



# News Release

9<sup>th</sup> September 2003

## TEES VALLEY CONFIRMED AS NEW PLANT'S HOME

The world's largest biodiesel producing complex is to be built in Tees Valley, creating 75 new jobs.

The Biofuels Corporation Ltd has chosen the Seal Sands site as the base for its £25m complex, developing renewable and greener fuels from crops such as oil seed rape.

Key to the firm's decision is the backing of One NorthEast and a £1.2m Regional Selective Assistance grant to help fund the building of two plants initially on site, with the prospect of three more to follow.

North East farmers could also reap the benefits of the plant as the company is interested in taking oil seed rape for production from local sources for the first 250,000 tonne plant and will also import vegetable oils to be converted into biodiesel.

This fuel will then be mixed at 5% with ultra low sulphur diesel before being delivered at garage pumps to run standard cars and trucks – significantly cutting carbon dioxide and sulphur emissions and improving engine efficiency.

Middlesbrough-based Biofuels Corporation is finalising private financial backing for the scheme and will lodge a planning application with Stockton Borough Council this month.

The Seal Sands plant – to be built on brownfield land – will be the most advanced of its type in the world.

Biofuels estimates the new complex will create 200 new spin-off jobs in the local economy at nearby Tees Port where raw materials will be shipped into using neighbouring storage facilities.

John Nicholas, Biofuels Chief Executive, said: "Seal Sands has everything we could ask for. It is strategically located for excellent transport links and, of course, has a well-developed chemicals infrastructure.

"It has a deepwater port on its doorstep and available storage. Most importantly, there is a wealth of skilled people living in the area who we can recruit to work at our complex.

"I've been very impressed with the level of commitment from One NorthEast, The Teesside Chemicals Initiative and Tees Valley Development Company, who have all done everything they can to attract and support us here."

Alan Clarke, Chief Executive, One NorthEast, said: "The fact that the Biofuels Corporation has chosen Seal Sands as its base is testament to the hard work of the various agencies to attract them to the North East and the global reputation of the Tees Valley chemicals infrastructure.

"The complex will create high quality jobs with a product that has great environmental benefits in a huge marketplace."

Work could start on building the new plants before the end of this year and be completed by late 2004.

The plant will take in 21,000 tonnes of vegetable oil every month, converting it into biodiesel. Standard cars will be able to run on the new biodiesel mix without conversion.

The confirmation of the Biofuels Corporation development has been warmly welcomed by organisations within the Tees Valley. Councillor Bob Gibson, Chairman of the Tees Valley Development Company and Leader of Stockton Council described it as 'a tremendous boost to our efforts to establish our area as a centre for the rapidly growing renewable energy sector.'

Clr Gibson explained “Once again we have proved that in Tees Valley we can offer the package of sites and facilities, excellent workforce and transport links to attract world-class projects and I am pleased that we have been able to build up such a positive relationship with the Biofuels Corporation.”

Dermot Roddy, Chief Executive of Renew Tees Valley, established to promote renewable energy and recycling developments in the area, commented “I am delighted to see this plant coming to the Tees Valley. It will help breathe life into the work we undertaking to create a cluster of economic activity around bio-mass technologies.’

Added Doctor Ian Click, Chief Executive of the Teesside Chemical Initiative “One of the key benefits of this project is the impact it can have on widening the range of chemical industry activities in the Tees Valley—and making us a major player in the ‘new fuels’ sector.”

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