



MEDIA RELEASE

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Bottles Up! The future of plastic recycling.

PAPREC and SITA, a SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT subsidiary, recently opened a “bottle-to-bottle” plastic recycling unit in Limay, France.

Responding to a growing demand from ore carriers for the use of recycled plastic bottles, SITA France, a subsidiary of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, and the PAPREC Group, a leading independent recycler, France Plastiques Recyclage (FPR) has opened its first PET bottle recycling unit in Limay.

At the successful completion of the 40-million euro project the plant will be able to recycle 40,000 tonnes of bottles per year, which will be directly usable, in granulate form, in the manufacture of new bottles or food product containers.

AN INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH

The process implemented in this facility is particularly innovative: it enables the production of PET granulates that have the same properties as those of unused raw material, and which are compliant with the strictest sanitary standards.

Notably, granulates made by the FPR unit will conform to the recommendation issued by Afssa, the French agency for food safety, which authorises PET reuse in the manufacture of new bottles and, more generally, of material intended to be in contact with food. According to this standard, future new plastic bottles will be allowed to contain from 25% to 50% recycled raw materials.

Located in the Port Autonome de Paris compound at Limay, the FPR recycling unit optimises the transport of materials coming in by water and rail. Between 5,000 and 10,000 tonnes of incoming materials will be transported on the waterway — the equivalent of 300 to 600 truckloads. From its start-up in 2010 the plant will employ up to 80 people, and will operate seven days a week.

A PROMISING MARKET

The growth of PET bottle recycling in France seems unstoppable. Today, private individuals sort five out of 10 bottles (compared to 37.2% of PET plastic recycled in Australia in 2006). Over the past decade, the regeneration of PET bottles found its main applications in the production of synthetic fibers.

The expansion into the field of plastics for food use opens a new potential market for recycling industrialists whose size in Europe is estimated at 750,000 tonnes. From 2010 onward, the FPR unit will process 40,000 tonnes of bottles annually, converting them into 30,000 tonnes of recycled raw material (r-PET).

This new facility has strongly positioned the partners—PAPREC and SITA-SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT - in a developing market.

The original SUEZ Environment press release is available at www.suez-environnement.com

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Key Stakeholders

The PAPREC Group, headquartered at La Courneuve achieved revenues of €320 million in 2008. It has 35 industrial facilities (35 listed, quality certified factories) in France processing more than 2 million tonne, and 2,000 staff.

Since 1994, when it was incorporated, this industrial group has enjoyed exceptional growth. It has multiplied its revenues by 70, its annual tonnage by 40, and the number of its employees by 45. The first independent recycler in France, PAPREC is ranked number one in plastic, battery and paper recycling, number two in electric and electronic equipment recycling (DEEE), number three in the recycling of wood, industrial wastes, building construction wastes, and in separate collection.

PAPREC is also present in the recycling of scrap, metals and toxic wastes. PAPREC has been known and recognized since its founding for its commitment to diversity and to the fight against all forms of discrimination in companies.

SITA France, a subsidiary of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, achieved revenues in 2008 of €2.96 billion. SITA employs more than 19,300 people working in service to 3,100 communities and 52,000 industrial and commercial customers. Its activities cover the entire waste treatment domain: collection, sorting, recovery and processing of non-dangerous and dangerous wastes (excluding nuclear wastes)—both solid and liquid, sanitation and industrial maintenance services. Created in September 2006, the company's recycling business brings together specific areas of expertise in the fields of treatment and recovery of materials (plastics, rubber, metals, etc.) and end-of-life products (DEEE, VFV, etc.), but also in the area of marketing those secondary raw materials.

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT

Natural resources are not infinite. Each day, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its subsidiaries deal with the challenge to protect resources by providing innovative solutions to industries and to millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 76 million people provides wastewater treatment services for 44 million people and collects the waste produced by 60 million people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has 65,400 employees and, with its presence on a global scale, is a world leader exclusively dedicated to environmental services. In 2008, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, a subsidiary owned 35% by GDF SUEZ, achieved revenues of €12.4 billion.

SITA Environmental Solutions, a SUEZ Environment subsidiary, provides weekly services to over 43,000 commercial and industrial clients and more than 1.1million households across Australia. SITA's services include domestic, commercial & industrial waste collection; waste assessments; resource recovery and recycling options; processing of organic materials into compost; renewable energy facilities; hygiene services; waste treatment; and product destruction.

More information on SITA's services can be obtained by calling 13 13 35 or visit www.sita.com.au