

## **Press Release**

25 June 2015

### **Shanks invests over €1M to upgrade its advanced facility in Gent**

International waste-to-product company, Shanks is investing over €1M to upgrade its residual waste treatment facility in Gent, which will improve the efficiency and productivity of the site.

Shanks' facility is one of the most advanced in Belgium for the treatment of residual waste. The investment into new equipment and machinery will improve the efficiency and productivity of the site. The improvements will enable Shanks to serve its customers better, produce higher quality products and accelerate business growth.

At the facility, mixed commercial waste is treated and recycled. The remaining waste is then processed to produce a high quality solid recovered fuel which is used as a fuel in the cement industry and displaces the need for the use of fossil fuels.

The upgrade to the Gent facility is part of an exciting investment programme in Belgium which also includes the installation of new CHP engines in Mont-Saint-Guibert to valorize landfill gas which generates green electricity; installing a new shredder in Kortemark and rolling-out an upgraded and more efficient truck fleet across the country. Shanks has sustained good performance in Belgium and will now focus on developing its refined growth strategy which is focused on its waste-to-product model.

Patrick Laevers, Managing Director of Shanks' Commercial Belgium Division, commented:

*"The investment into our advanced facility in Gent will improve efficiency, increase productivity and accelerate growth. We are investing in areas of the business where we are strategically advantaged I am excited by the growth opportunities that our investment programme in Belgium will bring. The upgrade allows us to be more efficient in creating our high quality SRF product, which not only makes more from waste, but also creates a useful product which displaces the need for virgin fossil fuels."*

Shanks is one of the leading waste management companies in Belgium and employs over 800 people throughout the country. It handles over one million tonnes of waste in Belgium each year and is a leading manufacturer of waste-derived fuel in the country.

For further information:

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**Notes to editors**

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Shanks is a leading international waste-to-product business.

The Group uses a range of cost-effective sustainable technologies to make valuable products from what is thrown away. We produce green energy, recovered fuel, recycled commodities and organic fertiliser.

Shanks meets the growing need from public and private sectors to manage waste sustainably without damaging the environment. Our solutions reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recycle natural resources and limit fossil fuel dependency.

Shanks operates in three divisions that reflect our markets: Hazardous, Commercial and Municipal. It has operations in the Netherlands, Belgium, UK and Canada and employs approximately 3,500 people.

For more information, visit: [www.shanks.be](http://www.shanks.be)