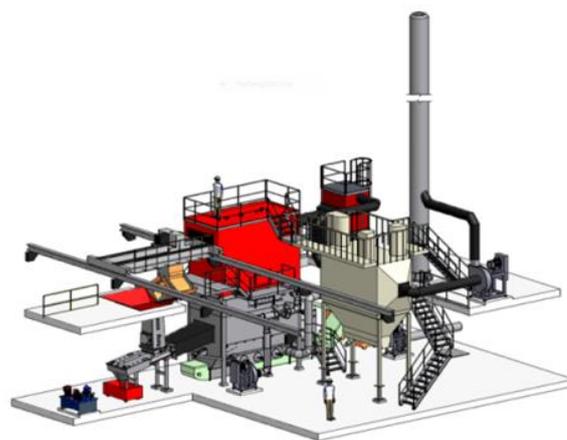


## **COILLTE AND ASTELLAS SECURE A GREEN FUTURE WITH BIOMASS ENERGY**

Our highly successful supply partnership with Astellas Ireland Ltd is now on a 2nd long term supply agreement. Astellas operate a pharmaceutical finishing facility in Killorglin, Co. Kerry which serves the world-wide market as the production base for the formulation and packaging of organ rejection drugs used in transplant surgery. Approximately 300 people are employed at the plant.



Astellas place a high value on sustainability and corporate social responsibility and as a result in 2010, the company began to examine alternatives to fuel oil as the main source of energy for the plant. Management at the plant prioritised their commitment to good environmental practice and as a result planning permission was approved for the installation of a 352m<sup>2</sup> utilities building comprising a 1.6MW biomass boiler and ancillary biomass fuel store with below ground delivery pit. The wood chip boiler was designed to supply the base steam demand for the facility with the existing oil fired boiler acting in standby/assist mode. Design and build was directly managed by Astellas and the project was successfully commissioned in Feb 2012.



The wood chip storage area is divided into two sections; a delivery pit and the main fuel store. An automatically controlled overhead crane moves the chip from the below ground delivery pit to the main fuel store. Upon demand, the crane collects and drops the fuel into a high level hopper feed system where it is then fed by a push feed mechanism into the boiler. A single steam boiler with an output of 800kW generates around 1,600MWh of heat per year for the production facilities heating and hot water systems. An automatic ash disposal system cools the ash and carries it to a bin for disposal offsite. The project has resulted in a 2,600 tonne reduction in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions annually.



Coillte was selected as the preferred biomass fuel supplier for the project due to their ability to underpin a long term secure and competitive fuel supply contract. Wood chip prices are not exposed to the price volatility associated with fossil fuel and wood chip prices can be fixed for long periods. Biomass feedstock's are sourced from forest resources in the Kerry region.



Coillte is committed to a biomass strategy that matches renewable energy requirements with local biomass supply. This supports rural development and the many jobs required in the processing and delivery of wood chip. Wood chip fuel to an agreed specification is processed locally and delivered in 100m<sup>3</sup> moving floor trailers.



The plant has now operated successfully for a number of years and Micheál Cassidy, Director at Astellas is very pleased with its operation. "This project provides Astellas with significant annual energy savings combined with the additional benefits of a reduced carbon footprint; in addition, the project will have a positive impact on the local community and South Kerry economy. The project displaces 800,000+ litres of oil annually and helps secure the future of the plant by allowing us to compete globally for new product lines. Astellas prioritises energy security and have also erected an 800kW wind turbine on site for auto-production. Both projects represent a milestone development in the pharmaceutical sector and in the energy sector in the Kerry region".

### **Security of supply from Coillte**

Coillte's local biomass fuel supply processing hub in Cahirsiveen, Co Kerry supplies the Astellas plant. The hub comprises of a large secure log storage yard and fuel storage sheds. Pulpwood logs are sourced and delivered on a pre-planned basis from both private and Coillte forestry resources several months in

advance. The logs are systematically stacked for open air drying down to the target moisture content.

All wood chip is produced strictly in accordance with quality specifications set out in I.S. CEN/TS 14961 : 2005. Samples are taken in aluminium sampling trays for testing by the oven dry method. Particle size is controlled during the chipping process by the provision of the correct size screens on the chipper feed. Regular testing is undertaken to assess the percentage of fines. The client is invoiced per gigajoule of energy delivered.



Des O'Toole, Commercial Business Development Manager for Coillte explains " In today's economic climate, Irish businesses cannot afford to ignore the high cost of energy. Natural gas is not available in the South West and many businesses are exposed to the volatile nature of traditional oil based fossil fuel prices. Unlike oil or gas; biomass is carbon neutral and Coillte offers long term supply contracts at competitive energy rates lower than current oil prices. For many businesses, this offers substantial annual energy savings, improves competitiveness and also provides a local economic stimulus through employment and the ancillary logistics services required "

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