



PRESS RELEASE

## **Fuel of future enhances hauliers' green credentials, says industry pioneer**

**Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Verdant Fuel, a new type of transport fuel which offers significant environmental benefits over conventional bio-diesel, could become the green fuel of the future, according to the UK-based company which pioneered its development and has just launched the product to the transport industry.

James Scruby, a Director of Verdant Fuels Limited, commented: "An enormous amount of media coverage has been devoted to the environmental benefits of bio-diesel, but the fact is that it is typically blended to include just 5% to 10% of renewable fuel by volume and therefore offers very limited potential for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over conventional diesel. Furthermore, palm or soya oil, which are often used as feed stocks, are recognised as causing irreparable environmental damage in new areas where they are grown to meet increasing demand and have then to be transported across the world, causing further negative environmental impact.

"Verdant Fuel is a technically-excellent, reliable alternative to mineral oils and bio-diesel, with the added advantage of being based on rapeseed oil and with a low carbon footprint, generating huge CO<sub>2</sub> savings. Rapeseed is part of the normal agricultural crop rotation across much of Europe, North America, Australia and China, and being 'locally' produced has much less of an impact on the environment. Furthermore, unlike palm and soya which are traded globally and therefore impossible to authenticate in terms of their source of origin, rapeseed can be fully

traceable, an increasingly important factor for customers with a strong environmental policy.

“Verdant Fuel is made from rapeseed which is hot or cold-pressed. The oil is subsequently de-gummed and filtered using processes which similarly use very little energy, while the oil-rich ‘cake’ that is left after crushing provides an excellent high-protein animal feed. Although conventional bio-diesel uses similar plant oils, the production process involves hydrocarbon-derived methanol, heating the oil, separating the products, drying the by-products and purifying the bio-diesel. This uses considerable amounts of water and energy and produces contaminated glycerine which has to be cleaned and disposed of.”

Recent changes in the biofuel tax regime mean that heavy fuel users (over 2500 litres per year) still enjoy a 20p/litre tax reduction, making Verdant Fuel cheaper than both conventional and bio-diesel. Verdant Fuel has 97% of the calorific value of diesel and the two can be mixed, yet Verdant Fuel also has a lower carbon footprint even than Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). In April 2008 the RTFO will lead to a price benefit in favour of Verdant Fuel, making it the cheapest sustainable fuel option with the best environmental credentials.

To fully harness the considerable environmental and commercial benefits of its products, Verdant Fuels Limited works closely with Elsbett UK, which has just launched a range of highly-engineered solutions to enable almost any modern commercial diesel vehicle to operate on this exceptionally environmentally-friendly product. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vehicles fitted with Elsbett technology are substantially carbon-neutral, which means that a typical truck fitted with an Elsbett conversion system will save approximately 60 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year compared with its conventional diesel-fuelled equivalent. Furthermore, emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> are virtually zero because there is no sulphur in Verdant Fuel and while NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are about the same as diesel engines they are effectively reduced by the exhaust treatment systems fitted to modern trucks. Particulate emissions depend on the condition of the engine, but are typically half - by weight - of the particles from diesel and less harmful to health.

Verdant Fuel can be supplied to customer depots or private homes in special containers that fulfil all the environmental requirements. As the number of users grows, a network of refuelling locations will be expanded.

Further information is available from Verdant Fuels Limited on 0845 4632679 or go to [www.verdantfuel.com](http://www.verdantfuel.com)

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**NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

**1.**

Verdant Fuel 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 CO<sub>2</sub> neutral and does not contribute to the greenhouse effect

**2.**

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