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John Cockerill and RENEWI, partners for ‘greening’ the waste collection trucks in Liège

Following the tests carried out in 2020 with a 100% electric truck, John Cockerill and RENEWI are taking another step in the development of green mobility in Wallonia. On June 7th 2021 the two partners signed an agreement for additional tests on 100% electric vehicles of different tonnages, and for the deployment of a recharging infrastructure which will use green energy produced by solar panels. John Cockerill, a world player in the energy transition, is proud to be assisting RENEWI in its determined approach designed to lead to a decrease in its emissions of CO₂.

During the summer of 2020, John Cockerill and RENEWI initiated a joint operation: to test a 100% electric, zero emissions vehicle for waste collection in Liège. The objective was to verify the performance of the technology and to understand what impact it would have at an operational level. Encouraged by these conclusive tests, the two companies decided this June 7th 2021 to continue with their collaboration towards a progressive transition of the RENEWI fleet of diesel trucks to non-polluting powertrains. John Cockerill and RENEWI are thus planning tests on new types of vehicles.

During the tests, the vehicles will be recharged at the MiRIS station charging points, the platform for the production and storage of photovoltaic energy installed by John Cockerill at Seraing. MiRIS enables energy which is not immediately consumed to be stored and used, for example, for recharging vehicles, guaranteeing them totally carbon-free propulsion. In a second phase, RENEWI is envisaging an investment in a production and storage infrastructure on its own sites, in order to be totally autonomous. In time, John Cockerill and RENEWI may decide to extend their collaboration to hydrogen mobility, a technology in which John Cockerill is already well positioned.

Laurent Dauge, Director South, Renewi Belgium: *“In order to become leader in ‘zero emissions’ waste collection, Renewi is continuing to invest in a vehicle fleet which is more respectful of the environment through the acquisition of Zero Emission Vehicles – ZEV – in order to reduce the overall carbon impact of our operations. This initiative is fully in line with our strategy, one of the three pillars of which is sustainability: reducing CO₂ emissions and the volume of waste.*

Facilitating the circular economy is at the heart of our activities. With the world attempting to limit global heating to less than 2 degrees, it is more urgent than ever to develop the circular economy by recycling an increasing proportion of our waste. Our mission is to protect the world by giving a second life to used materials, and our commercial and development strategies go hand in hand to help us achieve these objectives”.

Dieter Hasevoets, Head of Integrated Renewable Solutions – IRS – at John Cockerill: *“At John Cockerill, we are pursuing the ambition to decarbonize human activities and to fight against climate change. Assisting major fleet operators in this way towards their transition to green energies is one of the levers on which we are working. We are very proud to be working together with RENEWI on these first projects, which will help us to better understand the way in which large recharging hubs operate and to refine our technologies within a context of Belgian and European markets which are rapidly developing. Recent changes in the reduction in cost of the technology and a growing interest from the population in the reduction of CO₂ emissions, are pushing the market in this direction. Thanks to our experience with MiRIS, we are perfectly positioned to propose the installation and operation of these types of hubs.”*

MiRiS : a micro-network which is continuing to develop

MiRiS is an electric micro-network project which combines on the one hand the production of renewable energy, and on the other, storage in batteries. The specific characteristic of MiRiS, which makes it a unique project in Europe, is the diversity of the storage by battery systems put in place and the great flexibility of possible configurations of the electricity networks which make it up. Currently, MiRiS produces green electricity via a 2mW photovoltaic installation located on the roofs of the workshops at John Cockerill headquarters. The storage capacities combine four different technologies to give a total of 2.5mW of power and 5.5 mWh of energy capacity. This is all installed on an electricity network which enables different configurations to be replicated: installation connected to the network, stand alone or in contexts of weak or faulty networks. The whole system is controlled by intelligent software developed by John Cockerill. Precise measurements, collected via a secure and effective communication system, enable the equipment to be monitored in real time. Computer algorithms and forecasting models optimize the energy flows between renewable production, batteries, the consumption site and the electricity network, to which surplus energy is sold.

John Cockerill in energy

John Cockerill is a world player in the energy transition. With the strength of more than 200 years of experience in energy and industry behind it, the Group is today developing innovative technological solutions which contribute to the decarbonization of human activities, whether by developing new electricity production capacities from renewable sources, storing green electricity or optimizing the electricity output of existing electric power plants and industrial installations. It adapts its technologies and expertise – heat recuperation boilers for combined cycle gas-steam electric power plant, units for the production, storage and distribution of green hydrogen, receivers for thermo-solar concentration power plants, integrated units for the production, storage and management of green electricity, industrial boilers, wind turbine and hydroelectric installation maintenance, nuclear pipe-work, the automation of industrial processes – to the specific needs of its clients in the industrial and energy domains. John Cockerill is thus providing its technological contribution to the fight against climate change. In 2020 it achieved turnover of 1.01 billion Euros in 19 countries across 5 continents.

About Renewi Commercial Belgium

Renewi Commercial Belgium has total national coverage in Belgium with a market share of around 30%, making this the largest waste collection and treatment operation with a number one position in most waste segments. Our 2,000 Belgian employees handle 3 million tonnes of waste every year on more than 40 operating sites. For Renewi, waste is a state of mind and an opportunity. Our numerous years of knowledge and experience, combined with a wide range of services, enable us to provide sustainable, durable and practical recycling solutions. We make use of innovation and the latest technologies to transform waste into useful materials such as paper, metal, plastic, glass, wood, construction materials, compost and energy. In other words, we transform the waste of today into the raw materials of tomorrow. The result of our work is less waste and contamination, more intelligent use of rare raw materials and a reduction in carbon emissions. This signifies that we are contributing to a cleaner, circular world in which we 'no longer waste'.

John Cockerill, enabler of opportunities

Driven since 1817 by the entrepreneurial spirit and passion for innovation of its founder, the John Cockerill Group develops large-scale technological solutions to meet the needs of its time: preserving natural resources, contributing to greener mobility, manufacturing sustainably, combating insecurity and facilitating access to renewable energy.

Its offer to businesses, governments and communities consists of services and associated equipment for the sectors of energy, defence, industry, the environment, transport and infrastructures.

With over 5000 employees, John Cockerill achieved a turnover of 1.01 billion euro in 19 countries on five continents in 2020.

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Press contacts

Fien De Smet : fien.de.smet@renewi.com - 0491 92 38 05

General and economic press: julien.marique@johncockerill.com +32 498 67 37 00

Specialized press: maxime.bebronne@johncockerill.com +32 475 30 28 02

