

■ 10 plants in pipeline as technology from Pune to help in greening of Europe's fuel consumption

Indo-Dutch JV to bring slew of biofuel projects to city

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HOMEGROWN technology from Pune will play a significant role in the greening of Europe's fuel consumption. Europe is expected to increase usage of biofuels with blending expected to go up from 2.5 per cent to 5.75 per cent in 2012 and to 10 per cent by 2020. This will mean more biofuel projects being set up and with at least 10 plants likely in the immediate future. To tap this opportunity that is emerging in the European market, the \$ 8 billion Aker Kvaerner of Netherlands BV has got into a Joint Venture (JV) with Praj Industries to set up BioEnergy Europa BV.

"Bio fuels demand in Europe will go up by three to four times the present consumption by 2010," Wim van der Zande, MD, Aker Kvaerner Netherlands BV said. The 60:40 Praj-Aker Kvaerner JV, BioEnergy, will address both the ethanol and biodiesel opportunities.

Both partners have been working through a strategic alliance for the last two years and it is now being converted into



Praj Industries' Pramod Chaudhari (left) and Aker Kvaerner Netherlands BV's Wim van der Zande sign a JV

JV, Pramod Chaudhari, chairman, Praj said. In India, Praj has been setting up plants of about 1,00,000 litres to 2,00,000 litres but in Europe the plant sizes go up six to 10 times so plant size, technology and execution changes, Chaudhari said. "We have our strength in the oil and gas business. Praj is an innovative company and brings knowledge on board. There will be significant developments in this area in the next five to six years and the kind of feedstock used," Wim said.

The JV will be located in Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, 50 kms from Amsterdam and

have investments of around Euro three million. BioEnergy is betting on oil and gas companies investing in biofuel projects in future. The JV will leverage on the existing facilities of Praj in India and Aker Kvaerner base in Europe and operations in Mumbai and Pune.

The JV will offer technology package, engineering services, equipment and systems, project management services, construction and erection services and commissioning as well as turnkey biofuel plants. BioEnergy is working on market leads and will be announcing client wins.