

CUMMINS INDIA ANNOUNCES 'PRODUCER GAS' SERIES OF COMMERCIAL GAS ENGINE GENERATING SETS

Cummins India Limited (CIL), Pune, the leaders in diesel engine and natural gas engine generating sets in India, has unveiled its new set of 'Producer Gas Engine Generating Sets' for commercial application in technical collaboration with Advanced Bio-residue Energy Technologies Society (ABETS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. By this act CIL achieves the unique distinction of becoming the first large scale gas engine manufacturer in the country offering 'Producer Gas' labeled generating sets for commercial application backed with warranties.

The producer gas fuelled gas engine generating sets are cost effective in terms of unit generation cost and offers cleaner combustion thereby minimizing environmental concerns. The gaseous fuel 'Producer Gas' can be generated using a wide range of biomass that comprises of forest residue, agricultural residue in briquetted form in the start-of-the art technology package known as 'Open Top Re-burn Down Draft Biomass Gasifier' developed and patented by ABETS, IISc. This laboratory has been working in the area for the past two-and-half decades and has transferred the technical know-how to about nine Licensees in India and overseas for commercial exploitation.

Furthermore, ABETS has been jointly working with CIL in adaptation of natural gas engine for operation with producer gas. Towards this ABETS has developed and patented the required gas carburetion system and fined tuned the operational parameters for optimum performance. Based on the successful outcome at the laboratory level, CIL agreed to provide gas engine generating sets for field operation on a 'Limited Trial' basis. Today the total installed capacity of the gas engine generating sets is above 3.0 MWe serving a wide variety of application such as independent power producer, captive power for industry and institution and this success has been achieved in a time frame of less than three years. Having satisfied with the outcome and large market potential, CIL is getting into a strategic alliance with ABETS for seeking the technical know-how of producer gas carburetion and integration in their manufacturing process of producer gas engine. The gas engine would be labeled as 'Producer Gas Engine Generating Sets' and would be made available for power projects developed either by ABETS and its authorized licensees. Furthermore on account of this strategic alliance CIL would be working either with ABETS or its authorized licensees in developing power projects in potential areas where there is power crises or possibility for generating electricity at a cheaper cost.

One potential area for application of this technology is in the village electrification program mooted by Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources, Govt. of India. Typical electricity requirement for villages off the grid is between 10 and 25 kWe. Towards this program CIL is offering their 25 kWe producer gas engine gen set that has been comprehensively tested for over 500 hours duration at IISc. The range of producer gas generating sets offered by CIL commences from 25 kWe to 250 kWe module with complete electrical system meant either for grid paralleling or captive application. CIL with their core competency in engines shall be working in close cooperation with ABETS, who core competency are in biomass gasifiers and producer gas engines in making this partnership a success. CIL with their wide network would be offering effective after-sales service to the end customers.

