



18 March 2010

### **Nortech Foods brings PACKED sustainable palm oil to the UK**

Nortech Foods has become the first company in the UK to offer fully certified sustainable palm oil to the food manufacturing industry in a packed format. In a tie up with new Britain Oils Limited (NBOL) Nortech will add sustainable, boxed palm oil and shortening products to its extensive portfolio of oil and fats. This is a significant step forward for a sector looking to ensure that it procures sustainable ingredients which have been produced to the highest ethical and environmental standards.

Nortech Foods, the leading supplier of boxed frying, baking and roasting products, is working with NBOL to increase the availability and affordability of sustainable palm oil to the UK food and personal care sectors.

This partnership will help to overcome the primary challenges to the wholesale conversion to sustainable palm oil among the UK manufacturing and foodservice industry – those of affordability and traceability. NBOL, via its parent company New Britain Palm Oil Limited, has plantations in Papua New Guinea which are certified as being sustainable by the international Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil criteria.

NBOL will provide Nortech with palm oil from its UK refinery in Liverpool which will be fully commissioned this spring. This integrated palm oil processing facility will be able to offer all the main palm oil grades to the UK in a segregated sustainable format at a price that is genuinely comparable with oil from unknown / unsustainable sources.

Gary Lewis, Nortech's commercial manager, explained more. "We're delighted to be able to extend the range of segregated sustainable palm oil available to the UK market as these will be the first products of their kind to hit the marketplace in a packed format. Businesses are under increasing pressure to use ingredients from known and sustainable sources, and so our alliance with NBOL means that customers who don't buy their oils in bulk tanker loads but in more convenient pack sizes, can still access palm oil(s) that have been produced responsibly."

Andy Worrall, director at NBOL commented: "Nortech Foods is the ideal partner for us when it comes to selling boxed palm based products. Our research tells us over 80 per cent of consumers want food manufacturers and retailers to know where their palm oil has come from and that it was produced in a sustainable way.

"To give the consumer what they want, it is vital that more and more products are available in an affordable, traceable and sustainable format. Nortech have proven technical and operational expertise in supplying the foodservice, food manufacturing and bakery fats sectors with a broad range of high quality products. These sustainable palm based products will be an obvious extension to Nortech's range and so a real solution for the many customers who have already asked about sourcing segregated sustainable versions of their existing oils."

Grown predominantly in South East Asia, palm oil is an extremely versatile vegetable oil and very often the only commercially viable and naturally occurring alternative to chemically modified vegetable fats. As a result, it is found in a great many of our every day consumer products. Palm oil yields around 10 times more oil per hectare than the other major sources of vegetable oil and is therefore expected to play a vital role in meeting the world's food needs in the future. As it is grown in tropical climates, mostly in developing or under-developed countries, it is also essential that palm oil is produced in a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable way. In this way, the impact of its production can be significant benefits to local communities but should not

include, for example, the draining of carbon rich peat lands, the destruction of vital tropical rainforests or the loss of rights of indigenous people to occupy their lands.

To find out more about packed sustainable palm oil products from Nortech, visit their stand – T241 – at Foodex, taking place at Birmingham's NEC 21<sup>st</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> March or alternatively visit [www.nortech-foods.co.uk](http://www.nortech-foods.co.uk)

## **ENDS**

**For further information – or a to arrange a media briefing at Foodex - please contact Rebecca Woods or Richard Postins at Prova PR on 01926 776900 or email [rebeccaw@provapr.co.uk](mailto:rebeccaw@provapr.co.uk)**

## **Notes to editors**

### **Nortech**

- Nortech are part of the PDM Group and are the UK's largest refiners, producers and packers of animal oils and fats for the catering, retail and food manufacturer sectors.
- PDM Group has a long tradition of providing quality food services to each sector of the food supply chain. For more than 80 years, the family-run company has been the UK's largest processor of meat and poultry by-products and has diversified its offering into by-product processing; pet food ingredients; renewable energy and recycling of food waste and used cooking oil.

### **New Britain Oils Limited/ New Britain Palm Oil Limited**

- New Britain Oils Limited is the UK arm of New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL), which itself is a large scale integrated industrial producer of sustainable palm oil in Australasia and is headquartered in Papua New Guinea ('PNG'). NBPOL currently has over 48,900 hectares of planted palm oil plantations and long term leases over 30,000 hectares of additional land, some of which will be converted to palm oil, six oil mills, a refinery and a seed production and plant breeding facility. The Company is quoted on both the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange and on the Port Moresby Stock Exchange in PNG.
- NBPOL is fully vertically integrated, producing its own seed (which it also sells globally) and planting, cultivating and harvesting its own land and processing and refining palm oil. It also contracts directly with its end customers in the EU and arranges shipping of its products.

- NBPOL has high regard for the importance of its sustainability credentials and is active in proving its performance through its certification to ISO 14001 and its close involvement and support of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil ('RSPO'). In September 2008, NBPOL announced that its operations in Papua New Guinea were officially certified by the RSPO as conforming to RSPO Principles and Criteria on sustainability.
- Already an established and ethically-driven company, NBPOL has invested £18m to establish an integrated palm oil processing facility that is due to be completed on the Mersey docklands in Liverpool in spring 2010. This new UK facility will produce refined palm oil, in various grades, to cater to the growing demand for fully traceable and sustainable palm oil in the EU.
- NBPOL announced on the 24th February 2010 that it has agreed to acquire 80% of the shares in CTP (PNG) Limited. Through the acquisition, over 25,000 hectares of established and producing oil palm plantations in Papua New Guinea set over three estates, with five established mills and infrastructure will be added to the Company. This single acquisition will increase the Company's established plantation area by almost 50 per cent. and CTP PNG will be acquired for a consideration of US\$ 175 million payable in cash to be issued on completion that is expected in mid April 2010.

Website: [www.nbpol.com.pg](http://www.nbpol.com.pg)