

BioCynergy-Praj bags BP order for bio-ethanol plant

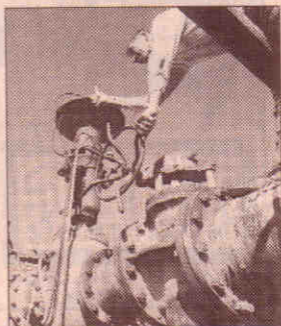
Our Bureau

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Within weeks of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to form a joint venture, BioCynergy Europa BV, Aker Kvaerner and Praj have won an order for a bio-ethanol plant from British Petroleum (BP), Associated British Foods Plc (ABF) and DuPont to be set up in the UK. Aker Kvaerner will execute the front end engineering and design (FEED) while Praj Industries (Praj) will provide the technology and process package.

BP and ABF subsidiary British Sugar Plc will each own 45% of the new grass roots facility planned for BP's Saltend site, near Hull with DuPont owning the remaining 10%. The wheat to ethanol plant will produce about 420 million litres of fuel ethanol a year although the value of the contract value has not been disclosed.

Using bio-ethanol technology provided by Praj Industries, the grass roots plant will seek to utilise locally grown wheat as feedstock to produce the fuel ethanol. "This is indeed a very good start for the Aker Kvaerner and Praj JV in Europe and this is a very distinguished opportunity for Praj to supply technology to one of the largest plants to be set up in the UK," said Pramod Chaudhari, chairman, Praj industries.



Work on the preparatory phase of the project begins immediately and should be completed by the end of 2007. Subject to the necessary regulatory approvals, construction on the plant will commence next year with commissioning and start-up scheduled for late 2009.

The award of the FEED scope follows the successful completion of the feasibility study for this complex which was completed by Aker Kvaerner and Praj in December 2006.

Aker Kvaerner has been a long-term engineering partner for BP at the Hull site — the largest producer of acetic acid in Europe — and has executed a range of EPC projects at this site and also at other BP sites worldwide. Aker Kvaerner is also a long-standing engineering partner for DuPont globally while Praj is currently providing the process licence to the British Sugar Wissington bioethanol plant in the UK.