

Announcement

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Blackwood signs *Palmares* consortium agreement to develop business around Malaysian palm oil residues

The Hague – On 21st December 2016, Blackwood Technology B.V. (“Blackwood”) signed the PALMARES covenant and became a member of a private-public initiative falling under the scope of the Dutch Partners for International Business (PIB) program for Malaysia. The PALMARES consortium specifically aims at promoting Dutch technology solutions to optimize the value of residues and waste from the Malaysian palm oil industry.

The PALMARES consortium involves six Dutch companies, two research institutes, the Dutch ministry of foreign affairs and RVO (the Dutch enterprise agency, part of the ministry of economic affairs).



Signature of the PALMARES consortium agreement



The signing ceremony was also attended by the Malaysian and Dutch ambassadors

ECN (Stichting Energieonderzoek Centrum Nederland), the Dutch energy research centre, is the coordinator of the PALMARES program.

Ms Rianne Visser, Senior Researcher at ECN and PALMARES coordinator, explained: “The activities of PALMARES in Malaysia will focus on adding value to the biomass residues of the palm oil production, while fostering the bio-based economy. Activities can comprise of treatment of wastes and residues from the palm oil industry, to stimulate bio-energy generation in Malaysia or to derive more advanced bio-products for agriculture and the chemicals industry. The idea is that program participants can better deploy their expertise by sharing information, market intelligence, by gaining access to industry players, and by leveraging on the resources provided by the Dutch ministry of foreign affairs, through the embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Support by RVO is also a key element in this partnership. PALMARES is therefore a solid platform enabling Dutch companies and knowledge institutions to offer their solutions to the palm oil sector.”

Maarten Herrebrugh, Blackwood’s CEO, commented: “At the moment, the leftovers from the palm oil industry, including waste water and palm tree residues, tend to represent a liability for the producers of palm oil as well as a burden on the environment. The PALMARES participants have the

expertise to turn these liabilities into assets. In the specific case of Blackwood Technology, we have developed a torrefaction technology which can efficiently transform biomass residues into a high-grade, homogeneous, energy-dense bio-fuel. The torrefied material is safer to store, cheaper to transport, easier to burn, and it can successfully substitute fossil coal in a number of industrial applications.”

Eight Dutch companies and knowledge institutes are enlisted under the PALMARES consortium namely: Blackwood Technology, DMT Environmental Technology, ECN, Energy Transformers, Royal Dahlman, Witteveen+Bos, Paques and Wageningen Research Center.