



WE LAUNCHED THE FIRST BIOGAS PLANT

The company Bioplyn Rozhanovce, s.r.o. opened on Thursday June 16, 2011 its first biogas plant with an installed capacity of 1 MW in Rozhanovce near Košice. It is a joint venture of a subsidiary of Východoslovenská energetika a.s. (VSE) – VSE Ekoenergia s.r.o. and of a partner company AT ABOV spol. s r.o. that is a part of Agrotrade Group spol. s r.o.

Within a year

The construction of the first biogas plant lasted for less than a year. The building contractors - VSE and AGROTRADE GROUP spol. s r.o. - started with excavation works in July last year. ***"We have chosen the Agrotrade Group to be our strategic partner in the project due to their experience and stability in the sphere of agricultural production. The location Rozhanovce turned out to be ideal concerning the logistics of input raw materials, space for constructing a station and connecting to the grid. Východoslovenská energetika is well-known for its positive approach to the environment which is proved by several our projects targeted at minimizing emissions. Definitely the biogas plant belongs to them. The contribution of the new biogas plant to local agriculture is not insignificant. For this local agriculture the diversification of activities is the right path to take,"*** said the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors of VSE Norbert Schürmann.

Perspective biogas

The investors of the biogas plant agreed that biogas is one of the forms of renewable energy sources that have a real use in Slovak conditions. The assumed payback period of the investment injection amounting to 3 million EUR is 10 to 12 years. ***"We estimate that our first biogas plant will produce approximately 8 GWh within a year that represents an annual consumption of about 3,700 households,"*** stated Erich Nováček from the Department Regulatory Management and Corporate Development of VSE.

How does a biogas plant work?

Biogas arises from biomass fermentation. With its sufficient soil fertility as well as with its grasslands Slovakia is ideal for biomass growing. In case of the biogas plant in Rozhanovce the excrements of the livestock such as dung, slurry, various by-products of vegetable production but mainly corn grown especially for this purpose in form of corn silage will be used. Beside its irreplaceable place in the agriculture the crop will be thus also used for other purposes than food industry. ***"The efficiency and rate of return of agricultural works will increase. Further benefits from the use of biogas plants are also their by-products – arisen output substrate. This can be further used as a fertilizer and by this the consumption of artificial fertilizers will decrease,"*** explained Peter Vilinský, the managing director of the partner company AT ABOV spol. s r.o. At the same time he added that the produced biogas can be stored and used in case of necessity. Thus biogas plants mean a stable and safe electricity supply for electric grid.

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The project biogas plant is a part of a new program of VSE called Green future that covers all activities of the company aimed at the sustainable development.