

Plan revealed for huge UK plastics recycling plant

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By Katie Coyne

MBA Polymers UK to recover "untapped plastic resource".

7 January 2008 - Plans to set up a state-of-the-art recycling facility capable of processing 60,000 tonnes of material annually has been unveiled by new joint venture company MBA Polymers UK.

The joint venture company has been formed by US-based plastics recycler MBA Polymers and UK-based European Metal Recycling (EMR).

But the UK location of the site - expected to be up and running by early 2009 - has not yet been confirmed and investment figures have also not yet been released.

The joint venture company will be majority owned by MBA Polymers and will recover plastics from upgraded "shredder residue".

This comprises a complex plastics rich mix of materials resulting from the recycling of automobiles, appliances and other metal-rich streams.

Dr Michael Biddle, MBA's founder and president, said: "Rather than build expensive and energy-consuming chemical plants, our company provides a way for Europe to manufacture the plastics it needs at significantly lower economic and environmental costs."

David Ireland, EMR's director of technical services said: "It is a very significant step not only for EMR and MBA but for the UK too as this investment will allow us to recover the previously untapped plastic resource in the materials we recycle.

"Not only will this divert materials from landfill and generate significant CO2 savings but it will also put EMR at the forefront in meeting the very demanding recycling targets set under producer responsibility regimes in vehicle and electronics recycling.

"These targets are very exacting and can only be met by applying new technologies to the recovery of plastics. We have been working with MBA for some time on this problem and we are very excited that we have now reached the stage where we can announce our intention to build a plant in the UK"