

## First factory for energy from biomass in Duiven

Duiven – On June 28 minister Maria van der Hoeven has presented the official launch for the construction of a state of the art factory for torrefaction of biomass of Topell Energy in Duiven (Gelderland).

The torrefaction process of Topell Energy produces a high-grade, solid biofuel from fibrous biomass-residuals. This biofuel will be deployed for the sustainable production of electricity. This new technology is a breakthrough because it creates a new biofuel at very low costs, which shares comparable fuel characteristics with coal. Therefore, the biofuel can be used directly, and at a large scale, in existing power plants. Topell Energy's new torrefaction factory means that an important condition is met for a fast and affordable transition to sustainable production of electricity.

Topell has chosen Duiven as location because of the presence of considerable amounts of fibrous residuals from forestry and landscape maintenance. The plant will produce at least 60.000 tons of solid biofuel per annum from Dutch biomass. With this amount of biofuel, the average power plant can produce Electricity for approximately 42.000 households. The production facility is built by Topell Nederland, a joint venture between Topell Energy and RWE Innogy.

Topell Energy BV has received a subsidy of 1 million euro from the province of Gelderland. This subsidy enables Topell Energy to make their new factory in Duiven also suitable for the processing of low-grade biomass like grasses and leaves to high-grade and sustainable biofuel.

Ewout Maaskant, Chief Executive Officer of Topell Energy, points out: "Torrefaction is a key process to upgrade biomass as to enable large-scale co-firing with coal. The Topell Energy plant in Duiven is one of the first and most innovative torrefaction plants worldwide. The start of its construction is an important step in fulfilling our ambition to play a key role as integrated technology provider for torrefaction solutions in a fast-growing market, such facilitated by Topell Energy's proven reactor technology and highly scalable torrefaction process."

Dr. Leonhard Birnbaum, Chief Strategy Officer of RWE AG said: "Torrefied biomass offers a great business opportunity, not only for RWE, but also for the Netherlands as a whole. The country is set to become a major torrefied biomass logistics hub for Europe and we're ready to play our part."

The first Topell biofuel will be produced in the beginning of 2011 and will be used in the Essent power plant in Geertruidenberg.

Sender of this press release is Topell Energy.

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Pictures and a digital version of this press release can be found at our website [www.topellenergy.nl](http://www.topellenergy.nl)

*Topell Energy BV, based in The Hague (The Netherlands), is a world leader in the development of torrefaction technology. Topell Energy BV (The Hague) was founded on 1 Januari 2010 as a result of a merger between the Dutch technology companies Topell BV and Polow Energy Systems BV. Its first commercial plant in Duiven (in the Dutch province of Gelderland) is expected to begin producing torrefied biomass at the beginning of 2011 ([www.topellenergy.com](http://www.topellenergy.com)).*

*RWE Innogy pools the renewable energy expertise and power plants of the RWE Group. The company plans, builds and operates facilities generating power from renewable energies. RWE Innogy aims to vigorously grow renewable energies in Europe. In addition, the company invests venture capital into young European technology companies to commercialise innovative renewable technologies. Further information can be found at [www.rweinnogy.com](http://www.rweinnogy.com).*