



Two proud DONG Energy employees (Anders Boisen (left) and Martin Møller)

Top marks to DONG Energy team at DTU (Technical University of Denmark)

DONG Energy's team at DTU came out best, when a number of companies completed nearly six months' work last week of turning a good idea into a viable business case. Other participating companies were Ambu A/S, Chr. Hansen A/S and Hempel A/S.

Anders Boisen, Project Development Manager and Martin Møller, Innovation Manager – both from the Innovation Centre in DONG Energy – were charged with commercialising a new method for improving DONG Energy's utilisation level of biomass in future power production.

As opposed to coal, biomass contains different types of nutrient salts (eg phosphates and nitrogen compounds) which attack the walls of the boilers in power stations. This means that many types of biomass cannot be used as fuel in modern power stations. However, based on a so-called low-temperature gasifier it is possible to separate the nutrient salts prior to combustion and thus utilise the various types of biomass in the future production of power and heat.

Other advantages

The gasifier has other advantages: It is possible to apply various types of biomass, the existing fly ash will not be damaged by the aggressive nutrient salts and can thus be reused in the cement and concrete industry, and the aggressive but also necessary nutrient salts will be used as fertiliser in the farmers' fields.

Since August last year, Anders Boisen and Martin Møller and four other teams have participated in the so-called CEL programme (Certificate Entrepreneurial Leadership) – a course of eight modules which should help them develop an actual business plan.

"Each module contained lectures, practical exercises and hand-in assignments and all the elements of a business plan were built up one by one. At the end of the course, we handed in a 25-page business development plan including reference material. At the final exam last week, we presented our plan and afterwards we were challenged by questions from a panel consisting of Danish business executives," says Anders Boisen, who will have no time to rest on his laurels.

New demonstration plant

DONG Energy has decided to build a demonstration plant at Asnæs Power Station. The project will commence on 1 March 2010 and will have a budget of DKK 90 million.