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International Collaboration for Stirling Renewable Energy Company

An innovative international collaboration agreement is set to help a Stirling-based green energy company double its workforce.

The agreement will give Renewable Energy Scotland Ltd continuous access to a team of 12 specialist design engineers based in Hungary who will assist in designing low energy heating systems for medium and large commercial heating / cooling projects.

The company which is based on Stirling University Innovation Park designs, supplies and installs heating systems that convert the low level energy stored in the ground, in water and the air to provide heating, cooling and hot water for homes and commercial properties.

Tying up with THERMO Kft of Budapest will let the Stirling company to tap into the expertise and experience of one of Europe's leading heat pump companies which was recently awarded the prestigious Gold Medal of Excellence by Deutsche Telekom for their work in energy conservation.

Collaborating with THERMO Kft will allow Renewable Energy Scotland Ltd to bid for major commercial projects, such as hotels, public buildings, hospitals, schools, sheltered housing and regeneration projects.

Harry Burt, managing director of Renewable Energy Scotland, anticipates being able to double his current workforce from 6 to 12 by the end of this year.

He said: The renewable energy industry is at the heart of the Government's drive to combat climate change by cutting CO₂ emissions. That means the potential for growth in our market is enormous. A recent report indicated that 500,000 microgeneration units could be installed by 2015 and 2-3 million by 2020 if government policy targets are to be met. Currently there are only approximately 2500 but installations are accelerating rapidly as increasing oil and gas prices hit heating costs.

He added: The work we are doing here at Stirling is at the cutting edge in the development of heat pump systems and our collaboration with THERMO Kft gives us an enormous advantage in designing, supplying and installing systems for major commercial projects. We're already negotiating major commercial developments in the east of Scotland and the introduction of compulsory Energy Rating Certification will grow our market even further.

In another innovative initiative Renewable Energy Scotland Ltd has linked up with a London leasing company to offer clients the opportunity to offset the additional capital cost of installation against the running cost savings generated by the heat pump system. The savings can pay for the installation costs in many cases.

The eco-friendly technology gives running cost savings of 55% - 70% of those associated with more conventional oil and gas heating systems, crucially important

as recent reports suggest utility bills could soar by a further 40% by the end of this year.

Heat pump systems use technology similar to that in the fridges and freezers everyone has in their home. They can take energy from the water stored in ponds and lochs, the ground and air and use it to heat homes and offices. It is a much under utilised renewable energy resource in this country which is truly sustainable whilst causing no visual impact on the environment like wind farms and the associated pylons and it delivers 24 hours of every day.

Lynn Blaikie, SUIPs Manager Operations and Business Development: One of our key areas of development is to attract companies onto the Park that are involved in cutting edge environmental technology. Renewable Energy Scotland Ltd is a young, dynamic environmental company that fits our tenant profile. The international collaboration they have put in place demonstrates their ambition to grow and develop a centre of excellence in renewable energy technology here in Stirling. We are delighted to support them in that objective.

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Editors Notes

The report on microgeneration units can be accessed at:
<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/aboutest/publications/>

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