysis (heating without oxygen) and catalytic breakdown.

Ozmotech CEO, Garry Baker, said, 'The sale is the



The catalytic converter of Ozmotech's promising ThermoFuel system. Ozmotech

culmination of almost two years' work and firmly establishes Ozmotech as a major Australian exporter and an innovative contributor to the production of alternative fuels around the world. Ozmotech is deeply committed to the reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and this technology will be an integral part of sustainable waste management.

'The first six systems will be installed in Germany and are scheduled to be operational in the second quarter of 2007. Installations in The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic will follow the year after.'

More information:
www.ozmotech.com.au

Formaldehyde levels high in wood panel products

The Australian Environmental Labelling Association (AELA) claims the results of independently commissioned tests show that many imported wood panel products sold every day in Australia contain dangerous levels of the suspected carcinogen formaldehyde.

Seven out of 16 imported wood panel products assessed in a NATA¹ accredited laboratory test failed Australian standards outright, with the worst performers being over twice maximum allowable levels.

AELA reports that the products cover a wide range of applications, including flat pack kitchens sold by prominent Australian retailers such as Bunnings. A kitchen cabinet door from Bunnings apparently recorded the highest reading at 2.24 times the Australian standard for formaldehyde emissions.

According to AELA, the board products tested above come from Malaysia and China and directly compete with



Nice kitchen? Check with your supplier about the source and content of any wood panels it uses. Steven Miric

Australian made products that meet Australian standards. The organisation says many of these products also originate from countries with low levels of control and somewhat irreputable logging practices.

President of AELA, Mr Petar Johnson, said that, apart from the fact that Australian consumers have the right to

know what is in the products they are buying, importers of these products are achieving an unfair commercial advantage over local producers by buying low cost products from overseas that do not comply with Australian Standards, while local producers, who meet the standards, are unable to compete at those price levels.

He highlighted that it is fundamentally important for Australian retailers and the domestic furniture industry to more rigorously consider the environmental and human health implications of products they deliver to the market.

Mr Johnson said better environmental and social outcomes can be easily achieved by demanding board products that meet Australian Standards or AELA's specifications for furniture and fittings.

Formaldehyde has been classified as a Class 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and is currently being reviewed by Australian Government body, NICNAS, for more stringent human exposure levels.

1 National Association of Testing Authorities, www.nata.asn.au