

## Press Release

27 November 2015

### **Shanks' Energen Biogas Scottish AD Facility becomes largest in the UK**

International waste-to-product business, Shanks Group plc, and its joint venture partner, Paragon Efficiencies, have commissioned a Bio-methane Unit at their Energen Biogas anaerobic digestion ('AD') facility in Cumbernauld. This makes the plant the largest food waste AD facility in the UK, with the capacity to export 38,500 MW of electricity and 55,000 MW of bio-methane per year.

Owned and operated by Air Liquide UK, the bio-methane unit will increase energy efficiency at the facility, as well as boost employment numbers on site and in the logistics industry. It extracts biogas from the AD facility, enriching the methane content by removing water and contaminant gases such as CO<sub>2</sub>. The process produces a purified gas stream that meets strict legal, regulatory and technical quality standards, supplying clean renewable energy into the natural gas network.

The AD facility treats organic waste from local authorities, retail and food waste producers by maximising the amount of recyclable material recovered from organic waste. This renewable energy will be used to support around 26,500 local people by supplying electricity to around 11,500 homes each year. An additional 3,000 homes will also be supported through the supply of bio-methane for heating and cooking.

Peter Eglinton, Managing Director of Shanks' Municipal Division, said:

*"As a leading waste-to-product company, we are delighted to have introduced this innovative bio-methane unit into our facility and we are excited to be operating the UK's largest food waste AD facility. We are dedicated to making more from waste and this innovative unit allows us to do just that by transforming organic waste into renewable and totally carbon-free energy."*

Robert Etherson, Operations Director at Energen Biogas said:

*"By deploying this unit at our facility, it allows us to significantly increase our renewable energy outputs and further improve resource efficiency. The Scottish government's vision - where all waste is seen as a resource - is one we are firmly aligned with and we are pleased we can contribute to making a Zero Waste Scotland a reality."*

The introduction of this new unit follows a £5 million expansion at the site, which was completed earlier this year ahead of an anticipated increase in food waste when new Zero Waste Scotland regulation comes into effect on 1 January 2016. The expansion gives the facility the ability to process up to 170,000 tonnes of waste each year, generating up to

4.8 MW of renewable electricity and 6.5 MW of bio-methane every hour, making it the largest food waste AD facility in the UK.

For further information:

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Matthew Dowe

### Notes to editors

Shanks Group 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.shanksplc.com](http://www.shanksplc.com)

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