



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Two Important Milestones for DRANCO

Recently the official '*first stone laying ceremony*' was held at the site of a new '**Energy Conversion Park**' near the OWS headquarters in Belgium. Construction work on the DRANCO digester for source separated organics is well underway. Furthermore, another pioneering DRANCO plant on mixed waste organics in the UK, was declared fully operational in March.

OWS is very pleased to once again build a DRANCO plant in Flanders, its home province where OWS has previously constructed two other facilities. The intergovernmental waste authority for the Kempen region of Belgium, *IOK Waste Management*, already has a composting plant for the source separated organics (biowaste). By integrating the biogas generation step, the full potential of the organic waste can be utilized – producing both compost and renewable energy. The new DRANCO anaerobic digestion plant will supply biogas which will be converted into (renewable) electricity and (green) heat. In addition, the installation will increase the total processing capacity of the composting facility and allow it to continue to supply high-quality compost. OWS is constructing a 2,775m<sup>3</sup> (733,000 gallon) 'DRANCO' digester in Beerse, with an annual treatment capacity of 38,500 tons of organics. The delivery scope for OWS has a value of approximately 7.2 million Euros. The patented system is unique because it does not have an internal mixing system and allows for 'dry' digestion of household waste organics without addition of water. The annual biogas production is estimated at 61,418 million BTU. The majority of the biogas will be converted onsite into electricity to cover the electricity needs of the site. Approximately 25% of the gas will be upgraded to biomethane (removal of CO<sub>2</sub>) and injected into the gas grid. This amount of renewable natural gas is sufficient to supply all the buildings with energy in the "Kolonie Merksplas", an important heritage site 3 miles away. The Kolonie Merksplas site will be equipped with its own combined heat and power plant (CHP) which, in addition to electricity, will also produce heat for the buildings. The preparations for this purification to natural gas quality ('biomethane' or 'green gas') and injection into the natural gas network are ongoing.

While Europe already has more than 500 biomethane installations, and the Netherlands, Germany, France and Sweden are implementing this on a large scale, this installation will be a first for Belgium. The first biomethane is expected in November 2018.

The second project, the Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) in North Yorkshire (UK), was declared fully operational in early March. AWRP will transform an annual 352,000 tonnes of waste from households in North Yorkshire and York into enough power for at least 40,000 homes, but potentially as many as 60,000 homes. AWRP is unique in the UK for combining three state-of-the-art technologies on one site - mechanical pretreatment, DRANCO anaerobic digestion and energy from waste (EfW). Together, the technologies increase recycling from collected 'black bag' household waste in both councils' areas while cutting the amount sent to landfill in the county by at least 90%.

Allerton Waste Recovery Park can deal with up to 1,500 tonnes of MSW per day. First, the waste passes through mechanical treatment where machinery separates the recyclable, food and other biodegradable material. Commodity recyclables can be reprocessed into new products while biodegradable materials proceed to the DRANCO anaerobic digester for conversion into biogas for renewable electricity production. The DRANCO digester began operating in 2017 and has an annual capacity of 44,000 tons of organic fraction of MSW.

The remaining waste (non-recyclable, non-digestible) and the digestate are combusted in the energy from waste facility (EfW, aka WTE) to create electricity. Comprehensive filter systems capture and control emissions; and the advanced system for removing metals for recycling results in ash that is suitable for re-use. Every year, the EfW will generate around 90,000 ton of ash which will be turned into construction-related materials for use on highways and infrastructure projects.

Anaerobic digestion and EfW treatment will together generate around 218GWh electricity per year. Some of this is used to power the facility itself. Early signs suggest the turbine is working efficiently and has already started exporting electricity above the designed 24MW per hour onto the national grid.

#### **Company information:**

OWS is a Medium sized Company with 80 employees located between the port of Ghent and the city center. More than 30 years ago, OWS developed the DRANCO technology for the anaerobic digestion of household waste organics. OWS thus stood at the cradle of the production of biogas from household waste.

Since then, the company became a global player and has grown into a world leading company in the anaerobic digestion of source separated organics (SSO) and (mixed) municipal solid waste. The first full-scale DRANCO plant was constructed in 1992 for the inter-municipal cooperation IGEAN and is still running. The plant was expanded considerably in the year 2000 with a second large digester. Today, OWS has subsidiaries in the US, Germany and Japan.

At the moment, OWS has built 30 installations in 13 different countries, accounting for an installed processing capacity of about 1 million tons of (organic fraction of) household waste per year.

In addition to the development, construction and follow-up of biogas plants, the company also offers a series of environmental analyses to measure the biodegradability and compostability of new materials, as well as sustainability studies in which the production, use and waste processing of products are evaluated.

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