



Release Date: 19th October 2009

Prysmian safeguards biomass facility



Prysmian has supplied its FP cable for what will be the largest renewable biomass co-firing project anywhere in the world, at the Drax Power Station in North Yorkshire. Both FP200 Gold and FP400 are being fitted in the fire detection and fire alarm systems at the new £80 million pound development. In total some 10 km of FP400 and FP200 cables will be installed throughout the new facility.

“We wanted to use Prysmian FP cable from the start,” explains Andrew Hutchison, service director of Faelsafe Ltd., the specialist fire alarm subcontractor that designed and installed the fire detection and alarm system. “The main reason being its reliability and, having used the cables before, we know they meet the strict requirements for fire performance cables as set out in BS5839-1:2002+A2:2008. Having looked at other comparable products on the market, we are safe in the knowledge that Prysmian’s FP cables fully comply with our requirements for safety and quality, whilst offering minimum installed cost.”

Andrew continued, “We have to date installed approximately 2,000 m of FP400 and 3,000 m of FP200 Gold. Prysmian FP cables are easy to install, and we are on track to complete work on time by April next year.”

The new facility will enable Drax Power Station to receive, handle, store, process and co-fire with coal a variety of biomass materials. The new facility enables electricity to be generated when forestry residues, agricultural bi-products and energy crops are burnt alongside coal in the existing coal-fired boilers to provide heat. This process provides benefits to the environment and the economy. It is a low cost, efficient

renewable technology and as biomass directly replaces burning coal, overall CO2 emissions are reduced.

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www.fpcables.co.uk

Image courtesy of Drax group plc

Press enquiries: Paul Mauerhoff or Peta Barsby at Ridgemount PR

Tel: 020 8943 9349 **Fax:** 020 8977 7568

Email: firstname.lastname@ridgemountpr.co.uk

Reader enquiries: Prysmian Cables & Systems Limited, Marketing Department, Chickenhall Lane, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 9YU

Tel: 023 8029 5029 **Fax:** 023 8029 5437

Email: cables.marketing.uk@prysmian.com

Note to editors

A leading player in the industry of high-technology cables and systems for energy and telecommunication, the Prysmian Group is a truly global company with sales exceeding Euro 5 billion in 2008 and a strong position in higher value-added market segments. With its two businesses, Energy Cables & Systems (submarine and underground cables for power transmission and distribution, for industrial applications and for the distribution of electricity to residential and commercial buildings) and Telecom Cables & Systems (optical cables and fibres and copper cables for video, data and voice transmission), Prysmian boasts a global presence with subsidiaries in 38 countries, 53 plants in 21 countries, 7 Research & Development Centres in Europe, USA and South America, and over 12,000 employees. Specialising in the development of products and services designed to meet customers' specific requirements, Prysmian's key strengths include: a focus on Research & Development, the capacity to innovate products and production processes, and the use of advanced proprietary technologies. Prysmian is listed at the Milan Stock Exchange in the Blue Chip index.

Prysmian is a founder member of Voltimum, the most comprehensive product data source for the electrical industry. For further information please see www.voltimum.co.uk or www.voltimum.ie

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