

Environmental Building Partnership
Funding press release
07 January 2009

EBP raises £1million to commercialise 'Dynamic Breathing Building'
Investors see potential for new green building solution

Innovative clean tech company and University of Aberdeen spinout Environmental Building Partnership Limited (EBP) has received a total of £948,000 in funding from the Sigma Sustainable Energies Fund (SSEF), Scottish Enterprise's Scottish Seed Fund, Marubeni (Europe) plc and Life IC Limited to support its commercial growth and expansion of its Dynamic Breathing Building products and systems.

The Scottish company's Energyflo™ cell, an air permeable Dynamic Insulation module, replaces conventional thermal insulation layers in the external walls, roof and floor (where appropriate) to deliver filtered ventilation air to indoor spaces. As fresh air comes in preheated/cooled by the fabric heat that is normally lost, the energy needed for both heating and cooling any building is reduced while indoor air quality is improved.

The Energyflo™ cell has been extensively tested, through field trials and a successful demonstration project that was supported by the Carbon Trust, and was awarded British Board of Agrément (BBA) certification in August 2008. It is now undergoing field trials in the UAE and is currently being used in two UK projects, a social housing project in Orkney and a private development in Aberdeenshire.

Dr Mohammed Imbabi, Chief Technology Officer, EBP commented:

"Our ground breaking technology can hugely benefit all building users by cutting energy costs, reducing the carbon footprint and helping to address fuel poverty and security. We can help to very cost-effectively achieve these important, worthwhile objectives.

"It is a testament to EBP's proven technology that, in the current economic climate, organisations are still finding the funds to invest in the growth and development of our organisation."

Graeme Francis, Chief Operating Officer of Marubeni Europe plc's Investment and Development Group, added:

“We believe that EBP’s product is a highly exciting disruptive technology with multiple applications for the construction industry. By delivering lower carbon emissions with cleaner air and a reduction in space heating and cooling energy requirements, the EBP technology is well placed to become a key component in the development of zero carbon buildings. Also EBP’s technology is transferable to many international markets.

“Our investment in EBP further demonstrates the support and commitment of Marubeni to investment and development within the low carbon and clean energy sector.”

Mark Hogarth, Investment Director at Sigma, said:

“We believe that technology relating to sustainable construction will play a key role in reducing carbon emissions. EBP’s Energyflo™ cell benefits from low embodied carbon while also reducing the energy required to heat or cool a building and is therefore well placed to make a significant contribution to the drive towards zero carbon buildings.”

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Notes to Editors:

How dynamic insulation works

Traditional insulation is designed to prevent heat loss, to retain as much air and heat for as long as possible. This gives rise to increased humidity within the home which itself can cause conditions within the building fabric - condensation, damp, black spotting and so on - and for residents - a feeling of 'stuffiness', increased infection and so on.

The new dynamic insulation means that the building envelope’s ability to retain heat can be varied for the first time. Through a dynamically insulated envelope, fresh air can be drawn into and distributed within the building as required. Warmth leaving the building is captured and used to warm incoming air and coolth is captured to pre-cool the air during the summer months, reducing the need for energy intensive heating and air conditioning systems to be used.

At the same time, air entering the building is filtered to high standards reducing airborne pollution, improving air quality and generally creating a healthier environment within the building. Also, the more Dynamic Breathing Buildings are built the more this will help to clean up the environment, thus effectively reducing outdoor ambient pollution.

For further information visit www.environmental-building.com