



**NEWS RELEASE – 21 September, 2012**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **STARTS**

### **Wiltshire waste firm makes key appointments as £20m facility nears completion**

Hills Waste Solutions has appointed a plant manager for its state-of-the-art £20m Northacre resource recovery centre (RRC). It is one of several key appointments as the project enters its final construction phase.

The facility in Westbury, Wiltshire, will process 60,000 tonnes of household waste using mechanical biological treatment (MBT) in a contract agreed with Wiltshire Council.

Simon Thomas brings with him an impressive track record of process improvement and change management proven across 12 years' working in petrochemical, manufacturing, power and service industries.

Simon said: "I am relishing the opportunity to work for Waste Solutions and develop the Northacre resource recovery centre into a flagship plant for MBT excellence."

Changes to the structure of Hills Waste Services sees Ed Dodd promoted to divisional director - Waste operations. Ed now has overall responsibility for landfill operations and sales, waste management and the Northacre RRC.

Meanwhile Simon Collins has been promoted to field sales/accounts manager and will report to Steve Burns, divisional director. Simon is responsible for managing waste collection accounts, the field sales team and sales administration staff.

The Northacre RRC will increase the proportion of Wiltshire's municipal waste diverted away from landfill to more than 80 per cent. Work on it began in July 2011 and has progressed well. Ninety per cent of the cladding to the building is in place and the roof is almost complete.

Contractors are completing the installation of the windows and doors, and have also begun decorating. Plans for the final landscaping of the site are now being put in place. Topsoil which has been stored on site from the excavation stage will be used to create the required contours of the surrounding area.

It is anticipated that partial occupation of at least the office block will take place during December, the commissioning phase will begin in early 2013 it will be operational by next summer.



Meanwhile local people and businesses are being kept up to date on developments at the site through the Northacre website [www.northacrerrc.co.uk](http://www.northacrerrc.co.uk), the local liaison committee and the Westbury Area Board.

## ENDS

### Notes for editors

Pictures of the new appointments are available as are the latest images from the Northacre RRC build. Please contact the press office.

Interserve plc was awarded the design and build construction contract and MBT specialist Entsergia Italia is providing technology for the plant.

The MBT process to treat waste employs natural microbes within the waste to accelerate the decomposition process. The process takes up to 14 days and is carried out inside a sealed building which is maintained under negative air pressure to avoid the release of odours to the environment. Process air from the building is passed through filters prior to release into the atmosphere. As the waste dries, it loses over 30 per cent of its original weight. Once dried, it is further processed to remove metals for recycling. It is from the remaining material that a refuse derived fuel (RDF) is manufactured. The RDF is a dry and sanitised material that can be safely handled.

### KEY FACTS & FIGURES

- o The Hills' Northacre facility will reduce the proportion of Wiltshire's municipal waste sent to landfill from 37% to less than 20%
  
- o MBT capacity: accepts 60,000 tonnes of waste per year.
  
- o When processed (averages) per year:
  - o 28,200 tonnes of refuse derived fuel (RDF)
  - o Equivalent of 20,000 tonnes lost through drying
  - o 1,800 tonnes of recyclable metals recovered
  - o 10,000 tonnes of bio-stabilised residue to landfill
  
- o Area served: The west of Wiltshire
  
- o Timetable
  - o Planning permission: March 2009
  - o Contract signed: February 2011
  - o Construction started: Summer 2011
  - o Operational: Late summer of 2013
  
- o Cost
  - o Approximately £20 million

Hills Waste Solutions offers a range of specialist waste management and recycling services to both the public and private sector. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas to become one of the region's largest providers of waste solutions. Hills Waste Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900. [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

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