

MICROTURBINES MAKING INROADS FOR EURO APPLICATIONS

Orders filled in recent months suggest an increased level of interest in microturbine applications by European energy providers. Los Angeles-based Capstone has recently filled orders from its European distributors for 6 MW of generating capacity, including microturbines that will run on natural gas and some that will be deployed in landfill gas applications fired by gas that would otherwise be flared to the environment.

Capstone President and CEO John Tucker termed the total number of orders within a short period a new milestone for the company. "The orders are coming to us because our distributors have demonstrated the robust effectiveness that our microturbines are delivering in the European and other markets," he says.

An order in May for 2.8 MW of Capstone's 30 kW biogas-fueled microturbine products was the second major order from Capstone's Paris-based energy systems distributor, Soffimat. Last year, Soffimat ordered 1 MW of Capstone microturbine capacity. Soffimat has been active in energy conversion and power generation for the past 17 years,

providing 1.2 GW of installed capacity composed of various energy technologies including gas turbines, gas and diesel engines.

The latest French microturbine order comes on the heels of a 3.2 MW order for natural gas-fueled 60 kW microturbines from distributors in Russia and Italy.

Soffimat will deploy the C30 systems at four landfills in France. The units will be fueled entirely by waste gases that would otherwise be flared. A significant percentage of those emissions contain greenhouse gases.



Shown is Soffimat's first landfill gas-fueled 240 kW microturbine combined heat and power array. Photo courtesy of Capstone Turbine.

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Article focus
European energy providers are showing increasing interest in microturbines for applications that operate on natural gas and landfill sites that operate on biogas.



Last year, Soffimat commissioned its first Capstone array at a landfill 60 miles north of Paris. "In October, 2004, they placed an order for a megawatt of our products, based on their confidence in our systems' reliability and low emissions profile on biogas fuels, says Tony Hynes, Capstone's vice-president of sales & service. "Now, with the much larger order, Soffimat continues to bring this renewable energy success to larger landfill sites throughout France."

The array at a landfill near Lyon will be almost four times bigger than the first installation there. An additional non-biogas unit ordered by Soffimat will be fueled with natural gas. The stand-alone C30 will operate independent of the utility grid at a brickyard. Its exhaust will be used in the brick drying process. 