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Alstom's orders from Essent confirmed in the Netherlands, paving the way for major combined-cycle power plant

Following the agreements made with Dutch utility Essent, announced on 16th June 2008, Alstom has received, on 19th December and within the initially agreed timeframe, a full notice to proceed (NTP) for the repowering of Claus B and the construction of Claus C, resulting in a combined-cycle power plant of 1,280 MW based on GT26 technology, in Maasbracht (South-East Netherlands). The NTP also covers a long-term operation support and maintenance agreement. The total value of these projects amounts to approximately 1 billion euros and will be booked in the third quarter of the fiscal year 2008/2009.

Under the terms of the contract, Alstom will design and build Claus C next to the existing power plant and provide the main components, including three GT26 gas turbines along with TOPAIR turbogenerators, heat recovery steam generators, ALSPA distributed control system and the relevant auxiliary equipment. Alstom will also retrofit the existing non-Alstom 640 MW steam turbine of Claus B and integrate it into the new combined cycle.

The replacement of the old gas-fired boiler of Claus B by three GT26 gas turbine generator sets with HRSGs will increase the total output to 1,280 MW and reduce CO₂ emissions by 40%. This repowering configuration will increase the efficiency of the power plant, which is over 25 years old, from 39% now to above 58%. The project demonstrates Alstom's capability to integrate state-of-the art technology into existing assets and to substantially increase plant performance.

This is the second combined cycle power plant that Alstom has been awarded in the Netherlands over the past two years. In 2007, it won an order with Dutch utility Electrabel Nederland to build a turnkey, combined cycle power plant - Flevocentrale - in Lelystad (Central Netherlands) which has an output of 870 MW. Alstom is a key player in the Dutch power generation market: its equipment generates about 60% of the country's electricity.

Worldwide, 85 GT24/GT26 units are in commercial operation and have accumulated over 3 million hours of operation.

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