

Verdo biomass pellet plant in Grangemouth is sold to UK off-grid energy supplier Arensis

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Arensis said the acquisition is part of a wider £50 million UK investment plan to add a pellet supply offering alongside sales of micro-grid biomass generators from German manufacturer and sister company, Entrade.

Arensis said it currently has 185 power systems in operation across the UK accounting for around 85 per cent of all small-scale biomass generation in the UK.

The Verdo biomass pellet plant will provide Arensis with a fuel supply for its biomass energy generation.

Arensis plans to install 30 Entrade biomass generators at the Grangemouth pellet plant site to power manufacturing operations in what is billed as a £15 million investment.

Julien Uhlig, chief executive of Arensis and Entrade, said: "This development is really significant for our business growth in the UK, and for our ability to help UK companies cut their emissions.

"Verdo's pellets are by far the best we tested in the UK, offering about 20 per cent more energy over imported pellets.

"There is a lot of biomass generation that relies on importing biomass from abroad, undermining sustainability, and compromising efficiency due to pellet deterioration in transit.

"We don't believe in shipping fuel around the world when local resources are available.

"We are committed to using local, sustainable sources for our biomass, reducing the transport carbon footprint and maintaining local jobs.

"This site meets our needs in terms of production, but also provides particularly reliable feedstocks.

"This is important because having a good baseline product allows us to carry out better comparative research on new feedstocks, especially waste products which we want to help customers turn into biomass fuel.

"The UK has now become our business and technology testing site."

Arensis operates a biomass research institute at the Knowlsey Industrial Park near Liverpool and has sold biomass plants to commercial and government customers in the US, UK, Indonesia, India, Philippines and Japan.