

Date: 20 June 2006

## Ailsa3 Invests in Waste Innovator

A private investment fund owned by Yorkshire entrepreneurs Andy Hinton and Nick Wyatt has made its fifth investment in the waste sector. The Ailsa3 venture capital fund based at Harewood has acquired a stake in New Zealand composting innovator VCU Technology Ltd.

The six-figure investment gives the fund a significant minority stake in the waste venture and will see Hinton appointed non-executive director.

The £5m turnover business builds and installs waste treatment devices known as vertical composting units (VCUs) that are highly efficient in the treatment of animal by-products and organic waste. The scalable system can treat up to 40,000 tonnes of waste per annum, and offers efficiencies over traditional systems.

Essentially sealed vertically stacked composting chambers, the VCUs are the company's own invention, patented globally and designed to overcome problems with existing composting units that were dirty, generated very bad odours and required a large area in which to be built. The VCU units are modular vertical silos that have the benefit of a small 'footprint' (the area that the unit occupies) as well as being sealed, thus producing no odour and reducing pollution and health risks.

The company has already built 30 of the units in the UK that are typically found in locations food processing plants and in other situations where animal and organic waste is generated in large quantities.

Andy Hinton, non-executive director of VCU Technology said; "VCU is a proven business that has developed a highly efficient and attractive waste management solution, and our investment will assist their expansion and delivery of the product to an expanding market. The funds injected into the venture will allow increased production and we will be actively involved in assisting the business in generating new contracts in the UK and further afield.

Ailsa3 has a number of investments all within the waste sector, and the involvement with VCU is seen as a natural progression, a complementary investment for the fund.

Based in New Zealand, VCU has chosen the UK as its European base following the Ailsa3 investment.

### Photography

hinton&wyatt.jpeg Andy Hinton & Nick Wyatt of Ailsa3

### Notes to Editors

The **Vertical Composting Unit (VCU)** is a market leader in in-vessel composting. The VCU was the first in-vessel system to be accredited to the EU Animal By-Product Regulation and now has more in-vessel composting sites in the UK than any other technology.

**VCU Europa** designs, manufactures and installs VCU plant across Europe, with a proven track record of delivering successful projects for both the municipal and industrial markets. VCU Europa offers all aspects of project delivery including design, construction, planning, licensing and accreditation services.

The **VCU** has flexible capacity, 1,500-40,000tpa; no odour due to self-biofiltration; a vertical design which means a small footprint; low maintenance and delivers a high quality end product.

**VCU Technology Ltd** has a world-wide patent on the Vertical Composting Unit and VCU® is a registered trademark of the company. VCU Technology International Ltd is the operating arm of the group and VCU Europa Ltd is the European-based subsidiary. [www.vcutechology.com](http://www.vcutechology.com)