



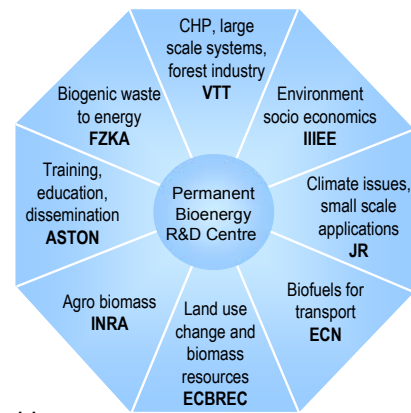
Launch of the Bioenergy NoE

A European model to accelerate the pace of bioenergy research

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM -- 5 January 2004 -- Bioenergy Network of Excellence (NoE) sponsored by the European Commission DG Research has just been launched. Bioenergy NoE is a pan-European group of eight leading bioenergy institutes. The chief aim is integration. Partner institutes are integrating their research and development activities to build a Bioenergy R&D Centre that will help Europe to build a world class bioenergy industry. This approach will inspire excellence and innovation in bioenergy research and industry, help the EC to meet its goals for reduced greenhouse gases, and create a better quality of life across the globe.

Bioenergy NoE is led by VTT Processes in Finland. The full partnership is:

- VTT Processes, Finland
- Joanneum Research, Austria
- Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), Netherlands
- Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany
- The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE), Lund University, Sweden
- Aston University, United Kingdom
- EC Baltic Renewable Energy Centre (EC BREC), Poland
- National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), France



Bioenergy is expected to make up the biggest share of renewable energy sources for Europe. Its use must be increased significantly to reduce the level of greenhouses gases required by the EU and the Kyoto Protocol. Bioenergy NoE will support these goals through technology development and implementation, policy actions, and market strategies. The RTD programme of the NoE will cover all methods necessary for establishing successful "bioenergy chains" to produce heat, electricity and biofuels for the energy end-use market including:

- planting and harvesting of biomass;
- solid fuels from agricultural, forestry and industrial biomass residues and organic waste components;
- combustion, gasification and synthesis, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion and fermentation of biomass feed stock;
- production of liquid biofuels and hydrogen;
- heat and power production plants;
- analyses of socio-economic, policy, market and environmental issues including climate change

The creation of Bioenergy NoE is an innovative effort for both the European Commission and the partners that offers an unprecedented opportunity to achieve real integration between European countries in bioenergy research and development.

For further information, please visit the NoE website at: www.bioenergy-noe.org or contact the PR and Promotions team at Aston University:

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