



Recycling

International

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BIR meets in Mumbai
**Nothing is certain
but uncertainty**

**E-waste in the USA:
on a learning curve**

**Oryx nickel study alleges
scrap data vacuum**



People

* Petri Halonen

Following the sudden resignation on personal grounds of Timo Kuusakoski as CEO and President, the board of Kuusakoski Oy has appointed Petri Halonen to head up the Finnish scrap processor. Joining the company last year, he had been responsible for its New Business Operations unit. www.kuusakoski.com

* Alexandra Schopen

German wear parts supplier Schmachtenberg has a new CEO. Alexandra Schopen, aged 42, takes over the reins from her mother Ingeborg Scholz who is retiring after 35 years in company management. Mrs Schopen is the third generation to lead the Cologne-based firm. www.schmachtenberg.com

* Bernd Huber

Bernd Huber has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer of the Pallmann Group in Germany. His career has included 10 years as CFO and later as CEO of a medium-sized automotive supplier. Pallmann claims to be the world's largest specialist manufacturer of machines for materials size reduction and processing technology. www.pallman.eu

UNU research project on tracking e-waste flows

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided a five-year US\$ 2.5 million grant to the United Nations University (UNU) for a research project to help the authorities to track shipments of North American e-waste and to provide support to nations in both Africa and Asia for coping with e-waste imports. The EPA will collaborate on ways to improve the production, recycling and final disposal of electronic products with members of the UNU-led StEP (Solving the E-Waste Problem) initiative, which is based in Bonn, Germany. Public and private sector members include the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the

Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, as well as non-governmental organisations. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice Rector of the UNU, comments: 'In learning to manage e-waste, we need to reflect many interconnected socio-economic and environmental factors, such as the impact of today's economic crisis and digital-divide issues, and to promote closed-loop, resource-circular societies. These co-operation development activities, led by UNU co-founded StEP, will help developing countries find their own way to globally sound e-waste management.'

www.step-initiative.org

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Groupe Comet turning shredder residue into fuel

Belgian scrap metal processor

Groupe Comet, is to set up a pilot plant dedicated to the production of synthetic fuels through catalytic cracking of shredder residues from the recycling of end-of-life vehicles, electrical or electronic wastes. This technology is the result of a several-year research programme within the Phoenix project which is supported by the Walloon Region. The purpose of the venture is to inject the fuel directly into co-generation engines for simultaneous production of electricity and heat.

Comet Traitements was granted an operating permit for its Obourg pilot plant in March this year by the town council of Mons. The plant will have a production capacity of 50 litres of fuel per hour and

will be commissioned around mid-2012. Investment in this prototype is an important step for Comet Traitements in the development of its process. The company is committing Euro 2.84 million to this project, of which Euro 1.305 million is from the Walloon Region.

If successful, the project should pave the way for the setting-up in the Walloon Region of an industrial plant capable of recovering 70 000 tonnes of shredder residue per year for a net electricity production covering the consumption of approximately 30 000 households. Such a plant would also allow Comet Traitements to reduce this ultimate scrap industry residue to less than 3%.

www.cometsambre.com



The Obourg facility of Comet Sambre.

PET container recycling at record level in USA

The US recycling rate for PET containers increased for the seventh consecutive year in 2010. With a collection rate of 29%, the volume of PET collected for recycling reached its highest annual level to date (more than 1.5 billion pounds) and so did the amount of recycled PET employed in end-use applications (over 1 billion pounds).

The '2010 Report on Post Consumer PET Container Recycling Activity', resulting from studies conducted by different plastics recycling-related organisations in the USA, also details end uses for the record 1.002 billion pounds of recycled PET utilised in manufacturing applications, reflecting increases over 2009 in the

sheet & film, food & beverage bottles, strapping and fibre end-use categories. This is the sixth year that the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR), the Association of Post-consumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) and the PET Resin Association (PETRA) have partnered to produce the report and the sixteenth year that NAPCOR has issued the report in its current format. The document is described as 'an important industry benchmark as well as a valuable snapshot of recycling trends' by John Cullen, Chairman of PETRA's Sustainability Committee and Commercial Manager of DAK Americas LLC.

www.napcor.org