

Technip awarded contract for a new biodiesel unit in France

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Technip has been awarded by Diester Industrie a turnkey contract for a new biodiesel (*) unit, based on the Axens process, to be built in Venette, near Compiègne, France.

his project falls within the scope of the program set up by the French authorities for the evelopment of biofuels, intended to reduce transportation-related pollution.

I This new unit, with a capacity of 100,000 t/y, will double the site's current production. The unit's start-up is scheduled for the third quarter of 2006.

This project marks a new step in the collaboration between Technip and Diester Industrie, the pioneer and leader in France for the production of biodiesel, for which, in 1996, Technip built a unit in Rouen, France and is currently carrying out the construction of another unit in Sète, France.

(*) Biodiesel or Diester, obtained by the transesterification of vegetable oils (sunflower or colza oils), is used in a mixture with diesel oil for diesel engines. Transesterification is a chemical reaction during which a fat or oil is reacted with an alcohol in the presence of a catalyst.

Biodiesel is a biofuel that represents a clean and renewable energy.

A diagram illustrating the manufacture of biofuels is available upon request.

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