



**For immediate release**

**17 June 2009**

## **NATIONWIDE EVENTS REINFORCE SAPPHIRE ENERGY RECOVERY'S COMMITMENT TO SAFETY**

Sapphire Energy Recovery - the resource recovery business owned by the world's largest cement company, Lafarge – is reinforcing the company's year-round commitment to safety with a range of activities as part of its annual Health and Safety month.

June is now well established as an opportunity for the Lafarge Group's businesses in 78 countries around the world to spend time focusing purely on safety.

Sapphire staff at operations around the UK are taking part in practical exercises and management tours which focus attention on continuing to achieve high standards in health and safety, in particular by adopting a consistent approach through the use and application of the Lafarge Group's worldwide safety standards.

The series of Sapphire Health and Safety days - stretching from Dunbar in Scotland to Thurrock in the South East of England - include visits from Lafarge Cement UK Board Directors and simulation exercises, where the evacuation and first aid skills of staff on site are tested in realistic situations.

Andy Jones, who coordinates health and safety for Sapphire Energy Recovery, said: "Safe working at all our operations requires constant vigilance and re-evaluation. Our series of health and safety days during annual safety month provide all of us with an opportunity to develop further our safe working practices and refresh our knowledge and skills.

"Focused events such as this also remind not just our own staff, but the contractors and suppliers who often work alongside us on our sites about the vital importance of site and personal safety, and highlight areas for ongoing improvement."

Lafarge Cement UK managing director Erdoğan Pekenç adds: "It is important to note that there is a real passion for safety in our business, not just at these events, but throughout the year. A lot of hard work goes into these days which provide all our employees an opportunity to demonstrate this enthusiasm and I am sure they will go a long way to helping ensure all of us return home safely after each shift."

**Continued...2**



## **SAPPHIRE COMMITMENT TO SAFETY...2**

Sapphire Energy Recovery sources waste-derived fuels and raw materials primarily for use by the cement industry, and carefully manages the introduction and use of such materials in cement kilns around the country.

A major part of its business is end-of-life tyre recovery, and it operates a nationwide collection and disposal system to support garages, retailers and tyre manufacturers across the UK.

The business has OHSAS 18001 as well as ISO 9001 quality accreditation. All Sapphire's processing centres in the UK are also accredited with ISO 14001, registered to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and regularly monitored by the Environment Agency.

- ends -

### **For media enquiries contact:**

Kirsten Parrish, KDPR - 01295 780152 / 07766 561930 / [Kirsten@kdpr.co.uk](mailto:Kirsten@kdpr.co.uk) or  
Michele Wheatley - 01453 833838 / 07881 731658 / [michele@wheatleypr.co.uk](mailto:michele@wheatleypr.co.uk).

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Sapphire Energy Recovery**

- Sapphire Energy Recovery provides waste producers with an alternative to landfill or other disposal routes, and cement producers with replacement materials that can turn waste to energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. It also provides alternative raw materials thereby reducing reliance on natural resources.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery also offers a sustainable solution to the processing of end-of-life tyres in the UK by providing them for use as an alternative fuel for the cement industry.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery manages the used tyre supply chain to:
  - facilitate collection of end of life tyres from all sources including wholesalers, vehicle dismantlers and local authority schemes
  - bring tyres to a Sapphire processing centre via a regional collector network
  - produce a specific grade of chipped tyre proven to be the best size for combustion in the cement industry.

#### **Lafarge Cement**

- Lafarge Cement is part of the Lafarge Group, the world leader in building materials, with top-ranking positions in all of its businesses: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete and Gypsum. With 90,000 employees in 76 countries, Lafarge posted sales of Euros 17.6 billion and net income of Euros 1.9 billion in 2007.
- Lafarge is the only company in the construction materials sector to be listed in the 2008 '100 Global Most Sustainable Corporations in the World'. Lafarge has been committed to sustainable development for many years, pursuing a strategy that combines industrial know-how with performance, value creation, respect for employees and local cultures, environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources and energy. It offers the construction industry and the public innovative solutions bringing greater safety, comfort and quality to their everyday surroundings.