



PRESS RELEASE

Engine conversion systems help hauliers to 'go green'

Wednesday, 28th November 2007

A new range of highly-engineered engine conversion systems which allow most modern commercial vehicles to operate on pure plant oil has been launched by Elsbett UK, a subsidiary of German-based Elsbett AG which pioneered the development of this ground-breaking technology in 1977.

Enabling haulage companies to 'go green' using an exceptionally environmentally-friendly fuel that offers significant environmental and cost benefits over conventional bio-diesel, Elsbett's easy-to-install conversion technology systems are available for trucks with 12-volt or 24-volt electrics. They typically include an electrical fuel pump, coolant-water heat exchanger to pre-warm the fuel, fuel filter unit and filter control valve with pressure regulator, together with heavy-duty relays, pipe set cabling and instructions for fitting and use. The system can be installed by a trained commercial vehicle fitter within a day. Most installations require an auxiliary tank, which is supplied by the customer due to individual requirements for size, shape, colour and material. Elsbett recommend a minimum capacity of 100 litres for engines over 140kW (190 bhp) and at least 50 litres for others.

A number of commercial vehicles owned by UK hauliers have already been converted using this environmentally-advantageous technology. A seven-year-old twin-axle Scania operated by Grange Fencing at Telford is fitted with an 1800-litre tank, allowing it to complete return trips to and from Spain without refuelling, while a new Mercedes Actros belonging to Wragg Transport at Tenbury Wells has two tanks, one holding 480 litres of pure plant oil, the other

200 litres of conventional diesel that is used during the warm-up and cool-down phases. Switching between the two fuels is carried out automatically.

James Scruby, Director of Elsbett UK, comments: "Interest in converting diesel engines to operate on pure vegetable oil is increasing rapidly. Fitting one of our systems costs £3000 - £4000, but with a typical HGV covering 80,000 miles a year and using approximately 45,000 litres of fuel, we estimate that will be recouped in less than a year, although the exact payback period will depend on a range of factors such as driving style, which has the greatest influence on fuel consumption and costs. In April 2008 the RTFO will lead to an additional price benefit of 10 pence per litre in favour of this type of fuel, making it the cheapest sustainable option with the best environmental credentials."

Further details about Elsbett products are available from Elsbett UK on 020 7925 3384, or visit www.elsbett.com

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1.

Elsbett AG launched the first commercial vegetable-oil-fuelled engine in 1977 and carried out the first conversion of standard diesel cars to operate on vegetable oil in 1980. It extended its ground-breaking engine technology to heavy goods vehicles in 1988 and has been converting modern truck engines to run on vegetable oil since 2001. The commercial availability of this technology, combined with changes in legislation, mean that what was once a niche market is enjoying rapid and sustained growth. Elsbett has already converted more than 3000 trucks to operate on this super-clean fuel, the largest operator being a fleet in Germany which has 250 of its 800-strong truck fleet operating on vegetable oil, with an excellent record of reliability.

In September 2007, at the International Motor Show (IAA) in Frankfurt, the company launched its Hybrid Flex Fuel Converter, a system which enables diesel-engined vans, pick-ups and all-terrain vehicles to operate on pure plant oil in a more environmentally-

friendly manner and at lower cost, without compromising power output, driving characteristics or fuel consumption.

2.

Pure Plant Oil has a number of key advantages over conventional diesel:

- High calorific value: highest energy density of all renewable fuels
- When burned, it emits less particles
- The particle emission is less harmful to health
- It is liquid in form and thus easy to store, transport and handle
- Its handling does not require special care
- It is neither flammable, nor explosive and does not release toxic gases
- It does not cause environmental damage if accidentally spilt
- It is produced directly by nature and does not have to be transformed
- It does not have adverse ecological effects when used
- It does not contain sulphur and therefore does not cause acid rain when used
- When burned, it is CO₂ neutral and does not contribute to the greenhouse effect

3.

Photographs are available to illustrate this press release. Please contact Jo Bowron or Diana Wells at Kendalls Communications on 01394 610022