

HotRot Breaks into UK Sewage Market

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Christchurch composting technology company HotRot Organic Solutions (NZ) Ltd has made a major breakthrough in the UK market achieving a contractual agreement to build the first sewage grit and screenings composting plant in the United Kingdom.

Eighty tonnes of mechanical componentry for the first two units of a potential \$12 million two-phase project are being loaded for shipping from the Mace Engineering workshop this week, with a further 20 tonnes of feed systems and electrical and control technology to be shipped from suppliers in Invercargill and Tauranga in January.

British High Commissioner Mrs Vicki Treadell was on hand to observe the loading of the first of five 40 foot shipping containers on Monday, and is delighted to see this NZ technology break through. 'HotRot is a great example of New Zealand technology succeeding in the very competitive UK market' says Mrs Treadell, 'and it is even better from my perspective to see both NZ and UK component suppliers being engaged in this innovative UK project.'

HotRot general manager George Pottinger says this export contract success is the result of over 3 years of determination and hard work from the HotRot team both in NZ and the UK, where the company has another five staff based. 'We have a number of smaller HotRot facilities composting other waste streams in the UK, and now have 20 facilities worldwide, but the large scale composting of sewage grit and screenings has been our major UK marketing objective since our inception in 2003,' says Pottinger.

The buyer is a major contractor to Thames Water, the owner of London's sewer network. Company representatives visited the HotRot plant at Christchurch's Bromley waste water treatment plant in 2008, and made the decision then that they wanted to install a HotRot, but it has taken almost 3 years since then to battle through the environmental planning issues and delays caused by the global financial crisis.



This deal and other large export contracts would not have been possible without the innovative assistance provided by the NZ Government's Export Credit Office (NZECO) and ongoing assistance from NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE).

The HotRot installation is a vital step in the UK's desire to meet EU landfill diversion targets, designed to divert organic waste from entering landfills where it contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and pollution of groundwater.

Pottinger says that at present hundreds of thousands of tonnes of this potentially biohazardous waste are being freighted many miles in the UK to limited authorised landfills, and this will be the first time in the UK that this has been composted for beneficial and safe farmland spreading.

'Our UK client is very keen to expand their business in this area, and have negotiated exclusive rights for the technology for sewage grit and screenings in their territory.'

HotRot Organic Solutions is the only composting technology company in the world who offer an 'OdourFree Guarantee'. HotRot is currently experiencing the most successful year in its 8 year history, with six contracts confirmed so far this year, including an expansion of the local Selwyn District Council HotRot plant.

'There is growing public awareness that we as an intelligent species cannot continue to dump potentially valuable organic resources in the ground where it actually adds to climate change, so the tide is turning in our favour' says George Pottinger. 'With the HotRot team worldwide focused on difficult to treat organic wastes of sewage, disposable nappies and food waste, especially from remote mine site camps and university campuses, the interest and demand for our technology has substantially increased over the last 6-12 months.'

2011 is looking to be another good year for HotRot based on expressions of interest at present, but the current focus is very much on the successful delivery, installation and commissioning of this UK project over the next 4 months, which will help lift the profile of HotRot and NZ green technology in general to the world.

Ends.

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